

Moon Area Middle School

Program of Studies Booklet

2018 – 2019

Reviewed: August 7, 2018

Lower House/Grades 5 and 6
Upper House Grades 7 and 8

Message to Parents

Dear Parents:

Welcome to Moon Area Middle School Program of Studies Handbook. We are thrilled and excited to welcome you to our middle school. The staff and I have been working diligently to establish a curriculum for Grades 5-8 that will meet and enhance the many learning demands and challenges middle school students face.

This Program of Studies has been compiled in an effort to acquaint you with the course offerings for this school year. Our goal is to provide a quality education in a safe learning environment where our students can develop good study habits and become independent learners and thinkers who are able to develop useful skills that will prepare them for the academic challenges ahead.

We are committed to working with you, your child, fellow teachers, and the community at large, to help your child learn, grow, and develop into a lifelong learner.

Wishing you a wonderful school year,

Melissa Heasley

Middle School Principal

Moon Area School District, in partnership with the community, is dedicated to educating every individual in a respectful, safe, enriching environment through comprehensive programs that inspire excellence, lifelong learning and responsibility.

We Believe

- Learning is a lifelong process.
- The education of our youth is the most valuable investment for our future.
- Every person is unique and has intrinsic worth.
- Recognition and appreciation instill motivation and dedication.
- Honest, open and ongoing communication promotes trust and mutual understanding.
- Relevance is an important catalyst for learning.
- Higher expectations promote greater achievement.
- A quality education provides opportunities and a basis for achieving success.
- Education is a shared responsibility of the student, school, family and community.
- Essential elements to the educational process include confidence, competence, respect and cooperation.

Academic Environment

➤ Lower House

Grade 5 and Grade 6

➤ Upper House

Grade 7 and Grade 8

A

ccent on the Individual...

No two students enter a classroom with identical abilities, experiences, and needs. Learning style, language proficiency, background knowledge, readiness to learn, and other factors can vary widely within a single class group.

Here at Moon Area Middle School, we are fully dedicated to help all students succeed in their learning through innovative thinking, planning, commitment, and acknowledgment.

Students are our first priority!

Academic Information and Grading System

Grades reflect a student's progress as to the quality of performance and educational growth of the student. Grading will be by percentage points and based upon points earned for course requirements such as, but not limited to: test, projects, reports and class work. Grades will be reported as PERCENTAGES.

GRADING SCALE

90%	-	100%	A
89%	-	80%	B
79%	-	70%	C
69%	-	60%	D
59%	-	0%	F
I	*Incomplete		

*Indicates that the student has not completed the course requirements.

Final grades for the year are determined by averaging the percentages earned in each grading period.

Upper House Honor Roll

In grades 7 and 8, honor roll will be determined by grades earned during each of the four nine-week periods.

Distinguished Honors:

Students who achieve a 4.0 grade point average

High Honor Roll:

Students who achieve a 3.75 grade point average and above

Honor Roll:

Student who achieve a 3.25 grade point average and above

Edline

Edline is an online information portal that enables parents to access pertinent information about their child's academic progress and general school information. This is a secure site that enables the school's teachers to post a wealth of information online without compromising privacy or security. You can be assured that private information about your child will only be accessible to you.

Moon Area Middle School teachers use Edline to record grades, post daily homework, and post various news/events. Edline is updated twice a week, on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Activation codes for incoming 5th graders and new students will be provided in August with student schedules.

5th Grade Daily Schedule

The 5th grade is set up as six (6) teams with two (2) teachers per team. Each team will consist of approximately *50 students.

Teacher 1 Language Arts and Social Studies

Teacher 2 Math and Science

*Team size is based on approximately 300 students per grade level.

ADVISORY BASE	7:50	-	8:07
BLOCK 1	8:10	-	10:22
ENCORE/SIGNATURE 1	10:25	-	11:07
LUNCH	11:10	-	11:40
BLOCK 2A	11:43	-	1:10
ENCORE/SIGNATURE 2	1:13	-	1:55
BLOCK 2B	1:58	-	2:40
DISMISSAL	2:40		

5TH Grade Program of Studies

➤ Language Arts

Our language arts classes are primarily driven by the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Academic Standards for English Language Arts. The current Treasures reading series is integrated with the Pennsylvania core standards as well as with supplemental materials used to teach informational text. Novel studies are also used to supplement the current reading series and students will be encouraged to choose books to read for pleasure based on personal preference, author, theme, genre, or topic. Through close reading, students will broaden their understanding of informational and literary text and use evidence from multiple texts and quote accurately to support their analyses and interpretations of what they are reading. Comprehension and vocabulary strategies will be strengthened with an even balance of fictional and nonfictional material. Writing is incorporated daily and informational, narrative, opinion, and argumentative writing is targeted. Students will develop a strong writing voice and add humor to their narratives and textual evidence to support their opinions. Daily editing skills are practiced with self-editing techniques, and the use of complex sentence structures will vary their sentence lengths and sentence variety incorporating Tier 2 vocabulary. Students looking to further enhance their experience are encouraged to participate in school sponsored activities such as the middle school newspaper, the Duquesne University English Festival, various writing contests and additional English Language Arts based opportunities provided through the school district.

