

Program of Studies



2014-2015

John H. Walker Middle School

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The Nutley School District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, political affiliation, sex, armed forces liability, physical handicap, or social or economic status in its educational programs or activities and employment policies as required by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and NJAC 6:4-1.1 et. seq.

Introduction

This catalog is a valuable reference manual for students, parents, and school personnel actively involved in curriculum planning at John H. Walker Middle School. It is a complete guide to the possible course offerings at the middle school. Each department has described its specific course offerings, highlighting the chief components of each course. Planning an individual student's middle school program of studies demands a cooperative effort between home and school. The courses at John H. Walker Middle School provide students with many opportunities to meet their educational needs.

Please understand that final decisions regarding the actual offering of any particular course for the 2013-14 school year will be dependent upon enrollment and budget constraints. Therefore, not all classes listed in this catalog are guaranteed to run every school year.

Middle School Model

Rationale

Middle School is the most critical time in a child's education. Children at this level go through more changes physically, psychologically, and emotionally than at any other point in their education. Therefore, it is imperative that a middle school has the proper system in place to educate and prepare children to learn and become productive, responsible adults.

A true middle school is one designed to meet the needs of its clients, students and is defined by several key features. It is to be a transitional, yet unique, phase between the elementary school and the high school. As such it is structured to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the emerging adolescent. It is one in which all of its components, philosophy, organization and program, are guided by one overarching goal – the needs of the young adolescent. It should not look like an elementary school or a high school – it should be its own entity, a middle school that prepares students to move from one level to the next.

Teaming

What is Teaming?

In teaming, students are heterogeneously grouped with a core team of teachers who combine their resources, interests and knowledge to meet the unique needs of our emerging adolescents. Most students on a team will have the same language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies teachers. Students may interact with students from other teams throughout the day during classes such as electives, physical education/health, and world language.

Why Teaming?

- Promotes a sense of belonging within a group
- Allows teachers to notice changes in behavior and address individual needs
- Allows teachers to educate the whole child
- Provides common time for group/classroom guidance activities with counselors
- Allows for interdisciplinary units, and assemblies without disruption to entire school
- Enables parents to communicate and monitor student progress with the four core teachers via a common team meeting time
- Helps teachers know their students and their needs better

- Enables teachers to implement interdisciplinary instruction, student incentive, and recognition programs
- Provides meeting time where teachers may
 - discuss academic, social and behavioral concerns
 - monitor student progress in all academic areas
 - conference with parents
 - coordinate homework, tests, quizzes, projects, and interdisciplinary units
 - consult with support personnel (counselors, school nurse, psychologist) regarding individual student concerns or issues
 - support each other through shared goals, intellectual stimulation and better communication
 - work collaboratively to create cross-curricular activities
 - evaluate teaching strategies and techniques through daily collaboration with team members

What Will John H. Walker Middle School Teams Look Like?

- Three teams per grade level
- Each team consists of:
 - One teacher from each core area (English, mathematics, science, and social studies)
 - Approximately 110 students per team
 - Core teachers meet to:
 - Discuss students' strengths and weaknesses, progress, successes, and concerns
 - Plan curricula activities and projects
 - Communicate with parents about educational positive and negatives
 - Review assessment data

Advisory Groups

Advisory groups are small groups of students who meet with an assigned staff member on a regular basis for mini-lessons. Lessons can include social-emotional and/or academic needs of the students, and may cover topics such as character development, organizational skills, time management, and anti-bullying. In this model, staff members become a resource for students.

Counseling and Guidance Services

The John H. Walker Middle School Guidance Department is dedicated to providing its students with a positive transition from elementary school through high school. The program is built upon the belief that each student is unique, capable of making a meaningful contribution to our society, and deserves every opportunity to attain self-fulfillment.

The role of the middle school counselor is to guide, advise, consult, and assist with the variety of issues that students, parents, teachers, administrators, and others may have. School counselors will provide assistance to core teachers during team meetings. The goals of the John H. Walker Middle School are:

- To assist students with personal and academic issues such as organizational skills, study skills, learning about self, identifying interests and abilities, and demonstrating those behaviors which lead to academic and personal success.
- To help students make educational and career decisions by learning about how to make decisions, identifying opportunities available to them, and beginning to identify goals and plans.
- To assist students in developing interpersonal skills, such as accepting differences in others, learning conflict resolution skills, and how to effectively communicate.

Guidance and counseling services are provided to students through individual and group counseling. At the middle school level, counselors work very closely with teachers and parents in order to assist students in their academic success. Parents or guardians are expected to help steer the student in the development of a course of studies which will provide a smooth transition to high school. They should monitor the student's performance and progress. School counselors are a resource to both students and parents or guardians in the development and monitoring of educational programs and are available for consultation.

School Counselors: Alisa Gennace, Joyce Wood

Child Study Team: Abigail Bergen, Michael Ocejo, Erin Sheridan

Student Assistance Counselor: Joseph Cappello

Scheduling Parameters

Course Levels

Initial course level placement in mathematics and world language will be based on placement assessments as well as teacher input. Students and their parents or guardians wishing to change the recommended placement must complete a Petition to Change Course Level within the time frame established at the scheduling meeting. A Petition to Change Course Level in a mathematics course may require successful completion of an assessment. Students in all other core courses will be grouped heterogeneously.

Level Changes

The deadline for level changes in a mathematics or world language course is the end of the second marking period. It is recommended that all level changes be made in consultation with the counselor, teacher, department coordinator, and parent(s) or guardian(s). There must be an open seat in the requested course in order for the change to be made. Maintaining acceptable class size will be a priority.

In addition, the student is responsible for missed work. Grades follow the student when he or she makes a level change, with due consideration given to the weight of that grade.

Eligibility for Courses

Moving to the middle school model affords all students the opportunity to be exposed to coursework in the four core subjects. Placement into mathematics courses will be determined based upon the students' common assessment scores from the previous year. Although the courses are not leveled, grade 6 teachers will have the opportunity to provide feedback on each student.

Grading Parameters

Grade Level Promotion Requirements

In order for a student to be promoted to the next grade level, he or she must successfully complete the four core courses, which include language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition, students must successfully complete world language in order to be promoted to the next grade level.

If a student fails one or two of the five required courses, he or she will be permitted to attend summer school to pass the course. If a student fails more than two core courses, he or she will be retained at the grade level.

If a grade 7 student taking Accelerated Algebra I fails the first two marking periods of the course, he or she will be placed in grade 7 mathematics. The student is still responsible for passing the course for the school year. If the student fails the grade level mathematics course for the school year, the parameters outlined above are in place.

Numeric Equivalents

Grade	Grading Scale
A	94.0 – 100
A-	90.0 – 93.9
B+	87.0 – 89.9
B	83.0 – 86.9
B-	80.0 – 82.9
C+	77.0 – 79.9
C	73.0 – 76.9
C-	70.0 – 72.9
D+	67.0 – 69.9
D	60.0 – 66.9
F	Below 60

Process for Resolving Incomplete Grades

1. A grade of Incomplete (I) will be given only when there is just cause, (*e.g.*, work missing due to absence or illness). Otherwise, students are expected to submit work on time. While it is permissible to accept work that is late, students are expected to complete all work prior to the end of the marking period.
2. Students are expected to resolve incomplete assignments no later than ten (10) school days after the close of the marking period. Unresolved incomplete assignments will be automatically turned into a grade of zero (0) after ten (10) school days. Any grade of zero (0) earned on an incomplete assignment will be averaged in with the other grades earned during the marking period unless the work is completed. After ten (10) school days, the marking period average will replace the Incomplete (I) on the report card.

3. If an extension is sought due to extenuating circumstances, the student and parent are responsible for contacting the department coordinator and providing the requested documentation.

Academic Awards

Honor Roll

To qualify for the honor roll, a student must earn no less than a B- in all courses.

High Honors

To qualify for high honors, a student must earn no less than an A- in all courses.

Presidential Academic Award

The President's Education Awards Program was developed to help principals recognize and honor those students who have achieved high academic goals by their hard work and dedication to learning. This award is given to both seventh and eighth grade students for achieving high honors in their academic subjects during the year.