Academic Math

Students will review whole number operations which include order of operations, estimation, powers, and exponents. Students will have an in depth study of base ten (decimals) and fractions. They will explore the connections among fractions, decimals and percent's through an investigation unit in which students explore these mathematical concepts through "inquiry based" instruction. Measurement will be studied including temperature, time, linear, capacity and weight using both metric and customary units. These measurement units will be used to solve word problems involving perimeter and area. They will use these units to convert one unit to another. Geometry will be explored as they study both polygons and solid shapes in an investigation "inquiry based" approach. They will learn to construct geometric figures using coordinate planes. The year will end with a study of integers and an introduction to Pre-algebra.

➤ Science

The students will get an introduction to Earth Science, Life Science and Physical Science during this course of study. Some of the topics include Matter and Energy, Light and Sound, Population and Ecosystems. Water/Nitrogen/Carbon Cycles and Rocks/Minerals along with environmental science topics. Students will use "scientific method" to investigate and evaluate these topics. Numerous lab exercises will be conducted including owl pellet dissection, mystery rock and mineral identification and pop bottle ecosystem models. In addition, students will research "endangered animals of Pennsylvania".

➤ Social Studies

The fifth grade social studies class uses the Scott Foresman: Building a Nation textbook. Curricular highlights include the history of our country beginning with colonial life and ending with the American Revolution. Map skills, charts and graphs, and states and capitals are also reviewed. Student learning will be assessed through homework, class work, formative and summative assessments with both verbal and written components and projects. All students participate in the annual Geography Bee.

6th Grade Daily Schedule

ADVISORY BASE	7:50	-	8:07
BLOCK 1	8:10	-	9:37
ENCORE/SIGNATURE 1	9:40	-	10:22
LUNCH	10:25	-	10:55
BLOCK 2	10:58	-	12:25
ENCORE/SIGNATURE 2	12:28	-	1:10
BLOCK 3	1:13	-	2:40
DISMISSAL	2:40	-	

6th Grade Program of Studies

➤ Language Arts

The sixth grade Language Arts courses are primarily driven by the Pennsylvania Core Standards in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Our main focus will be concentrated in the areas of reading comprehension, vocabulary development, the writing process, and spelling and grammar skills. Creating a balance between informational and literary texts in the classroom will be emphasized. Throughout the year, students will read, discuss, and evaluate fiction and non-fiction in novels, short stories, poetry, and plays. Students will employ active reading strategies to aid reading comprehension. As active readers, students will consider author's purpose, recognize and understand the use of multiple literary devices, and cite relevant textual evidence to support their positions. Argumentative, expository, and narrative types of writing will be targeted in the classroom, as well as a variety of text-dependent questions requiring multiple reads and the ability to make inferences. Students will engage in more difficult texts as they progress through the course. Homework, class work, quizzes, tests, and projects will be used to assess student learning. Students looking to further enhance their experience are encouraged to participate in school sponsored activities such as the middle school newspaper, the Duquesne University English Festival, various writing contests and additional English Language Arts based opportunities provided through the school district.

➤ Accelerated Math

This accelerated math course is designed for students who possess a definite talent for mathematics and who have met specific course criteria. The course content will be substantial and more rigorous than the Academic Math course. The pacing of the course will also be significantly faster. Daily homework assignments will be longer and will involve additional problem-solving applications in a real-world context. Students in this course will connect ratio, rate and proportion to whole number multiplication and

division and will relate these concepts to fraction concepts. The system of rational numbers will be explored, including deepening the understanding of all four operations with fractions within the rational number system. The course places an emphasis on the application of previous arithmetic understanding to algebraic expressions and equations with one and two step solutions. Finally, the course will develop an understanding of statistical thinking and the geometric concepts of area, surface area, and volume.

Students must maintain a cumulative average of 83% in 6th grade as a minimum requirement for Accelerated Algebra 1 in 7th grade.

➤ Academic Math

This 6th Grade Academic Math course will develop the concepts needed to prepare students for Pre-Algebra 7 in a real-world problem solving context. Students enrolled in this course will receive a solid foundation in the number system, including computation with whole numbers, integers, fractions, and decimals. The reasoning and application of ratio, rate and proportional concepts will also be explored through a problem solving approach. The geometric concepts of area, surface area and volume will be studied. Other topics include statistical variability and analysis of data derived from various displays. The course will finish with the application and extension of arithmetic to algebraic expression and equation formations and solutions in a realistic problem solving format.

➤ Science

This science course encompasses Earth Science and basic scientific procedures. The course uses scientific method and laboratory safety to investigate various Earth Science topics including space, weather, plate tectonics, and volcanoes. The course will conclude with a study of watersheds and wetlands. The students will demonstrate their knowledge of these key topics through hands on activities and laboratory investigations in addition to traditional classroom activities.