Student Assessments

1. Students in grades 7 and 8 will be required to take the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) in each grade level. Students with scores that reflect partial proficiency in language arts or mathematics will be invited to attend a class after school to receive preventive remediation.
2. In addition to state and district mandated assessments, other evaluations are used to determine student proficiency in core curriculum content areas. These assessments may identify students who are not yet proficient in designated curricular areas. Also, the use of multiple indicators of a student's performance validates the student's need for additional assistance.
3. Students in grades 7 and 8 will take common assessments throughout their course work in all courses. Common assessments are designed to provide feedback on learning and instruction for students and teachers.

Communication

Student Progress

Progress reports will be available mid-marking period through the parent portal in Realtime. Teachers may choose to contact parents more frequently, if needed, to discuss student progress. Report cards are available through the parent portal in Realtime.

Telephone and in-person conferences are available upon request. Teachers encourage communication as necessary throughout the school year. Parents or guardians are encouraged to contact teacher or team to discuss student grades and assignments.

NAVIANCE Family Connection

This program offers a number of innovative, easy-to-use, web applications for middle school students and their parents to assist with a variety of tasks such as college research, college planning, career planning and exploration, resume building, goal-setting, and communication between school and home.

Access to NAVIANCE/Family Connection

- Go to <http://connection.naviance.com/jhwms> or use the link found at www.nutleyschools.org under the Parent/Student menu or on the Guidance page.
- Sign in with your registered e-mail and your password.
*If you forgot your password, click on the “Forgot Your Password” link.

If you do not have a Naviance account, contact your school counselor to set one up.

Review of Credit – Summer School

In order for a student to be promoted to the next grade level, he or she must have successfully completed the four core courses, which include language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and world language. If a student fails one or two of these five core courses, he or she will be permitted to attend summer school to pass the course. If a student fails more than two core courses, he or she will be retained at the grade level.

Information about summer school is available in the Guidance Office.

Career Planning

NAVIANCE Career Planner can be used by students to research careers, learn more about themselves, link personality type and interests with both career clusters and individual careers, and gain an understanding of the academic preparation required to ensure they are ready to pursue careers in the fields in which they are interested.

Please go to <http://connection.naviance.com/jhwms> or use the link found at www.nutleyschools.org under the Parent/Student menu or on the Guidance page.

- Sign in with your registered e-mail and your password.
*If you forgot your password, click on the “Forgot Your Password” link.

If you do not have a NAVIANCE account, contact your school counselor to set one up.

Homebound Instruction

At times, it may be necessary for a student to receive homebound instruction. Homebound instruction will provide the minimum requirements necessary for promotion.

Business and Career and Technical Education Departments

Department Description

Business and Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses are designed to expose students to and more fully develop critical thinking, problem solving, and technical skills. Technology Education is defined as “problem-based learning utilizing math, science and technology principles” (ITEEA definition). Students are encouraged to participate in these courses that incorporate exploration of traditional, historical, and current technological skills through a hands-on project based approach. We believe that Technical Education courses provide rich opportunities for real-world learning experiences for all students where academic standards are reinforced and students are able to apply what they have learned in “real life” situations while they prepare for the 21st Century workplace. Microsoft Office Suite programs Word, Excel, and Power Point are introduced. Skills learned here act as the foundation for many high school offerings and can be used across content areas in both middle school and high school.

Course Descriptions

Course Title:	Introduction to Technology	Course Number	878TE0
Grade(s):	7 or 8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	One Semester

Course Description:
<p>Introduction to Technology 7 is designed for students who want to develop an appreciation of technology for life, society and the environment.</p> <p>This course requires students to develop problem-solving, critical and creative-thinking skills, through the application of the design cycle.</p> <p>Students will build and develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills through hands-on activities. Students will be responsible for related concepts including measurement, technical sketching, technical drawing, the relationship between Science (Physics) and Technology, Building and Design Technology, Structures, and Flight.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, hands-on activities, homework assignments, and quizzes/tests. Students will be assessed utilizing the criteria of investigation, design, plan, create, evaluate, and attitudes in technology.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for one marking period.</p>

Course Title:	Principles of Technology	Course Number:	808PT0
Grade(s):	7 or 8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	One Semester

Course Description:			
Principles of Technology is designed for students who want to study the fundamental structure of industrial technology (manufacturing, power, and energy) and its impact on our lives.			
This course requires students to...			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpret how technology applications transfer from one area to another. • Demonstrate how to apply technology to other fields of study. • Demonstrate how other cultures use technology. • Understand how technology has shaped our world. • Understand how technology can be used to solve problems of the world. • Understand how people can work cooperatively to solve common problems. • Apply safe use of power equipment and safe practices in a production lab (shop) environment. 			
Students will build or develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills through hands-on activities. Students will be responsible for related concepts: measurement, hand and power tools (identification, safety, and proper usage), technical sketching, Computer Aided Drawing, structural design, simple machines, electricity and magnetism, and aerodynamics.			
Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, hands on activities, homework assignments, and quizzes/tests. Students will be assessed utilizing the criteria of investigation, design, plan, create, evaluate, and attitudes in technology. All assessments will focus upon each student's potential and their ability to demonstrate their comprehension of the subject matter.			
This course will meet five days a week for one semester.			

Course Title:	Concepts of Keyboarding and Word Processing	Course Number:	807KB0
Grade(s):	7 or 8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	One Marking Period

Course Description:			
Concepts of Keyboarding is designed for students who want to learn accepted keyboarding technique and become proficient utilizing these skills.			
This course requires students to operate the computer using a variety of software, master the keyboard using the "Touch Typing" method, and comprehend the basic concepts of Word Processing.			
Students will build and develop skills through application of proper keyboarding technique, understanding computer theory and basic file management, computer graphics, and basic word processing operations.			

Successful completion of this course will be measured by grading technique using a rubric, written tests, student printouts of documents, and grading of notes.

This course will meet five days a week for one marking period.

Course Title:	Internet Safety	Course Number:	878IS0
Grade(s):	7 or 8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	One Marking Period

Course Description:

Internet Safety is designed for students who want to enhance their knowledge regarding the safe use of electronic communication through the Internet, social media, and text messaging.

This course requires students to understand and apply concepts learned while they interact with others in cyberspace including (a) “netiquette” or appropriate online behavior, (b) techniques used to avoid being a victim of cyber bullying, (c) actions to take if they are a victim of cyber bullying, and (d) ways to protect their personal information. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the Internet’s benefits while being aware of and reducing the potential risks.

Students will develop skills through course lectures, class participation, involvement in individual and group assignments and projects, as well as hands-on demonstrations and presentations. In addition, students will utilize the knowledge and skills attained in this course to assist them with making better decisions while using technology.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, class assignments, projects, presentations, and quizzes.

This course will meet five days per week for one marking period.

Course Title:	Applied Computer Technologies	Course Number:	808AC0
Grade(s):	7 or 8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	One Semester

Course Description:

Applied Computer Technologies is designed for students wishing to enhance their keyboarding skills and expand their knowledge of Microsoft Office computer software programs.

This course requires students to apply and improve correct keyboarding technique, to apply advanced formatting functions utilizing Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, and to apply their knowledge and skills to real world situations.

Students will build and develop skills through hands-on activities and assignments designed to improve proper keyboarding techniques and increase speeds, perform multi-step tasks. Students will utilize Microsoft Office programs to create different document styles such as one and two

page reports, tables, letters, spreadsheets, mail merge, infographic, pictograph, and slide shows.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, student-created printouts, tests, grading using rubrics, projects, and timings.

This course will meet five days per week for one semester.