➤ Social Studies

The sixth grade Social Studies class uses Glencoe, Exploring Our World: People, Places, and Cultures textbook that is available online for student use at home. Curricular highlights include: The five theses of Geography, map skills, and enhancing global awareness through the exploration of various world countries and their location, culture, language, religion, government, economy, people, currency, and natural resources. Areas of study include: Canada, Europe, North Africa, and Asia. Promethean Boards are various technological resources from the Glencoe series help integrate technology standards with this course. Student learning will be assessed through homework, class work, quizzes, tests, and projects.

7th Grade Daily Schedule

ADVISORY BASE	7:45	-	8:07
PERIOD 1	8:10	-	8:52
PERIOD2/ENCORE 1	8:55	-	9:37
PERIOD 3	9:40	-	10:22
PERIOD 4	10:25	-	11:07
PERIOD 5/SIGNATURE	11:10	-	11:52
LUNCH	11:55	-	12:25
PERIOD 6	12:28	-	1:10
PERIOD 7	1:13	-	1:55
PERIOD 8/ENCORE 2	1:58	-	2:40
DISMISSAL	2:40		

7th Grade Program of Studies

➤ Language Arts

Our Language Arts classes are primarily driven by the Pennsylvania Core Standards which call for an increase in complexity in writing skills so that all students are prepared for the demands of high school and college level writing. Our primary focus is on purpose and audience using the four types of writing – informational, persuasive, narrative, and research, in order to convey ideas, concepts, and information with a sharp, distinct focus through the writing process and the 6+1 Traits of Writing. Students will improve their ability to inform and persuade using evidence based writing. Student will be exposed to a variety of sources in order to support a well-defined thesis and validate claims from both sides of an argument. Students will demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. Students looking to further enhance their experience are encouraged to participate in school sponsored activities such as the middle school newspaper, the Duquesne University English Festival, various writing contests and additional English Language Arts based opportunities provided through the school district.

➤ Reading

Our reading classes are primarily driven by the Pennsylvania Core Standards which call for a staircase of complexity of the texts the students are submerged in. Students will read a balance of informational and literary text and determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings. This allows students to progressively demonstrate their developing reading comprehension. A great focus of the class is on academic vocabulary because its use

extends across reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Writing throughout the course challenges students to answer a range of text-dependent questions, whose answers require inferences based on careful attention to the text, along with the opportunity to inform and persuade. Students looking to further enhance their experience are encouraged to participate in school sponsored activities such as the middle school newspaper, the Duquesne University English Festival, various writing contests and additional English Language Arts based opportunities through the school district.

➤ Algebra 1 – 7th grade

This year long course focuses on linear and quadratic relationships. The linear portion will emphasize the algebraic manipulation of linear expressions, equations, and inequalities. Students will also solve systems of linear equations, represent linear equations and inequalities, and graph linear functions. The quadratic portion will emphasize quadratic and exponential expressions, equations, and relationships. **Algebra 1 course will be required to take the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam.**

TI-83+ graphing calculator is required for this course.

Prerequisite: 83% or higher in Accelerated Math 6 and a teacher recommendation.

➤ Pre-Algebra - 7

Students will be instructed on five critical areas: (1) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (2) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two and three dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples and investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models; (5) understanding the concepts of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships.

➤ Science

The introductory phase of this life science course deals with the method of scientific problem solving. The biological aspects will provide students with experience in dealing with the identification of activities that are characteristic of living things, general knowledge of plant structures and functions, microscope operation, concepts of cells, genetics, DNA, classification, and the fundamental concepts related to the interaction of organisms and their environment. The emphasis of this curriculum is to enable the students to progress in the knowledge of scientific processes and concepts.

➤ Social Studies

The seventh grade social studies class uses Glencoe, Journey Across Time, The Early Ages, Curriculum highlights include: the developments from Ancient Times to the Middle Ages, focusing on the important ideas or concepts in the areas of history, political science, economics, geography, anthropology, religion and sociology.

This course encourages students to better comprehend the connection between past and present. Some civilizations covered include: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Rome, and Europe during the Middle Ages. Promethean boards and various technological resources from the Glencoe series help integrate technology standards with this course. Student learning will be assessed through homework, class work, quizzes, tests, and projects. All students are encouraged to participate in the annual Geography Bee and may get involved in Student Council.