English Department

Department Description

The English Department at John H. Walker Middle School strives to develop knowledge, skills, and strategies for students in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. With opportunities for daily practice that are independent, directed, and collaborative, students will progress from emergent to fluent readers and writers. Experiences with a wide variety of literature which reflects our diverse and multicultural society enable students to become familiar with many authors' writing styles. Additionally, students will be prepared for the demands of college, business, and life in a democratic society by practicing skills which require them to think logically and express themselves clearly. The stimulation of the students' curiosity, creativity, and imagination through the study of literature will assist them in making connections to their own existence and apply knowledge of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Course Descriptions

Course Title:	English 7	Course Number:	307EN0 307EN6 3L1WR6 3L1RE6
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

English 7 is designed for students who want to explore the five elements of language arts: reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical viewing.

This course requires students to discover a variety of literary genres, create a variety of writing tasks, continue the study of grammar and its usage, and utilize technology for language arts experiences.

Students will build and develop skills through exposure to reading and writing strategies, process writing using graphic organizers, exhibit vocabulary development, demonstrate appreciation of the written/spoken word, and utilize effective communication skills.

Successful completion of this course will be measured by participation in class discussions, group and individual presentations, journals, essays, tests, quizzes, and homework.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	English 8	Course Number:	308EN0 308EN6
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	English 7	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>English 8 is designed for students who want to explore the five elements of language arts: reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical viewing.</p> <p>This course requires students to understand major literary genres and literary terms, create a variety of writing tasks, apply the conventions of standard English to all written assignments, and utilize technology for research and language arts experiences.</p> <p>Students will build and develop skills in reading strategies and literary awareness, process writing, vocabulary development, grammar and its usage, research skills, and application of technology.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured by participation in class discussions, group and individual presentations, journals, essays, tests, quizzes, homework, and a research paper.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>			

Course Title:	Reading/Writing 7	Course Number:	307LS7
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>Reading/Writing 7 is designed for students who want to explore the elements of reading and writing strategies to enrich their language arts experiences. These strategies provide creative, unique, and authentic avenues that students can explore.</p> <p>This course is divided into two parts, reading or writing, for a semester each.</p> <p>The reading portion of the course requires students to understand literal and inferential reading comprehension skills, and to develop skills for surveying, questioning, and comprehending various forms of literary material. The writing portion of the course requires students to create a variety of writing tasks in a writing workshop environment.</p> <p>Students will develop skills through reading a variety of genres, identifying elements of style, applying reasoning skills, keeping a writing portfolio, practicing process writing, developing editing and revising skills, and participating in writing conferences.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through hands-on activities in class such as writing portfolios, projects, and group work. No homework is required.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>			

Course Title:	Journalism 8	Course Number:	3L1J00
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Writing Prompt Response	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>Journalism 8 is designed for students who want to deliver the news to the student body of John H. Walker Middle School by becoming a part of the school newspaper.</p> <p>This course requires students to learn the fundamentals of good journalism including the journalistic style of writing, editing, expression, and layout design.</p> <p>Students will build and develop skills through writing workshops and class discussions designed to help each student learn the basic principles of journalism and to apply such skills to the production of <i>The Raider Review</i>.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured by completing assigned tasks including researching important topics and issues , implementing strong interviewing skills, observing deadlines for written articles, displaying a positive work ethic during class time, and completing periodic tests and quizzes.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>			

Course Title:	Literature/Media Connection 8	Course Number:	3L1LM0
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>Literature/Media Connection 8 is designed for students who want to explore the world of film and literature. Using a dynamic collection of films and books, this course assists students in making the connection between a variety of media and literature.</p> <p>This course requires students to apply literary terms to film and analyze the plot, characters, and symbolism presented. Additionally, film terminology is introduced as well as lighting and sound elements.</p> <p>Students will develop skills through the viewing of a variety of films as well as reading a collection of various novels. Class discussions and notebook response questions will assist students in developing an appreciation for film and reading.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured by daily participation, film reviews, film theme research, and director biographies. No homework is required for this class.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>			

Course Title:	Language Arts Strategies 8	Course Number:	308LS7
Grades:	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Teacher Recommendation	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:	
<p>Language Arts Strategies 8 is designed for students who want to refine skills for reading comprehension and writing.</p> <p>This course requires students to apply and understand a variety of concepts relating to language arts literacy with emphasis on preparation for NJ ASK and other required assessments. Students will develop skills through discussing and analyzing elements of narrative, informational, and persuasive text as well as composing persuasive and expository essays. In addition, students will utilize proper grammar, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, and spelling.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through a variety of activities, reading and writing portfolios, journals, and class discussions.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>	

Course Title:	Study Skills 7 and 8	Course Number:	0L1SK0
Grade(s):	7-8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:	
<p>This course will help students develop and master skills, strategies, and techniques that can be applied to all subject areas to ensure student success.</p> <p>The greatest component of the Study Skills courses is the idea that it is differentiated on all student levels: interests, readiness, learning styles, content, process, and product. The focus will be on three study skills including processing skills (breaking down a task into steps), note-taking skills, and research skills. Each key component is usable in all subject areas and on each grade level. Mastery of these skills will provide a firm foundation for each student to rely on while working with any subject matter, task, or skill.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>	

English as a Second Language (ESL) Department

Department Description

Nutley Public Schools' ESL Department believes that students should participate and communicate successfully in a pluralistic society. Language and culture are the foundation of human experience. We believe that all students must develop and maintain proficiency in English and in at least one other language. Students from non-English speaking backgrounds that are identified as Limited English Proficient are provided opportunities to develop linguistic, cognitive and socio-cultural proficiencies in the English Language.

The ESL curriculum provides a sequential program of communication-based English instruction in preschool through grade 12. We believe that language is acquired through meaningful interactive experiences enriched by culturally authentic content. Through English language instruction, students are provided opportunities to reach out to others across cultural and linguistic boundaries.

Instruction is characterized by progressive learning in developing relevant themes and meaningful tasks involving listening, speaking, reading and writing. Instruction is based on inquiry, solving real-life problems and application of concepts. We believe that an appreciation of a students' learning style is necessary for success in language learning.

The ESL curriculum, which fuses the WIDA standards for English Language Learners to the CCSS, explores themes across content areas and makes connections to the multicultural dimensions of the 21st Century, fostering a greater respect for ethnic differences and an understanding of world cultures.

Course Descriptions

Course Title:	ESL Entering-Emerging	Course Number:	7L1EL0
Grade(s):	7-8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	NJ State-approved language proficiency test scores at the entering or emerging level	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

ESL Entering-Emerging is designed for English Language Learners who can process, understand, produce, and/or use:

- Pictorial or graphic representation of the language of the content areas
- General language related to the content areas.

This course requires students to focus on the development of all four language skills (speaking, reading, writing, listening) at the most basic level with an emphasis on vocabulary building, grammar, syntax, mechanics, and pronunciation. Proper utilization of bilingual dictionaries as a key component in second language acquisition is stressed. Students in this course are scheduled as a two-period daily block.

Students will build or develop skills by reading a variety of challenging Board of Education-

approved ESL Department books and magazines, in addition to using software designed for English Language Learners.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, essays, tests, quizzes, projects, technology-based activities, self or peer assessments, and portfolios. Student achievement beyond the graded course will also be measured through performance on the ACCESS for ELLs (State-mandated annual test of English Language Learners) and by scoring Proficient or Advanced Proficient on the Language Arts section of the NJASK.

This course meets five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	ESL Emerging-Expanding	Course Number:	7L2EL0
Grade(s):	7-8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	NJ State-approved language proficiency test scores at the developing or expanding level	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

ESL Emerging-Expanding is designed for English Language Learners who can process, understand, produce, and/or use:

- General, specific, or some technical language of the content areas
- Expanded sentences in oral interaction or written paragraphs, or a variety of sentence lengths of varying linguistic complexity in extended oral discourse or multiple, related sentences or paragraphs.

This course requires students to focus on the development of more extended, academic vocabulary, with emphasis on reading comprehension and essay writing. Proper utilization of bilingual dictionaries as a key component in second language acquisition is stressed. Students in this course are scheduled as a two-period daily block.

Students will build or develop skills by reading a variety of challenging Board of Education-approved ESL Department books in addition to selected newspaper and magazine articles.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, essays, tests, quizzes, projects, technology-based activities, self or peer assessments, and portfolios. Student achievement beyond the graded course will also be measured through performance on the ACCESS for ELLs (State-mandated annual test of English Language Learners) and by scoring Proficient or Advanced Proficient on the Language Arts section of the NJASK.

This course meets five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	ESL Expanding-Bridging	Course Number:	7L3EL0
Grade(s):	7-8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	NJ State-approved language proficiency test scores at the expanding or bridging level	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:
<p>ESL Expanding-Bridging is designed for students who are usually being transitioned to exit the ESL Program and are simultaneously enrolled in a mainstream English class.</p> <p>This course requires students to understand materials that focus on cognitive and academic language proficiency. Proper utilization of bilingual dictionaries as a key component in second language acquisition is stressed.</p> <p>Students will build or develop skills by reading a variety of challenging Board of Education-approved ESL Department books in addition to selected newspaper and magazine articles. Students in this course will also focus on persuasive and expository writings.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, essays, tests, quizzes, projects, technology-based activities, self or peer assessments, and portfolios. Student achievement beyond the graded course will also be measured through performance on the ACCESS for ELLs (State-mandated annual test of English Language Learners) and by scoring Proficient or Advanced Proficient on the Language Arts section of the NJASK.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>

Health and Physical Education Department

Department Description

The Health and Physical Education Department is committed to providing a high quality instructional program that is relevant to all students. Each teacher's goal is to provide students with a variety of activities that will prepare them for a lifetime of fitness and well-being. Instructional practices take into consideration changing developmental and movement abilities and also seek to develop self-confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills. In terms of Health Education, it is the goal of the teachers to deliver instruction that will have a strong impact on promoting healthy young adults. Instructional practices will focus on developing critical thinking skills to enable students to make informed decisions that encourage healthy lifestyles.

Course Descriptions

Course Title:	Health 7	Course Number:	207HE0
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	1 Marking Period

Course Description:

Health 7 is designed to promote the characteristics of a healthy lifestyle through self-awareness, wise decision-making, and informed actions. Students will acquire knowledge and develop skills to strengthen their ability to make health-enhancing decisions. This course will promote intellectual growth and decision-making skills.

This course will allow students to develop an understanding of various health-related issues and topics. These topics include mental and emotional health, stress management, preventative health care and disease awareness, physical fitness, nutrition, the importance of wellness, drug awareness including themes on alcohol, tobacco, and drugs, basic first aid, and the function and role of developing body systems.

Students will build skills through group work, lecture and discussions, guest speakers, and readings from the text book as well as additional supplemental readings pertaining to relevant topics.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through tests, quizzes, homework, class work, projects, and completion of an end-of-unit common assessment.

This course will meet five days a week for one marking period.

Course Title:	Health 8	Course Number:	208HE0
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Successful Completion of Health 7	Length:	1 Marking Period

Course Description:			
<p>Health 8 is designed to promote the characteristics of healthy lifestyle through self-awareness, wise decision-making, and informed actions. Students will continue to acquire knowledge and develop skills to strengthen their ability to make health-enhancing decisions. This course will promote intellectual growth and decision-making skills.</p> <p>This course will allow students to develop an understanding of the human reproductive system, puberty, pregnancy and childbirth, physical, emotional, and social aspects of human relationships and sexuality. Students will learn about disease awareness and preventative health care with a focus on sexually transmitted infections and HIV. Alcohol, tobacco and drug awareness as well as current trends in this area will be discussed.</p> <p>Students will build skills through group work, lecture and discussions, guest speakers, and readings from the text book as well as additional supplemental readings pertaining to relevant topics.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through tests, quizzes, homework, class work, projects, and completion of an end-of-unit common assessment.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for one marking period.</p>			

Course Title:	Physical Education 7	Course Number:	207PE0
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	3 Marking Periods

Course Description:			
<p>Physical Education 7 is designed to provide opportunities for physical, mental, and social development. The goal is to maximize physical potential, intellectual growth, and leadership skills.</p> <p>This course will allow students to develop an understanding of physical fitness components such as frequency, intensity, time and type and recognize that success and improvement are the result of effort and practice. Students will be taught the basic rules and regulations for sports and recognize the benefits of following safe practices, procedures, and etiquette when engaging in physical activity. The purpose of sports, games, and dance in modern society will be discussed with the students. Students will also apply movement concepts and principles to the learning and development of motor skills, be responsible for personal and social behavior in physical education class, respect for differences among people in physical activity settings, and participate in opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, social interaction, and health benefits that physical activity can provide.</p> <p>Students will build skills through participation in a physical educational program that will</p>			

provide sequential instruction and knowledge necessary for the activities selected.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through tests, quizzes, homework, class work, projects, in class observations, and completion of an end-of-unit common assessment. Students will be required to change into athletic clothing for class. Students must wear a t-shirt, shorts, and athletic sneakers. In colder weather, students should wear a sweatshirt and sweat pant.

This course will meet five days a week for three marking periods.

Course Title:	Physical Education 8	Course Number:	208PE0
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Physical Education 7	Length:	3 Marking Periods

Course Description:

Physical Education 8 is designed to provide opportunities for physical, mental, and social development. The goal is to maximize physical potential, intellectual growth, and leadership skills.

This course will allow students to continue to develop skills related to physical fitness components such as frequency, intensity, time and type and recognize that success and improvement are the result of effort and practice. Students will learn more in-depth rules and regulations for sports and recognize the benefits of following safe practices, procedures, and etiquette when engaging in physical activity. Students will gain an understanding of movement concepts and principles related to learning and developing motor skills. Students will become responsible for personal and social behavior in physical education class and respect for differences among people in physical activity settings. Students will also participate in physical activity opportunities for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, social interaction, and health benefits.

Students will build skills through participation in a physical educational program that will provide sequential instruction and knowledge necessary for the activities selected.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through tests, quizzes, homework, class work, projects, in class observations, and completion of an end-of-unit common assessment. Students will be required to change into athletic clothing for class. Students must wear a t-shirt, shorts, and athletic sneakers. In colder weather, students should wear a sweatshirt and sweat pant.

This course will meet five (5) days a week for three marking periods.

Mathematics Department

Department Description

The Mathematics program in grades 7 and 8 is designed to provide opportunities for all students to move forward in the development of a strong foundation in mathematics. The process skills of problem-solving, application, critical thinking, and mathematical reasoning are stressed. The courses available to students range from Pre-Algebra to Algebra I and Geometry, which prepare students for the study of advanced mathematics in high school and beyond.

The mathematics curricula emphasize thinking skills through a balance of number sense, computation, logic and reasoning, analysis, mathematical modeling, problem solving, and technology. The teachers of the mathematics department provide instruction that engages and challenges students in learning environments that are encouraging and developmentally appropriate.

Because of the sequential nature of mathematics, many courses require prerequisites in addition to teacher recommendations. Course recommendations are based on concrete data such as marking period grades and common assessment scores. Students are encouraged to adhere to the course sequence suggested by the teachers in the Mathematics Department.

The teachers of the Mathematics Department are available to provide students with assistance on homework assignments and work missed due to absence. Teachers are available for extra help before and after school in their assigned classrooms.

Course Descriptions

Course Title:	Pre-Algebra 7	Course Number:	407PA0 407PA6 4L1MA6
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Grade 6 Mathematics	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Pre-Algebra 7 is designed for grade 7 students who have successfully completed the grade 6 mathematics curriculum.