8th Grade Daily Schedule

ADVISORY BASE	7:50	-	8:07
PERIOD1/ENCORE 1	8:10	-	8:52
PERIOD 2	8:55	-	9:37
PERIOD 3	9:40	-	10:22
PERIOD 4	10:25	-	11:07
PERIOD 5/ENCORE 2	11:10	-	11:52
PERIOD 6	11:55	-	12:27
LUNCH	12:40	-	1:10
PERIOD 7	1:13	-	1:55
PERIOD 8/SIGNATURE	1:58	-	2:40
DISMSSAL	2:40		

8th Grade Program of Studies

➤ Language Arts

The eighth grade Language Arts courses are primarily driven by the Pennsylvania Core Standards in the areas of reading informational text, writing, reading literature, speaking and listening. This is a course that focuses on a balance between informational and literary texts and utilizes academic vocabulary. Helping to advance reading and writing skills throughout the curriculum, this course will show added focus on interdisciplinary work and writing from a variety of sources. Using school board approved novels, students will develop skills using text based questions and answers with a focus on comprehension, integrated grammar and vocabulary skills as well as literary connections. Expectations for student learning will increase as the year progresses through units centered around state driven essential questions. Units will include components from various content such as fiction, poetry, non-fiction and informational texts. Additional units of study will include the Holocaust through literature and a career unit involving technology and research. All students will focus on formal and informal public speaking skills with the persuasive and informative speaking units. Students looking to further enhance their experience are encouraged to participate in school sponsored activities such as the middle school newspaper, the Duquesne University English Festival, various writing contests and additional English Language Arts based opportunities provided through the school district.

➤ Writing

The eighth grade writing class is primarily driven by the Pennsylvania Core standards in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and research. Informational and literary texts will be used to focus on units centered on an essential question. Using the writing process and 6-traits writing, students will develop argumentative, informative, and narrative pieces of writing. Class skills will focus on composing multi-paragraph essays with strong introductory paragraphs, body structure, and conclusions. Individual writing skills addressed in this course will include pre-writing, editing, paraphrasing, grammar, and the incorporation of text-based evidence in writing. Additional units of study will include research skills, technology and writing, and journalism. Students looking to further enhance their experience are encouraged to participate in school sponsored activities such as the middle school newspaper, Duquesne University's English Festival, and various writing contests.

➤ Algebra 1 – Linear

This year long course focuses on linear relationships. This course will emphasize the algebraic manipulation of linear expressions, equations, and inequalities. Students will also solve system of linear equations, represent linear equations and inequalities, and graph linear functions.

TI-83+graphing calculator is recommended for this course; however will be provided by the teacher for classwork.

Prerequisite: Below a 75% in Pre-Algebra 7 or a teacher recommendation.

➤ Algebra 1 – 8th grade

This year long course focuses on linear and quadratic relationships. The linear portion will emphasize the algebraic manipulation of linear expressions, equations, and inequalities. Students will also solve systems of linear equations, represent linear equations and inequalities, and graph linear functions. The quadratic portion will emphasize quadratic and exponential expressions, equations, and relationships.

Students enrolled in this Algebra 1 course will be required to take the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam. Students with a grade below 75% at the end of the first semester will automatically be placed in an additional Keystone preparation course in lieu of an elective (Encore/Signature)

TI-83+graphing calculator is required for this course

Prerequisite: 75% or higher in Pre-Algebra 7 and a teacher recommendation.

➤ Accelerated Geometry – 8th grade

Accelerated Geometry is a standards-based course with an emphasis on written and coordinate proof. Topics covered in this course are: parallel and perpendicular lines, the congruence, similarity, and transformation of triangles, circles, and three dimensional figures, geometric construction, right triangle trigonometry, and applications of probability. Fundamental geometric topics such as perimeter, area, volume, and density will also be covered. Students will learn to model real-world situations and apply geometric theorems to solve problems arising from those situations. Activities include group work, lecture, exploration, and problem solving. Because accelerated courses require mathematical understanding that is deeper and more complex than the core curriculum, students are expected to respond at an advanced level, work at a faster pace, and spend more time on exploration and enrichment topics.

Students' scoring non-proficient on Algebra 1 Keystone Exam in 7th grade will be required to retake this exam upon completion of this course.

TI-83+graphing calculator is required for this course.

Prerequisite: 83% in Algebra 1-7th grade and teacher recommendation.

➤ Science

Physical science is a branch of science, which combines topics in the area of Physics and Chemistry. The emphasis of this class is to develop curiosity, & interest and to propose explanation to why and how things exist and behave as they do in our physical environment. Topics covered include chemistry of matter, atomic structure, elements, motion, force, energy, simple machines, waves, light, and sound. Numerous demonstrations, laboratory exercises, cooperative learning activities, and projects are utilized in the course.

➤ Social Studies

The eighth grade social studies course uses Glencoe, The American Journey, The Early Years. Curricular highlights include: the early settlement of Jamestown in 1607 and explores the changes that took place over the course of three centuries. The students will examine the early cultures of the thirteen colonies and their growth into the early United States. They will analyze the formation of the U.S. government and the trials and tribulations it had to face in the late 18th and 19th centuries. The students will study the first sixteen presidents and how their decisions shaped history.

The final stage of the course will examine the Civil War and the abolition of slavery. Promethean Boards and various technological resources from the Glencoe series help integrate technology standards with this course. Student learning will be assessed through homework, class work, quizzes, tests, and projects. All students are encouraged to participate in the annual Geography Bee and may get involved in Student Council.