This course will require students to use mathematical skills taught in grade 6 with additional advanced computation including an emphasis on introductory algebraic concepts. Students will study fractions, decimals, percents, positive and negative integers, and rational numbers. They will develop and expand the use of ratios and proportions, techniques for solving algebraic equations, and problem-solving skills. Geometry concepts will include the coordinate plane, angles, polygons, perimeter, area, volume, surface area, similarity, and transformations. Students will develop algebraic thinking skills as they evaluate variable expressions, solve two-step equations, and begin the study of linear functions and their graphs. Statistics and probability will also be incorporated into the curriculum.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through teacher-generated assessments, common assessments, projects, assignments, and a final exam.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Accelerated Pre-Algebra	Course Number:	407PA1
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Readiness Assessment	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>Accelerated Pre-Algebra is designed for Grade 7 students who have demonstrated strong ability in the Grade 6 mathematics curriculum and on the Assessment for entering Grade 7 students. All students should expect extensive instruction in both Grade 7 and Grade 8 common core content domains in order to prepare for Accelerated Algebra 1 in Grade 8.</p> <p>This course will require students to perform basic operations with all real numbers, variables, powers, and roots. Course content also includes ratio, proportion, equations, inequalities, linear functions, statistics, probability, congruence, similarity, coordinate geometry, volume, and surface area. Students will use the language and notation of algebra, mathematical vocabulary, and graphs to represent ideas, describe relationships, and model situations. Students will be expected to complete mathematical computations without the use of a calculator and to use the language of mathematics with precision.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through teacher generated assessments, common assessments, projects, and assignments.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>			

Course Title:	Foundations of Algebra	Course Number:	4L1FA1
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Pre-Algebra	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>Foundations of Algebra is designed for Grade 8 students who successfully completed Pre-Algebra in Grade 7 and have demonstrated strong competency. All students should expect extensive instruction in a fast-paced pre-algebra course, which will provide a solid foundation necessary for the Algebra curriculum in Grade 9.</p> <p>This course will require students to use mathematical skills taught in grade-7 with additional advanced computation including a strong emphasis on algebraic concepts. Students will study fractions, decimals, percents, positive and negative integers, and rational numbers. They will expand the use of ratios and proportions, techniques for solving algebraic equations, and problem solving skills. Students will develop algebraic thinking skills as they simplify and evaluate variable expressions, solve equations requiring multiple steps, and graph and analyze linear functions. Geometry concepts will include angles, polygons, perimeter, area, volume, surface area, similarity, and transformations. Introductory algebra will be integrated into the geometry topics. Statistics and probability will also be incorporated into the curriculum.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through teacher generated assessments, common assessments, projects, assignments, and a final exam.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>			

Course Title:	Accelerated Algebra I	Course Number:	4L1AA1
Grade(s):	7-8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Assessment for entering Grade 7 Students or Accelerated Pre-Algebra –Grade 7	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>Accelerated Algebra I is designed for grade 7 students who have demonstrated superior ability in the grade 6 mathematics curriculum and on Part 2 of the Algebra Readiness Assessment. The course is also appropriate for grade 8 students who successfully completed Foundations of Algebra in grade 7 and have demonstrated strong competency. All students should expect extensive instruction in the structures of algebra with emphasis on application, problem-solving, and critical thinking.</p> <p>This course will require students to perform basic operations with all real numbers, variables, exponents, polynomials, radicals, and rational expressions. Course content also includes coordinate geometry, factoring of polynomials, solving of linear, quadratic, systems of equations and inequalities, and direct and inverse variation. Verbal problems and previously learned geometry concepts are integrated within each unit of study to emphasize the development of problem-solving abilities. Students will use mathematical vocabulary, notation, and graphs to represent ideas, describe relationships, and model situations. Students will be expected to complete mathematical computations without the use of a calculator and to use the language of mathematics with precision.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through teacher generated assessments, common assessments, projects, assignments, and a final exam.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>			

Course Title:	Accelerated Geometry	Course Number:	4L1AG1
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Accelerated Algebra I – Grade 7	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>Accelerated Geometry is designed for students who have demonstrated superior ability in mastering the concepts of Algebra I in grade 7. This course offers a rigorous and in depth curriculum in traditional Euclidean geometry enriched by the additions of coordinate, space, and transformational geometry, as well as trigonometry. This course stresses analytical thought and problem-solving with an emphasis on detailed analysis and the formal proof.</p> <p>This course requires students to extend the study of plane and spatial relationships studied in earlier grades through the application of inductive and deductive reasoning to defined terms, properties, postulates, and previously proven theorems. Topics will include but will not be limited to properties of angles, perpendicular and parallel lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, transformations, similarity, congruence, perimeter and area of two-dimensional figures, and the volume of solids. Various types of proof will be incorporated throughout the course. Students will extensively utilize algebraic skills through their</p>			

application within the context of geometry. Real world problem-solving is emphasized in the study of each topic. Additional topics may include geometric probability and fractals.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through teacher generated assessments, projects, and assignments.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Mathematics Strategies 7	Course Number:	407MS0
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Partially Proficient Score on the PARCC assessment in Grade 6	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Mathematics Strategies 7 is a course that aims to provide preventive remediation for students who have been identified as partially proficient on the mathematics section of the PARCC assessment in Grade 6. A Math Strategies course is taken in addition to another middle school mathematics course.

Students will review concepts, skills, and problem solving strategies in preparation for the PARCC assessment in Grade 7.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through teacher generated assessments, projects, and assignments.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Mathematics Strategies 8	Course Number:	408MS0
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Partially Proficient Score on the PARCC assessment in Grade 7	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Mathematics Strategies 8 is a course that aims to provide preventive remediation for students who have been identified as partially proficient on the mathematics section of the NJASK standardized assessment in grade 7. A Math Strategies course is taken in addition to another middle school mathematics course.

Students will review concepts, skills, and problem solving strategies in preparation for the PARCC assessment in Grade 8.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through teacher generated assessments, projects, and assignments.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Music Department

Department Description

The Music Department gives students the opportunity to create, perform, critique and develop an understanding and respect for music in all its forms. Our philosophy is that music is an essential aspect of human existence and music education is therefore a crucial component to the total education of the students. Our performance-based curriculum aims to equip students with the foundation needed for success, as well as give students with other interests the opportunities only found through music learning and live performance.

Course Descriptions

Course Title:	Band 7	Course Number:	1L1BA0
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Recommendation or audition	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:
<p>Band 7 is designed for grade 7 students who want to continue to explore and improve their skills on their respective band instrument.</p> <p>This course requires students to understand and apply basic music fundamentals, musical elements, proper instrumental technique, historical context where appropriate, relation of music to the other arts, and appropriate performance practice.</p> <p>Students will build and develop skills through the study and performance of age-appropriate literature for band, in a daily, full band rehearsal setting.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, ongoing part testing and skills assessments, and attendance at all scheduled performances.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.</p>

Course Title:	Band 8	Course Number:	1L1BA0
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Band 7 or audition	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:
<p>Band 8 is designed for grade 8 students who want to continue to refine their skills on their respective band instrument, and expand their musical experiences to become more accomplished and well-rounded musicians.</p> <p>This course requires students to understand and apply music fundamentals, musical elements, proper instrumental technique, historical context, relation of music to the other arts, and appropriate performance practice.</p>

Students will build and develop skills through the study and performance of age-appropriate literature for band that builds on skills attained during the previous year, in a daily, full band rehearsal setting.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, ongoing part testing and skills assessments, and attendance at all scheduled performances.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Chorale	Course Number:	1L1CH0
Grade(s):	7-8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Interview and/or audition	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Chorale is designed for students who want to gain singing experience and develop vocal/music skills. Performances are an integral part of the course and include concerts, competitions, festivals and special events, which will be outlined in a performance calendar.

This course requires students to take into account basic vocal production, beginning theory/fundamentals, historical context, musical elements, and appropriate performance practice.

Students will build and develop music and singing skills through the study, analysis and performance of a variety of age/level appropriate choral repertoire.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, sight singing exercises, as well as performance assessments.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Instrumental Music Lessons	Course Number:	1L1IN0
Grade(s):	7-8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Participation in Band 7 or 8	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Instrumental Music Lessons is designed for students in grades 7 and 8 who wish to further refine their instrumental technique in a small, homogenous group setting. This course meets in conjunction with the respective ensemble course.

This course requires students to understand and apply music fundamentals, musical elements, proper instrumental technique, historical context, relation of music to the other arts, and appropriate performance practice.

Students will build and develop skills through the study of instrument-specific methods, aural training, and repeated practice of proper instrument technique.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through weekly lesson attendance, class participation, ongoing part testing and skills assessments, and a year-end evaluation.

This course will meet one day a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Concert Choir	Course Number:	1L1CC0
Grade(s):	7-8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Interview and/or audition	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Concert Choir is designed for students who want to explore music and perform in a large ensemble. Performances are an integral part of the course and include concerts, competitions, festivals and special events, which will be outlined in a performance calendar.

This course requires students to take into account proper vocal production, basic theory/fundamentals, historical context, musical elements, and appropriate performance practice.

Students will build and develop music skills through the study, analysis and performance of a variety of choral repertoire. Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, sight-singing exercises, as well as performance assessments.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Debonaires	Course Number:	1L1DB0
Grade(s):	7-8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Interview and/or audition	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Debonaires is designed for middle school girls who want to participate in a women's choir and develop vocal technique and musicianship skills. Performances are an integral part of the course and include concerts, competitions, and festivals, which will be outlined in a performance calendar.

This course requires students to perform with proper vocal technique, understand and apply basic music theory concepts, analyze and describe the historical and cultural context of music, utilize the expressive qualities of music, and demonstrate an ability to read music. Students will develop skills through the study, analysis, and performance of age-appropriate treble/women's choral repertoire and sight-singing exercises.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through class participation, repertoire and sight-singing testing, as well as performance assessments.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Science Department

Department Description

Science is systematic knowledge of the physical or material world gained through observation and experimentation. The John H. Walker Middle School Science Department provides an exploratory tour of the scientific world in the areas life science, physical science, and earth science. One of its fundamental goals is to provide students with a working knowledge of how basic science information is constructed, methods for measuring, experimental design, and ways to analyze and interpret information. This foundation of scientific knowledge will allow students to apply information so that they have an understanding of life, earth, and physical science which will allow them to make sound decisions in their lives. During their eighth grade year, students will take a science placement test that will help to place students appropriately at the beginning of their high school career.

Course Descriptions

Course Title:	Integrated Science 7	Course Number:	507IS1
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:		Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Integrated science is a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) designed class developed through curriculum offered by the Science and Technology Concepts program created from the Smithsonian Institute and distributed by Carolina Sciences. Integrated Science features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students.

The STC program builds on the skills and knowledge by introducing the design process in many investigations, with content balanced among the life sciences, earth sciences, physical sciences, and technology. The school year is broken into three major topics that include: Investigating Biodiversity and Interdependence; Exploring Plate Tectonics; and Forces and Motion

In Investigating Biodiversity and Interdependence, students will perform a series of hands-on, thought-provoking activities, they clarify what they already know about organisms and expand their knowledge about the structure and diversity of three particular groups—animals, protists, and fungi—through the study of representative organisms. Although these organisms seem to be dissimilar, students discover that they share many common features. Students also study humans as organisms—members of the kingdom Animalia—and their experience of life processes that other organisms undergo.

In Exploring Plate Tectonics, students will progress through a series of experiences, they compile evidence for the theory of plate tectonics, including patterns of earthquakes, shapes of the continents, paleomagnetism, the fossil record, and convection of the mantle. They also investigate different types of volcanoes, how they form, and how they affect the land and life around them. As students take more responsibility for their own learning, they plan and conduct their own procedures, devise their own tables, and analyze the results they obtain.

In Forces and Motion, students begin by exploring elastic, magnetic, frictional, and gravitational forces. Learning from experimentation that force affects the motion of objects, students turn their attention to energy and motion, learning about kinetic energy, how to calculate speed, and the relationship between forces, energy, and motion.

Students will develop skills through investigations that are designed to be hands-on and allow students to visualize many of the components of the class. Successful completion of this course will be measured through class work, homework, quizzes, tests, lab work as well as common unit assessments.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Integrated Science 8	Course Number:	
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Grade 7 Science or Integrated Science 7	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Integrated science is a STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) designed class developed through curriculum offered by the Science and Technology Concepts program created from the Smithsonian Institute and distributed by Carolina Sciences. Integrated Science features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students.

The STC program builds on the skills and knowledge by introducing the design process in many investigations, with content balanced among the life sciences, earth sciences, physical sciences, and technology. The school year is broken into three major topics that include: Studying the Development and Reproduction of Organisms, Researching the Sun-Earth-Moon System, and The Nature of Light.

In Studying the Development and Reproduction of Organisms, Students will discover that the life cycles of these two fascinating organisms are linked, and neither can survive without the other. They also get further grounding in the concept of humans as organisms—members of the kingdom Animalia. They study that humans, like Fast Plants and the cabbage white butterfly, are composed of dividing cells and that a unique form of cell division, meiosis, enables organisms to transfer their traits to the next generation.

In Researching the Sun-Earth-Moon System, Students begin by sharing what they know, and then use models to demonstrate the sizes of and spatial relationships between the three bodies. Once these facts are known, students have a foundation on which to build ideas about the effects of the relationships. Computer software allows students to view daytime and nighttime skies; features such as constellations, the ecliptic, angular separation, and solar noon; and sunrise and sunset. Students focus their study on the Sun-Earth relationship by tracking shadows at different times of day and modeling shadows during different seasons. Students relate the changes in shadow patterns to the apparent motion of the Sun across the sky, and they draw conclusions about how the Earth’s rotation and orbit impact shadow length and angle. This leads into an exploration of seasons on Earth, how they vary at different latitudes, and the North

Star.

In The Nature of Light, students examine what happens to light as it travels through air and through water. Discovering that light travels in straight lines and spreads out as it travels; students apply this information to explore shadow formation and the factors that affect it, including transparent, translucent, and opaque objects.

Students will develop skills through investigations that are designed to be hands-on and allow students to visualize many of the components of the class. Successful completion of this course will be measured through class work, homework, quizzes, tests, lab work as well as common unit assessments.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Accelerated Physical Science	Course Number:	508IS1
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Accelerated Algebra I – C- or better Foundations of Algebra – B or better Teacher recommendation	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Accelerated Physical Science infuses math (algebra) with theories and phenomenon of the physical world. This elective course is designed for students who are advanced in math and interested in learning about the physical world by applying mathematical formulas to investigative physical science.

This course requires students to apply analytical skills, measurement skills, basic algebra operations, simple mathematical calculations, and problem-solving skills while learning the laws of physics.

Students will develop understanding through problem-solving, using scientific apparatus and instruments, comparing results, analyzing lab results, and interacting with classmates during laboratory investigations. Successful completion of this course will be measured by performance on quizzes and tests, laboratory performance and analysis, class work, homework, classroom discussions, as well as other projects and a final exam.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Social Studies Department

Department Description

The goal of social studies is to educate young citizens, heirs to a vibrant democracy, for their role in the future of the nation and a global society. To this end, the department offers courses in both American and world history. The grade seven program builds upon the foundation established during the study of government and the economy in grade six, examining the historical origins of American institutions, and their transformation in the crucible of Civil War and Reconstruction. The grade eight course begins a two-year study of world history that will continue into the high school, examining the cultural foundations of the major global communities. Both courses are designed to address the New Jersey Core Content Curriculum Standards, and to prepare students for their transition into the high school.

Course Descriptions

Course Title:	Grade 7 Social Studies	Course Number:	607SS0 607SS6 6L1SS6
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Grade 7 Social Studies is designed to help students develop the knowledge and skills to become informed young citizens of the American democracy.

This course requires students to build upon the understanding of American government and the national economy acquired in grade six, and enhance their appreciation of how the American historical experience shaped the changing concepts of liberty and the proper role of government. Beginning with the colonial experience, students will examine the genesis of American ideas of freedom, and how these ideas were tested and altered by westward expansion, and the crucible of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

Students will develop skills through the examination of documents and art, the use of maps and charts, historical role-playing, research projects, web quests, and digital projects.

Successful completion of this course will be measured by student projects and presentations, research papers, document-based questions (DBQs), tests, quizzes, and maps.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Grade 8 Social Studies	Course Number:	608SS0 608SS6
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Grade 8 Social Studies is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills to serve as effective and informed young citizens of the United States and the global community.