ENCORE & SIGNATURE COURSE CATALOG – Grades 5 and 6

Encore

Two per day on an A/B schedule (Every other day, all year)

- **Music (Band, Orchestra, Chorus)**
- **Physical Education/Health (Health integrated into PE classes)**
- **World Language (Spanish, French, German)**

Signature

Every other day for a semester students will receive two of the four courses in grade 5 and the remaining two courses in grade 6.

- **Art**
- **Family and Consumer Science (FCS)**
- **Computer Science**
- **Technology Education**

ENCORE & SIGNATURE COURSE CATALOG – Grades 7 and 8

Encore

Two per day on an A/B schedule (every other day, all year)

- **Music (Band, Orchestra, Chorus)**
- **Physical Education**
- **Health**
- **World Language (Spanish, French, German)**

Signature

One course per day for nine weeks.

- **Art**
- **Family and Consumer Science (FCS)**
- **Computer science**
- **Technology Education**

ENCORE COURSES

MUSIC

The Middle School Music Program Builds upon the elementary school music curriculum in a sequential manner. Students have the opportunity to play an instrument in the band or orchestra, or sing in the chorus. Each grade level ensemble encourages and furthers the growth of the student musician.

➤ Band 5/6

Band 5/6 is offered for students who have completed elementary instrumental band instruction in 4th grade. This class builds upon the fundamental skills and information learned in elementary music classes and band lessons. In addition, band activities are designed to build responsibility, skill, and musicianship needed for future successful participation in middle and high school band classes. Objectives include, but are not limited to, introducing and further developing the fundamentals of ensemble playing such as posture, rhythm, dynamics, tone quality, intonation and following conducting gestures. Other objectives include improving home practice skills through effective warm-up exercises and striving for the development of musical skills, enabling students to grasp the meaning of musical and artistic sensitivity. Required activities include a winter concert/performance, a spring concert/performance and after-school rehearsals as scheduled by the director. Like instruments are divided into the smaller classes of high and low brass, high and low woodwinds and percussion.

➤ Band 7

Band 7 is offered for students who have completed 6th grade band, and demonstrate an understanding of ensemble playing, posture, rhythm, dynamics, tone quality, intonation and conducting cues from 6th grade band instruction. Objectives include, but are not limited to, further building upon ensemble playing skills and refining technical abilities such as breath support, articulation, pitch, and rhythmic interpretation. Required performance include one football pregame with the high school marching band, one winter concert, one spring concert and scheduled after-school events. Like instruments are divided into the smaller classes of brass, high and low woodwinds and percussion.

➤ Band 8

Band 8 is offered for students who have completed 7th grade band and demonstrate an understanding of ensemble playing, posture, rhythm, dynamics, tone quality, intonation and conducting cues from 7th grade band instruction. Objectives include, but are not limited to, further building upon ensemble playing skills and refining technical abilities such as breath support, articulation, pitch, and rhythmic interpretation. Required performances include one football pregame with the high school marching band, one winter concert, one spring concert and scheduled after-school events. Like instruments are divided into the smaller classes of brass, woodwinds and percussion.

➤ Orchestra 5/6

Orchestra 5/6 is offered for students who have completed elementary instrumental orchestra instruction in 4th grade. Students will rehearse and perform with students from their grade level. Objectives include, but are not limited to improving note-reading, rhythmic interpretation, technique, and posture, identifying general music terminology, and preparing concert music. String players in 5th and 6th grade will learn general fundamentals of playing through concert music as well as technical studies on each instrument. Students will also be engaged in other activities to develop their skills and promote creativity. Instruments are divided into smaller classes of violin and low strings (viola and cello). Classes meet every other day, and students will perform in a winter and spring concert/performance.

➤ Orchestra 7/8

Orchestra 7/8 is offered for students who work to improve their musical skills on string instruments at the intermediate level. Students will rehearse and perform with students from their grade level. It will prepare students for the high school orchestra program. Objectives include, but are not limited to, further building upon ensemble playing skills and refining technical abilities such as posture, articulation, intonation, rhythmic interpretation, dynamics, and tone quality. Students will accomplish these objectives through preparing concert music as well as technical studies and sight-reading exercises. Students will also learn basic music theory and history, develop their listening skills, and be introduced to more classical works. This ensemble performs in two concerts per year and more advanced students have the opportunity to play in advanced extra-curricular ensembles. Students rehearse every other day in large ensembles of like instruments, broken down into violin and low string classes.

➤ Chorus 5/6

Students in 5th and 6th grade will rehearse and perform with chorus students from their current grade level. These groups will learn and perform unison and 2-part treble music. The class focuses on solidifying basic music skills learned in elementary school, including Vocal Vital Signs, rhythm reading, solfege, ear training, sight-singing, dynamics, choral score reading, and following conduction cues. Some practicing at home may be required. Students in 5th and 6th Grade Chorus will rehearse in class every other day and perform in a winter and spring concert/performance.

➤ Chorus 7

Students in 7th grade will rehearse and perform with chorus students from their grade level. This class will build upon skills developed and strengthened during 5th & 6th grade chorus, including Vocal Vital Signs, rhythm reading, rhythm counting, solfege, ear training, sight-singing, dynamics, and developing a deeper understanding of musical markings. Students are expected to read a choral score and follow a conductor's cues. The students will learn how to sing and perform in 3 voice parts. This class also focuses on dealing with the changing adolescent voice. Some practicing at home may be required. Student in 7th Grade Chorus will rehearse in class every other day and perform in a winter and spring concert.

➤ Concert Choir 8

8th Grade Concert Choir is an advanced group of mixed male and female voices. Students are selected based on vocal ability, rehearsal skills, and participation. These students have demonstrated the advanced musical aptitude necessary for the class requirements. Students in Concert Choir learn and perform advanced level music (advanced middle school and high school level), and are expected to practice at home. Concert Choir rehearses in class every other day and may have extra performances in addition to the regularly scheduled winter and spring concerts. These may happen during the school day or in the evening.

➤ Girl/Boys Chorus 8

8th Grade Girls Chorus and 8th Grade Boys Chorus are gender-specific groups. Each group meets during a separate class time and will learn and perform a varied repertoire of music. The class focuses on solidifying basic music skills in rhythm reading, solfege, ear training, and choral score reading, as well as continuing with the changing adolescent voice. Some practicing at home may be required. Students in Girls Chorus and Boys Chorus will rehearse in class every other day and perform in a winter and spring concert.

➤ Music Appreciation

Music Appreciation is a general music class designed specifically to help students who may otherwise struggle in an ensemble setting. Topics may include, but are not limited to, guitar playing, piano playing, African drumming, rhythm reading, music composition, music history, and concert etiquette. Music Appreciation meets every other day and is offered to 8th grade students only.

➤ Physical Education/Health

Our physical education program provides students with the opportunities to learn through a developmentally appropriate environment. Our program is aligned with the physical education standards for Pennsylvania. Students will meet every other day for the entire year and are required to follow a dress code which includes athletic shoes, solid red or black shorts, and a Moon athletic T-shirt or an all-white T-shirt.

Middle school students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities that include team sports such as basketball, volleyball, softball, football; and lifelong activities such as tennis, fitness walking, and golf. FITNESS-GRAM testing occurs in the fall and spring of each year. Students will identify their fitness level and work toward improving their personal fitness.

➤ Physical Education/Health 5

Students in 5th grade will rotate through eight units of team sports or lifetime activities. Each unit will consist of three different activities. The students will participate in each activity for approximately three classes in order to introduce and reinforce the skills of each activity.

➤ Physical Education/Health 6

Students in 6th grade will participate in eight units of activities. Each unit consists of a boy's activity, a girl's activity and a co-ed activity. Students will be given the opportunity to select the activity in which they would like to participate.

Sixth grade students will also be divided by gender to cover the growth and development unit, which is approximately seven classes in length. Throughout this unit, the students will be within the classroom learning adolescence topics and the structures and functions of the male and female reproductive systems.

➤ Physical Education 7/8

Students in 7th and 8th grade will participate in eight units of activities. Each unit consists of a boy's activity, a girl's activity and a co-ed activity. Students will be given the opportunity to select the activity in which they would like to participate.

➤ Health 7/8

The purpose of this program is to provide students with the knowledge and resources they need to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their health. This is a comprehensive health education program that is aligned with the state standards of Pennsylvania. The 7th and 8th grade students will meet every other day for the entire year.

The 7th grade course will include, but not limited to, personal health, nutrition, safety, tobacco, body systems, fitness, and disease.

The 8th grade course will include, but not limited to, the relationship of one's personal health components, consumer and community health, nutritional choices, alcohol, interrelationships of body systems, fitness, and environmental awareness.

World Language

➤ Foreign Language Appreciation Program (F.L.A.P.) 5th Grade

Fifth grade students will spend approximately 12 weeks learning each of the three languages offered at Moon Area Middle School: French, German, and Spanish. Students will explore aspects of both the language and the culture. Students in FLAP will earn a grade of Outstanding, Proficient, Basic or Below Basic. At the end of the school year, students who have earned a final grade of "Basic" or above will choose which foreign language they will begin to study in 6th grade.

➤ Foreign Language Level 1 Part 1: French, German, and Spanish 6th Grade

Students will attend their level 1 language course on an every other day schedule. Students will develop basic speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills in the foreign language. They will also learn to communicate about various thematic topics. Grades will be based on a combination of participation, homework, tests and quizzes, and projects. Percentage grades will be calculated according to the MASD grading scale. In order to continue on to Level 1 Part 2 the following school year, students must earn a 70% final average in Level 1 Part 1. Students must also maintain a 70% in their language arts class.

➤ Foreign Language Level 1 Part 2 (of 3): French, German, and Spanish 7th Grade

Students will attend their level 1 language course on an every other day schedule. Students will continue to develop basic speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills in the foreign language. They will also learn to communicate about various thematic topics. Grades will be based on a combination of participation, homework, test and quizzes, and projects. Percentage grades will be calculated according to the MASD grading scale. In order to continue on to Level 1 Part 3 the following school year, students must earn a 70% final average in Level 1 Part 2. Students must also maintain a 70% in their language arts class.

➤ Foreign Language Level 1 Part 3 (of 3): French, German, and Spanish 8th Grade

Students will attend their level 1 language course on an every other day schedule. Students will continue to develop basic speaking, reading, writing, and listening skills in the foreign language. They will also learn to communicate about various thematic topics. Grades will be based on a combination of participation, homework, tests and quizzes, and projects. Percentage grades will be calculated according to the MASD grading scale. In order to continue on to Level 2 in the high school, students must earn a 70% final average in Level 1 Part 3. Students must also maintain a 70% in their foreign language arts class.

➤ Reading and Writing Reinforcement 7/8 Grades

This project-based class will reinforce the primary skills of reading and writing as defined within the Pennsylvania State Standards for Reading and Writing. Speaking and listening skills will also be reinforced in this course. Taking place on an A/B schedule (every other day), students will engage in high interest graded projects in order to build, develop, and strengthen skills. Development of organizational and test taking/study skills will also be incorporated into the framework of this course. Criteria: Sixth grade students entering seventh grade who score below 70% cumulatively in 6th grade language arts and who may not qualify for a world language course are eligible.

SIGNATURE COURSES

Visual Arts

➤ Exploratory Art

(5th or 6th grade: One Semester A/B Days).

Art exploration is encouraged as students stretch their imaginations and build artistic sensitivity to composition and craftsmanship. Building upon the art concepts learned in elementary school, students will continue development of basic techniques and skills in a variety of 2-D and 3-D media. Learning from the masters, artworks throughout history and among diverse cultures will be foundational in the development of “art talk” as students learn to appreciate the art of others.

➤ Creative Arts and Technology

(7th & 8th Grade: 9-Week Daily Course)

This course focuses upon the creation of original artwork using traditional visual art media (i.e., leather, clay, paint) infused with contemporary technology such as computers and digital photography. As students work toward an appreciation and understanding of art, they will relate visual arts to various historical and cultural traditions. Students will learn to respect their own ideas and artistic expressions and those of others as they analyze and evaluate works of art.

➤ Paint, Draw, Design

(7th & 8th Grade: 9-Week Daily Course)

This studio course will focus on the use of art elements and principles of design in order to accomplish new levels of creativity and compositional skills. Working with a variety of materials, artists will transform an ordinary 2-D surface into a spectacular artwork, which will be exhibited and critiqued. Students will experiment with techniques such as drawing, painting, print making, and even sculpture to visually communicate their personal style.

➤ Art in our 3-D World

(7th & 8th Grade: 9-Week Daily Course)

This course provides exploration of different mediums and art techniques that occur while creating two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks. Students will focus on developing skills that include drawing, painting, sculpture, and ceramics. The course will provide students with the opportunity to experiment with different forms, which will result in both decorative and functional pieces. The elements and principles of design will be emphasized through 3-D art and design.

➤ Family and Consumer Sciences

(5th or 6th Grade: One Semester A/B Days)

The fifth and sixth grade course is composed of three units. In the first unit, Getting Along with Others, the students will identify and practice relationship skills that include communication, building trust, and adapting to change.

The Foods and Nutrition unit is based on kitchen safety, measuring, utensil identification, basic cooking techniques and My Plate. These skills will be applied during five cooking labs using the electric and gas stove top, oven, and broiler, microwave ovens as well as other small appliances.

Students will learn how to sew a button and other basic hand stitches in the Sewing unit. They will apply these learned skills while sewing a class chosen hand-sewn project.

➤ Family and Consumer Sciences

(7th Grade: 9-Week Daily Course)

Students will rotate between three focuses: Foods, Sewing and Nutrition. This course will provide a variety of life skills knowledge.

➤ Family and Consumer Sciences

(8th Grade: 9-Week Daily Course)

Students will rotate between three focuses: Foods, Career Exploration (sewing) and Child Development. This course will provide a variety of life skills knowledge as well as prepare the students for the high school level Family and Consumer Science classes.

Computer Science

➤ Keyboarding

(5th or 6th Grade: One Semester A/B Days)

This computer course introduces the touch type method utilizing proper posture and technique. The students will demonstrate correct finger utilization for the alpha and punctuation keys. All keys are taught with emphasis on the home row approach. The Microtype5 software application is used which includes learning, combining, practice and skill building exercises.

Multimedia internet safety presentations tailored for specific audiences will be used to introduce cyber bullying and useful research information. Students will participate in various discussions related to internet safety such as: warning signs, cyber bullying and how to prevent self-exploitation.

➤ Computer Applications 7

(7th Grade: 9-Week Daily Course)

This class reviews and builds on basic keyboarding skills. After a comprehensive keyboard review, the students will complete project-based assignments using word processing and presentation software.

Research and evaluation tools are introduced to the students. The students will utilize this information to select credible sites for presentation material. Keyboarding 7 assists in preparing the students for high school level computer classes and provides real world experience.

➤ Computer Applications 8

(8th Grade: 9-Week Daily Course)

Students will continue to use basic keyboarding skills while learning to utilize spreadsheet and publication applications. Project based assignments are used that simulate real world experiences.

An on-line program will be completed that combines instructional design, media, and simulations to enable students to use technology in a safe and effective manner. This application aligns with both state and National Educational Technology Standards (NETS). A certificate is issued to the students upon completion of the program. Computer Science 8 assists in preparing the students for high school level computer classes.

Technology Education

➤ Exploring Technology Education

(5th or 6th Grade: One Semester A/B Days)

Students will actively engage in STEM projects and theory, which will involve 21st century technology and skills in multiple areas of concentration. These areas will include manufacturing, construction, transportation, and communication. Students will work alone and with groups to problem solve, design, develop, and assess the impacts of technology. Projects and areas of study will include, but are not limited to, problem solving and activities and robotics.

➤ Technology Education 7

(7th Grade: 9-Week Daily Course)

Students will actively engage in STEM projects and theory which will involve 21st century technology and skills in multiple areas of concentration. These areas will include manufacturing, construction, transportation, and communication. Students will work alone and with groups to problem solve, design, develop, and assess the impacts of technology. Projects and areas of study will include, but are not limited to, green construction/sustainable energy, robotics, 3-D rapid prototyping, and 3-D modeling/solid rendering through the use of CADD programs and manufacturing.

➤ Technology Education 8

(8th Grade: 9-Week Daily Course)

Students will actively engage in STEM projects and theory which will involve 21st century technology and skills in multiple areas of concentration. These areas will include manufacturing, construction, transportation, and communication. Students will work alone and with groups to problem solve, design, develop, and assess the impact of technology. Projects and areas of study will include, but are not limited to, 3-D rapid prototyping, video production, materials processing, and 3-D modeling/solid rendering through the use of CADD programs and manufacturing.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Special Education

➤ Learning Support Programs (LS)

The learning support program at Moon Area Middle School provides educational support to students with disabilities. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is developed collaboratively by a team comprised of regular and special education teachers, administrators, parents, and the student to meet the specific learning needs of each student. Support classes taught by special education teachers are available for math, reading, and language arts. Inclusion classes which are co-taught by both a regular education and special education teacher are also offered in math, reading, language arts, writing, science, and social studies.

- ❖ **Inclusion Class** – indicates that this class is offered in a regular education setting. Inclusion means it is co-taught by a regular education teacher certified in the content area and a special education teacher. Regular education students and students with IEP's attend this class together. Teachers blend their expertise to provide a rich learning experience for all students.
- ❖ **Support Class** – indicates that this class is offered in a support setting for those students with an IEP. It is taught by a special education teacher in a small group with no more than 12 students. Instruction is tailored to meet the learning needs of the students based on their IEP's.

➤ Life Skills Support (LSS)

The Moon Area Middle School life skills support program serves students identified as having intellectual disabilities. Our program focuses on preparing students to become independent, productive citizens within our community. An IEP is developed collaboratively by the regular and special education teacher, building administrator, parents, and student. Services and supports are then provided based on the specific needs identified in the IEP.

Challenge Program

Children with high academic ability are identified using the Moon Area School District Gifted Screening Matrix for the Challenge Program. Emphasis of the program focuses on the enhancement of communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, and creative processing skills. Achievement of the goals occurs by involving students individually and in small/large group activities such as creative writing, computer program applications, experiments and problem-solving activities.

The Challenge teachers coordinate with other teachers in the building for the scheduling of Challenge classes in grades five through eight. Students sign up for competitions, plays, workshops or independent seminars according to their interests and identified

strengths. These include but are not limited to robotics, theater, chess, academic games, and engineering workshops.

Student Assistance

➤ Maps

The Moon Area Student Assistance program (MAPS) in Pennsylvania helps schools identify students who are experiencing behavior and/or academic difficulties, which pose a barrier to their learning and success in school. MAPS offers support to those students and their families.

The core of the student assistance program is a team of school employees who have received specialized training from the Commonwealth or Pennsylvania Approved SAP Training Providers. This team may include teachers, nurses, counselors and administrators, and it is often called the “core team”.

One of the most important tasks of a student assistance team is to build a working partnership with families, focusing on the student’s success as their common goal. In addition, the team may offer student-centered services such as educational support groups and aftercare resources. The team may also assist families in identifying options for professional support when the problem is beyond the scope of the school.

Participation in the student assistance program is voluntary and is offered as a source of help and support for the student and the family. When a student needs assistance outside of the school setting, knowing how and where to find assistance can be overwhelming. The student assistance team will help students and their family access services and resources outside of the school. State website for Pennsylvania Student Assistance program <http://www.sap.state.pa.us/>