This course requires students to build upon the geography skills and knowledge acquired in the elementary social studies sequence to enhance their analysis of the historical development of the world's cultures. Grade Eight Social Studies is the first part of the two year study of world history that will continue during the freshman year of high school. Commencing with the transition into civilization, students will examine how the ideas and institutions of the ancient and medieval eras shaped our world. The founding of many of the major religions lie within the periods covered by this course, and students will be expected to become familiar with the basic tenets and beliefs that have inspired each society.

Students will develop skills through the examination of documents and art, the use of maps and charts, historical role-playing, research projects, web quests, and digital projects.

Successful completion of this course will be measured by student projects and presentations, research papers, document-based questions (DBQs), tests, quizzes, and maps.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Special Services Department

Department Description

The programs for special needs students at John H. Walker Middle School are designed to serve students with disabilities. The full array and continuum of programs and services in the least restrictive environment are available. Schedules for students are developed by the student, parents, case manager and guidance counselors to meet individual student needs as prescribed in their Individual Education Program (IEP). Program options include: fully mainstreamed with supplemental aides and services, in class support, replacement instruction, a self contained program and a program for autistic students. The New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards are addressed in all special education programs. Supplemental services include occupational therapy, physical therapy, and speech therapy. The department also provides a strong transition program with community-based supports for those students who require it.

Autistic Program Description

The John H. Walker Middle School Autistic Program offers an individualized approach to instruction utilizing strategies of Applied Behavior Analysis, direct intervention and differential instruction. The program is designed to accommodate each student's individual need while meeting the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS). In addition to the NJCCCS, students receive instruction in the areas of self-help, daily living, social skills and behavior modification, as well as speech/language therapy and occupational therapy. Inclusion opportunities are also available to students. The use of accommodations, modifications and small group instruction enhance instruction in the Autistic Program which is determined by an Individualized Education Plan.

Self-Contained Program Description

The John H. Walker Middle School self-contained program is designed to accommodate each student's individual needs while meeting the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. In addition, students receive instruction in the areas of daily living, social skills, speech therapy and transition to adult life. Inclusion and mainstreaming opportunities are available to students. The use of accommodations, modifications and positive supports in a small group as delineated in the students IEP enhance instruction.

SLD Program Description

In replacement instruction classes at John H. Walker Middle School, special education teachers provide grade-level instruction that is modeled after the general education curriculum. Curriculum standards in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies are modified through the use of accommodations and learning supports that are part of the Individualized Education Plan. Small class sizes allow the teachers to provide individualized and differentiated instruction that enable the students to meet the guidelines set forth by the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. The goal of SLD Instruction Program is to increase the special education student's participation and progress in the general education curriculum. For course descriptions, please see content area.

Visual Arts Department

Department Description

Staff members believe that the arts are an important aspect of all cultural heritages and have a significant place in our everyday lives. Courses are designed to stimulate and develop creativity by providing a nurturing environment that promotes inquiry and is designed to meet the needs and capabilities of the individual. Our art program helps develop critical thinking skills, the visual training and techniques of art production, and aesthetic literacy by increasing students' perceptual awareness of art and helps develop their ability to organize, arrange and present work with critical thought. Art nourishes personal growth and enhances the development of social, cognitive, physical and communication skills.

Course Descriptions

Course Title:	Fine Arts 7	Course Number:	107FA0
Grade(s):	7	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Fine Arts 7 is designed to provide students studio experiences in the classroom and opportunities to explore aspects of art media through painting, drawing, printmaking, pottery, and sculpture.

This course requires students to use a wide variety of techniques and materials related to color theory, rendering, perspective drawing, watercolor, acrylic paint, colored pencil, marker, metal embossing, and ceramic clay. Students will be given a sense of art history through discussion and the display of visuals that relate to studio art projects.

Successful completion of this course will be measured by class participation, weekly assignments, class critique sessions, homework, art display/contest participation, sketchbook journal, notebook, and correct application of techniques, technologies, and methods presented for use in each medium.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

Course Title:	Fine Arts 8	Course Number:	108AA0
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Fine Arts 8 is designed to provide students studio experiences in the classroom as well as the understanding and use of the various aspects of two- and three-dimensional art and art history. Students will utilize painting, drawing, printmaking, pottery, and sculpture.

This course requires students to use a wide variety of techniques and materials including acrylic paint, watercolor, ceramic clay, hand-built pottery, pen and ink, and charcoal.

Successful completion of this course will be measured by class participation, weekly assignments, class critique sessions, homework, art display/contest participation, sketchbook journal, notebook, and correct application of techniques, technologies, and methods presented for use in each medium.

This course will meet five days a week for the academic year.

World Languages Department

Department Description

The World Languages department of the Nutley Public Schools holds forth a vision of excellence for all students. Our goal is to develop a community of lifelong learners where children have healthy self-esteem, respect and compassion for others, essential and technological knowledge, and the creative problem-solving skills needed to meet the challenges of successful citizenship in an ever-changing global society.

In a world that is experiencing major growth, the ability to understand and to express in more than one language will increase one's awareness and appreciation of multicultural diversity. In today's global society, the study of a second language and culture is fundamental to a sound education. Along with enjoying the complexities of second language acquisition, our students will also develop the skill sets for:

- Communicating with individuals from other nations/cultures
- Understanding the marriage between language and culture
- Becoming more cognizant of the world in which we live
- Applying acquired knowledge to new learning experiences
- Using the language of study in the community as well as in various career opportunities

Via the development of these skills, students will realize that learning another language is critical to personal and academic success.

Learning occurs in meaningful, communicative contexts that carry significance for the student. Reading and writing are used as tools appropriate to the level and interest of the learners. Language structures and features are presented as tools for fruitful communication within the unit of study. Assessment is frequent and ongoing in a manner that is consistent with our program goals and teaching strategies. Proficiency in reading writing, speaking and listening will be measured via the guidelines prescribed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL).

Nutley Public Schools' World Language program is designed to build fluency in the target language through an extended sequence of courses. Our students are invited and challenged to continue their study of the target language throughout their tenure in the Nutley Public Schools.

Course Description

Course Title:	Italian I	Course Number:	7L1IT0
Grade(s):	7 or 8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:
Italian I is designed to give students a working knowledge of the fundamentals of the target language. Emphasis will be placed on the sound/symbol relationship, pronunciation, identification and recognition of common objects and basic conversational phrases for everyday situations. At this level, specific activities are designed to lay the foundation for the development of good comprehension and communication skills (listening, speaking, reading

and writing) through the modes of communication: Interpretive, Interpersonal and Presentational. Students at the beginner level will be given the opportunity to learn about the variety of cultures where the target languages are spoken.

This course requires students to use the target language and perform in the range of proficiency levels Novice-Mid to Novice High as prescribed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages. The students are required to describe, identify, exchange, reflect upon, discuss, understand, and compare the various aspects of the target language and culture, using the three modes of communication.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through oral and written assessments, projects, homework, class participation and final exam.

This course will meet five days a week and prepares students for the second level of language study.

Course Title:	Italian II	Course Number:	7L2IT0
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Italian I	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:

Italian II is designed for students who wish to continue their study of the Italian language. As a gateway to the upper levels of study, this course prepares students with the necessary skills to enjoy learning experiences in the upper levels courses offered by the World Language department.

This course requires students to place more emphasis on the development of strong comprehension and communication skills utilizing authentic materials and sources. Students will expand their vocabulary to include more detailed and complex themes. Grammatical structure will be mastered as needed to achieve more accurate communication. Students are encouraged to be creative in their responses and to take risks to extend beyond the framework of familiar vocabulary and structure.

Successful completion of this course will be measured through the use of the three modes of communication: Interpretive (reading and listening), Interpersonal (speaking), Presentational (writing and speaking), oral and written; assessments, projects, homework, class participation, midterm exam and final exam. The students will perform in the range of proficiency levels Novice-High to the Intermediate-Low as prescribed by the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language.

This course will meet five days a week and can be counted in fulfillment of the state mandated five (5) credits of world languages graduation requirements.

Course Title:	Latin I	Course Number:	7L1LA0
Grade(s):	7 or 8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>Latin I is designed for students who want to explore another culture and language, one that has had a profound influence on English. The readings of Latin I introduce the students to the fascinating forms and logic of the Latin language.</p> <p>This course requires students to relate English and Latin vocabulary, to understand the rudiments of grammar, and utilize it to read passages of increasing length and complexity.</p> <p>Students will develop skills through vocabulary acquisition and practice with grammatical forms and constructions to facilitate reading. They will discuss and study family relationships, Roman gods and mythology, and other cultural aspects of Roman life.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through quizzes, tests, projects and final exam.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week and prepares students for the second level of language study.</p>			

Course Title:	Latin II	Course Number:	7L2LA0
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Latin I	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:			
<p>Latin II is designed for students who want to continue their study of Latin and thereby improve English vocabulary and understanding of grammar. Students will be introduced to various aspects of Roman culture and civilization and see parallels with their own society and government.</p> <p>This course requires students to apply what they have learned in Latin I to new grammatical structures and more sophisticated reading passages. The readings at level II of Latin study take the students further in exploring the classical era of Greece and Rome and in meeting the heroes of history and fable.</p> <p>Students will develop skills through vocabulary acquisition, discussion of cultural mores and achievements, and reading and analysis of grammatical forms. Comparisons and contrasts are made between the institutions and values of the classical world and our own.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured by quizzes, tests, projects, midterms, and final exams.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week and can be counted in fulfillment of the state mandated five (5) credits of world languages graduation requirements.</p>			

Course Title:	Spanish I	Course Number:	7L1SP0
Grade(s):	7 or 8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	None	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:
<p>Spanish I is designed to give students a working knowledge of the fundamentals of the target language. Emphasis will be placed on the sound/symbol relationship, pronunciation, identification and recognition of common objects and basic conversational phrases for everyday situations. At this level, specific activities are designed to lay the foundation for the development of good comprehension and communication skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) through the modes of communication: Interpretive, Interpersonal, Presentational. Students at the beginner level will be given the opportunity to learn about the variety of cultures where the target languages are spoken.</p> <p>This course requires students to use the target language and perform in the range of Novice-Mid to Novice High as prescribed by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages. The students are required to describe, identify, exchange, reflect upon, discuss, understand, and compare the various aspects of the target language and culture, using the three modes of communication.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through oral and written assessments, homework, class participation, projects and final exam.</p> <p>This course will meet five days a week and prepares students for the second level of language study.</p>

Course Title:	Spanish II	Course Number:	7L2SP0
Grade(s):	8	Credits:	
Prerequisites:	Spanish I	Length:	Full Year

Course Description:
<p>Spanish II is designed for students who wish to continue their study of the Spanish language. As a gateway to the upper levels of study, this course prepares students with the necessary skills to enjoy learning experiences in the upper levels courses offered by the World Language department.</p> <p>This course requires students to place more emphasis on the development of strong comprehension and communication skills utilizing authentic materials and sources. Students will expand their vocabulary to include more detailed and complex themes. Grammatical structure will be mastered as needed to achieve more accurate communication. Students are encouraged to be creative in their responses and to take risks to extend beyond the framework of familiar vocabulary and structure.</p> <p>Successful completion of this course will be measured through the use of the three modes of</p>

communication: Interpretive (reading and listening), Interpersonal (speaking), Presentational (writing and speaking), oral and written assessments, projects, homework, class participation, midterm exam and final exam. The students will perform in the range of proficiency levels Novice High to the Intermediate-Low as prescribed by the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards for World Languages and the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language.

This course will meet five days a week and can be counted in fulfillment of the state mandated five (5) credits of world languages graduation requirements.

Appendix A

Forms



Nutley Public Schools

John H. Walker Middle School

Schedule Change Form

Date: _____

Student Name: _____

HR Section: _____

Counselor: _____

Current Class/Teacher: _____

_____ **Level Change/Course Override** New Level: _____
(within first two marking periods or 30 calendar days
for transfers)

_____ **Other** Please Describe: _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Department Coordinator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Principal/Vice Principal Signature: _____

Date: _____

Comment



Nutley Public Schools

John H. Walker Middle School Grade 7 Course Selection Form 2014 – 2015

Upon successful completion of grade 6, all students will be scheduled for English, mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, and world language. One elective course will be scheduled for each student.

Course descriptions can be found in the Middle School Program of Studies on our website at www.nutleyschools.org. Every effort will be made to provide each student with a schedule built around his or her interest and ability. Parents or guardians who have questions or wish to discuss a student's schedule may call a counselor.

Alisa Gennace, Counselor 973-661-8875
Joyce Wood, Counselor 973-661-8874

Students and Parents – Please complete the following information:

Student Name: _____

Student's Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Addresses:

Parent/Guardian Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

World Language Selection

Please rank your language choice from one (1) to three (3) where one (1) is your first choice.

World Language I

Italian _____ Latin _____ Spanish _____

Elective Course Selection

Please select two elective courses. Rank selection of courses with a one (1) and a two (2). Only one course will be taken. Select carefully as courses will not be added or dropped after the beginning of the school year. Counselor's initials next to all vocal and instrumental courses indicates the teacher's approval. If approved, interested students may select these courses.

_____ Chorale _____ approved
_____ Debonaires _____ approved
_____ Concert Choir _____ approved
_____ Band 7 _____ approved
_____ Orchestra
_____ Instrument _____
_____ Fine Arts 7

_____ Language Arts Literature/Writing
_____ Concepts of Keyboarding/Introduction to Technology/
Internet Safety



John H. Walker Middle School Grade 8 Course Selection Form 2014 – 2015

Upon successful completion of grade 7, all students will be scheduled for English, mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, and world language. One elective course will be scheduled for each student.

Course descriptions can be found in the Middle School Program of Studies on our website at www.nutleyschools.org. Every effort will be made to provide each student with a schedule built around his or her interest and ability. Parents or guardians who have questions or wish to discuss a student’s schedule may call a counselor.

Alisa Gennace, Counselor 973-661-8875
Joyce Wood, Counselor 973-661-8874

Students and Parents – Please complete the following information:

Student Name: _____

Student’s Email Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Email Addresses:

Parent/Guardian Daytime Telephone Number: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

World Language Selection

Please rank your language choice from one (1) to three (3) where one (1) is your first choice.

World Language I

Italian _____ Latin _____ Spanish _____

World Language II (**only if you have completed level I this year**)

Italian _____ Latin _____ Spanish _____

Elective Course Selection

Please select two elective courses. Rank selection of courses with a one (1) and a two (2). Only one course will be taken. Select carefully as courses will not be added or dropped after the beginning of the school year. Counselor’s initials next to all vocal and instrumental courses indicates the teacher’s approval. If approved, interested students may select these courses.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| _____ Chorale | _____ approved |
| _____ Debonaires | _____ approved |
| _____ Concert Choir | _____ approved |
| _____ Orchestra | _____ approved |
| _____ Instrument _____ | |
| _____ Fine Arts 8 | |
| _____ Literature/Media 8 | |

- | |
|--|
| _____ Principles of Technology/Applied Computer Technology |
| _____ Accelerated Physical Science |
| (Requires a grade of a B or Higher in Accelerated Algebra I) |



Nutley Public Schools

John H. Walker Middle School

Petition to Change Course Level

Student's Name		Grade	
Parent's Name		Date	
Counselor's Name			
Current Course			
Requested Course			

I am requesting the level change listed above for my child. After a careful review of my request, Nutley Public Schools staff does not endorse this level change. I am aware of the concern, however, I wish to make this level change.

I understand that by making this request I agree that:

- My child is expected to complete the same work and be evaluated against the same standard as all other students in the class and any grade received will be final.
- The deadline for level changes in a full year course is the end of the first marking period or before 30 calendar days for transfer students.
- The grade earned at time of withdrawal, should I choose to change course levels for my child at the end of the first marking period, will count as a first quarter grade in the new course level.
- This course will be recorded on the transcript as a withdrawal, even if the course level changes.

Student's Signature		Date	
Parent's Signature		Date	
Department Coordinator's Signature		Date	
Principal/Vice Principal Signature		Date	

Comments: