WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE LEVEL

COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET

Grades 6 - 8

January 2023



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES 6820 MARKET STREET

RUSSELL, PA 16345

AMY J. STEWART SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Selecting a program of studies is one of your most important steps toward future success. Choices must be made carefully and wisely to ensure that a student is fulfilling his/her potential in addition to wisely preparing for future goals. In this book you will find important information to guide you through both sequence and course selections.

If you have questions concerning scheduling, contact the following principals or school counselors:

Beaty-Warren Middle School Mr. Shannon Yeager, Principal Mrs. Shelly Wagner, Assistant Principal Mr. Matt Menard, Counselor Mrs. Renee Getner, Counselor	723-5200
Eisenhower Middle/High School Mrs. Amy Beers, Principal Mrs. Nova Holeva Assistant Principal Mr. Andrew Morrison, Counselor	757-8878
Sheffield Area Middle/High School Mr. Glenn Smith, Principal Ms. Carrie Warner, Counselor	968-3720
Youngsville Middle/High School Mr. Paul Crider, Principal Mr. Jason Markiewicz Assistant Principal Dr. Susan Gizzie, Counselor	563-7573
Virtual Academy Mrs. Ericka Alm, Principal Mr. Matthew Getner, Counselor Mr. Neal Kent, Coordinator	723-0574

Sincerely,

Mr. Eric Mineweaser Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

LANGUAGE ARTS

- **00001** Information Literacy (Library Media) Skills This is an elective for 6th grade students where they will work on the completion of College and Career Readiness activities, as well as library media center citizenship, behavior, procedures and care of the library and it's resources. The students will also learn how to use the library and find necessary resources within it. Elective Course: Semester Course (PASS/FAIL COURSE)
- Language Arts/ESL is a course available to the English as a Second Language (ESL) student and will be the substitute for any middle level language arts course. Full Year
- Reading 6 These students need additional support in the areas of decoding, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. In order to provide the reading teacher with necessary materials to focus instruction appropriately for these readers, various research-validated programs will be used dependent on student need. The reading curriculum utilizes a variety of reading genres. High interest, leveled reading books provide students with the in-context practice they need to gain skill mastery. Together, these materials provide the skills necessary for students to progress to grade level in reading. Students learn to recognize different texts organizational patterns and apply appropriate strategies for understanding and remembering. It provides opportunities for growth in word attack, vocabulary, critical comprehension, and learning strategies. Teachers focus on teaching students how to monitor one's own thinking when reading to learn. Full Year
- Reading 7 These students need additional support in the areas of decoding, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. In order to provide the reading teacher with necessary materials to focus instruction appropriately for these readers, various research-validated programs will be used dependent on student need. The reading curriculum in 7th grade utilizes a variety of reading genres. High interest, leveled reading books provide students with the in-context practice they need to gain skill mastery. Together, these materials provide the skills necessary for students to progress to grade level in reading. Students learn to recognize different texts organizational patterns and apply appropriate strategies for understanding and remembering. It provides opportunities for growth in word attack, vocabulary, critical comprehension, and learning strategies. Teachers focus on teaching students how to monitor one's own thinking when reading to learn. Full Year
- Reading 8 These students need additional support in the areas of decoding, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. In order to provide the reading teacher with necessary materials to focus instruction appropriately for these readers, various research-validated programs will be used dependent on student need. The reading curriculum in 8th grade utilizes a variety of reading genres. High interest, leveled reading books provide students with the in-context practice they need to gain skill mastery. Together, these materials provide the skills necessary for students to progress to grade level in reading. Students learn to recognize different texts organizational patterns and apply appropriate strategies for understanding and remembering. It provides opportunities for growth in word attack, vocabulary, critical comprehension, and learning strategies. Teachers focus on teaching students how to monitor one's own thinking when reading to learn. Full Year
- English Language Arts 6 Grade 6 students will learn to communicate effectively and build upon skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening. The curriculum ensures that students gain adequate exposure to a range of genres and tasks in both fiction and nonfiction. Students will demonstrate increased sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and grammar to the development and organization of ideas in writing. Students will write effectively with a purpose appropriate to their audience while utilizing elements of distinct types of writing including narrative, informative, argumentative and text dependent analysis. Students will engage in a wide range of speaking and listening activities to effectively share their ideas and critically evaluate and interpret the assertions made by others. An emphasis is placed on rigor, higher order thinking skills, employing effective reading and writing strategies, and integrating communication skills. Using the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards and Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content as guides, the course will prepare students for the state standardized assessments. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year

- English Language Arts 7 Grade 7 students will learn to communicate effectively and build upon skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This curriculum ensures that students gain adequate exposure to a range of genres, texts, and tasks in both fiction and nonfiction. Students will demonstrate increased sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and grammar to the development and organization of ideas in writing. Students will engage in a wide range of speaking and listening activities to effectively share their ideas and critically evaluate and interpret the assertions made by others. An emphasis is placed on rigor, higher order thinking skills, employing strategies, and integrating all communication skills. Using the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content as guides, the course will prepare students for the state standardized assessments. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year
- English Language Arts 8 Grade 8 students will learn to communicate effectively and build upon skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This curriculum ensures that students gain adequate exposure to a range of genres, texts, and tasks in both fiction and nonfiction. Students will demonstrate increased sophistication in all aspects of language use, from vocabulary and grammar to the development and organization of ideas in writing. Students will engage in a wide range of speaking and listening activities to effectively share their ideas and critically evaluate and interpret the assertions made by others. An emphasis is placed on rigor, higher order thinking skills, employing strategies, and integrating all communication skills. Using the Pennsylvania Core Standards and Pennsylvania System of School Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content as guides, the course will prepare students for the state standardized assessments. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year
- Reading and Writing Unlimited Grade 6 This course is designed to enrich a student's reading and writing experiences. Through guided lessons, students will read various genres and write on multiple topics. Elective Course: Semester Course
- Creative Writing and Drama Grade 7 This course is designed to motivate the creativity of young writers and performers. It includes the reading and writing of poetry, mythology, short stories, and drama. Additionally, this course is an introduction to the elements of drama through the use of skits and/or dramatic performances. Elective Course: Semester Course
- Science Fiction/Fantasy and Detective/Mystery Grade 8 Students will read works that examine the development of the mystery/detective genre and science fiction/fantasy genres. The course will include reading and analysis through discussion and writing. Elective Course: Semester Course

SOCIAL STUDIES

- World Geography (Grade 6) Sixth grade World Geography is an introduction to students of our great world. Students will learn key geographic skills such as mapping, latitude and longitude and landforms. They will also explore the continents of the world. Students will also be introduced to the study of archaeology and examine the human interactions and relationships of Early Man and how the planet has played a role in those relationships. The course seeks to enrich students' exploration of world geography through a variety of learning activities. These include lesson presentations, case studies, text and supplemental reading, map studies, simulations, current events, and individual and small group projects. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year
- Ancient World History: Early Empires World Revolutions (Grade 7) This course will focus on World History beginning with the world's first empires of Greece and Rome and how those two civilizations laid the political foundations of Europe and eventually America. The course will also cover the fall of these empires and the growth of Europe through the eras of Feudalism, the Renaissance and Reformation. Finally, the year will end with the students learning about the Age of Exploration and discovering how the ideas of the Enlightenment led to nationalistic revolutions. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year

- **Civics (Grade 8)** This class is designed to introduce the eighth grade students to the political processes of the United States. Civics will provide the students with the evolution of those processes and the basic organization of our government. The students will understand the roles of local, state, and federal government in citizens' lives. A deeper knowledge of the Constitution as the foundation of the United States government and the Bill of Rights as our basic freedoms will be explored. There will also be exploration of topics such as the importance of laws, civil rights and our court system. This course introduces our students to the importance of being engaged in good citizenship through service projects and the political process. The course will end with an introduction to our economic system. District marking period assessments are required. **Full Year**
- **PA History (Grade 6)** Students will explore the history and geography of the state of Pennsylvania by learning about key historic events and issues that have shaped the Commonwealth. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- **History's Mysteries (Grade 7)** Become a world detective! Who built Stonehenge? What was the purpose of the Terracotta Warriors? Was Atlantis real? Who was King Arthur? History is full of unexplained events. Through exploration, cooperative activities, and simulations students will examine numerous mysteries of World and American history. **Elective Course: Semester Course**
- World Investigations (Grade 8) Become a world investigator! How do we know what is going on around us? How do world events affect us? Through hands on research, activities, simulations and projects, students will explore current key themes and issues affecting countries around the world. Elective Course: Semester Course

MATHEMATICS

- 00201 Pre-Algebra 8 Pre-Requisites: Completion of Mathematics 7. Pre-Algebra 8 builds upon computational, problem solving, graphing, and algebraic concepts previously learned in mathematics. Pre-Algebra provides learning experiences required for Algebra I such as linear equations, functions, graphing, geometry, systems of equations, and bivariate data. It will provide students with problem-solving, reasoning skills, and mathematical concepts necessary to be successful learners in future mathematics courses. Students will take the Grade 8 PSSA. District marking period assessments required. Full Year
- 00202 Honors Algebra I Pre-Requisites: Completion of Advanced Mathematics 7 or Mathematics 7 with a final average of at least 85%. Students who qualify will take a standardized placement test. Placement test results along with the final exam for the course will be used to determine placement into Algebra I Honors. Honors Algebra I is a course designed for those students able to complete calculus prior to entering college. This course provides an intense study of algebraic theory that will be expanded in Algebra II Honors, Geometry Honors, and additional advanced math courses (3 or 4 credits in high school are required). Honors Algebra I is intended for college-bound students who have an aptitude or interest in mathematics. Students will take the Keystone Algebra Exam and the Grade 8 PSSA. Students must pass the Algebra II/Geometry Honors. If this state-mandated test is not passed, the student will be required to retake Algebra I the following year, as well as retake the exam. Even though high school credit is not awarded, by passing the Keystone exam, students will be fulfilling a requirement for graduation. District marking period assessments are required. Students must maintain 80% to remain in Honors Algebra I.

- **00203 Mathematics 6 Pre-Requisites: Completion of Mathematics 5.** In Mathematics 6, instructional time will focus on five critical areas: (1) Connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) Completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; (4) Solving area, surface area, and volume problems; (5) Developing understanding of statistical thinking. Students will be provided the opportunity to take two district assessments at the end of the school year. Students achieving successful scores based on the district required benchmark will be offered enrollment into Advanced Mathematics 7. Students will take the Grade 6 PSSA. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year
- **00204** Mathematics 7 Completion of Mathematics 6. In Mathematics 7, instructional time will focus on 5 critical areas:
 - Proportional relationships; (2) Understanding and applying operations to rational numbers; (3) Creating and solving expressions, equations, and inequalities; (4) Describing and implementing geometric relationships in real world applications; (5) Drawing inferences about populations and developing, using, and evaluating probability models. Students will take the Grade 7 PSSA. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year
- **00205** Advanced Mathematics 7 Prerequisites: Completion of Mathematics 6 with at least an 85% average in class. In addition, students must meet district required benchmarks on two Placement Tests. In the course, Advanced Mathematics 7, students' learning will be focused on the major topics: The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Exponents, Ratio and Proportional Relationships, Probability, and Geometry and Data Analysis. The pace and rigor of this course will establish the path to reach advanced mathematics in high school. Students will take the Grade 7 PSSA. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year
- **00276** 6th Grade Elective Through online software and project based learning students will focus on the math concepts rational numbers, fractions/decimals/percents, area, coordinate plane, expressions, equations/inequalities, statistics, and ratios/rates. Elective Course: Semester Course
- **00278** 7th **Grade Elective** -Through online software and project based learning students will focus on the math concepts integers, proportions, geometry, probability, statistics, percents, expressions, equations, fractions, and decimals. **Elective Course:** Semester Course
- **00279** 8th Grade Elective- Through online software and project based learning students will focus on the math concepts of exponents, solving equations, functions, writing linear equations, angles and triangles, transformations and similarity, and data sets. Elective Course: Semester Course

SCIENCE

- **00303** Science 6 Sixth grade science is an Earth Science based course covering weather, climate & water cycling, plate tectonics & rock cycling, natural hazards, Earth's resources & human impact, and Earth in space. Students will also participate in a meaningful watershed educational experience throughout the year. Pennsylvania's new STEELS Standards will be implemented through phenomenon based, three dimensional units that focus on student coherence and equitable science sensemaking. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year
- **00305** Science 7 Seventh grade science is a Life Science based course covering cells & systems, metabolic reactions, matter cycling & photosynthesis, ecosystem dynamics, genetics, and natural selection & common ancestry. Pennsylvania's new STEELS Standards will be implemented through phenomenon based, three dimensional units that focus on student coherence and equitable science sensemaking. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year

- Science 8 Eighth grade science is a Physical Science based course covering thermal energy, chemical reactions & matter, chemical reactions & energy, contact forces, sound waves, and forces at a distance. Pennsylvania's new STEELS Standards will be implemented through phenomenon based, three dimensional units that focus on student coherence and equitable science sensemaking. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year
- Science and Engineering Practices Grade 6 This semester course will focus on the behaviors that scientists engage in as they investigate and build models and theories about the natural world and the key set of practices that engineers use as they design and build models and systems. Students will build their skills at asking questions and defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematics and computational thinking, constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in argumentation from evidence, and obtaining evaluating & communicating information. Elective Course: Semester Course
- Exploring Our Environment Grade 7 This semester course will focus on Pennsylvania specific environmental content. Students will learn about aquatic ecology, forestry, soils & land use, wildlife, and Pennsylvania's changing climate. Elective Course: Semester Course
- **00302** Warren County Science and Engineering Fair Grade 8 This semester course will allow students to plan, research, and conduct an individual science fair project. The project may cover any topic in the science or engineering field. Students will consider their own personal areas of interest and work to identify a problem to solve or a question that they want answered. The course will culminate in a district wide science and engineering fair <u>that students will be required to participate in</u>. Elective Course: Semester Course SPRING SEMESTER

WORLD LANGUAGE

Introductory to Spanish –Introductory Spanish is an introductory course designed to expose students to the Spanish language and culture. Students will learn basic words and phrases in Spanish, important cultural traditions throughout the Spanish-speaking world, where Spanish is spoken, and why knowing a second language is important and beneficial. This course is designed to serve students who intend to take Spanish at the high school level, but is not a necessary precursor to Spanish One. Elective Course: Semester Course

COMPUTER

- Computer Science Discoveries 6 is a semester long introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. The two coding languages that will be explored include javascript and HTML. Elective Course: Semester Course
- **Computer 8** is a semester course designed to educate and discuss Digital Citizenship and Financial Literacy. Students will engage in Entrepreneurship and the development of a business module, as well as the development of a print and social media campaign. A professional and formal presentation will be instituted, and delivery method skills will be acquired. **Semester Course**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical Education 6 begins to further develop team, dual, individual, and recreational sport strategies, with a focus on concepts and rules of play. The student will also recognize the value and benefits of physical fitness in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **Students will complete WCSD Fitness Testing. Semester Course**

- **00604 Physical Education 7** continues the development of team and individual sport strategies as well as game concepts and rules of play introduced in Grade 6. The student will recognize the value and benefit of physical fitness in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **Students will complete WCSD Fitness Testing. Semester Course Combined with Health 7**
- **00605 Health 7-** will address the Pennsylvania Academic standards for Health, Safety, and Physical Education. Elements of the curriculum will include concepts of health, health and wellness, life skills, body systems, substance use, and stress management. It is hoped that each student will begin to implement and value a personal health maintenance plan. **Semester Course Combined with Phys Ed 7**
- **00607 Physical Education 8** prepares students to develop future personal fitness choices while reviewing and putting to practice the lessons developed in previous grades. The student will recognize the value and benefit of physical fitness in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. **Students will complete WCSD Fitness Testing. Semester Course**
- **00621** Middle Level Adapted Physical Education Grade 5-8 Adapted Physical Education begins to further develop team, dual, individual and recreational sport strategies with a focus on concepts and rules of play. Students will recognize the value and benefits of physical fitness and its importance in regards to maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students will complete the WCSD Modified Fitness Test.

ART, FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE, and TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

- **00704 Family and Consumer Science 6** is a 9 week required course designed for sixth graders in the Warren County School District. It is an introductory course to the Family Consumer Sciences curriculum offered at the middle and high school level. The course will emphasize child care, entrepreneurial skills, basic sewing skills, beginning kitchen safety, My Plate, meal preparation, decision-making skills, and beginning personal finance. **Nine Weeks**
- **00703** Art 6 Art 6 is designed to satisfy creative instincts and through the manipulation of tools and materials, develop skills, techniques, and the appreciation of art. The course will include perspective drawing, grid enlargement, color theory, pop art, and OP art. The evaluations of the course will be done on the student's projects, as well as effort and the ability of the student to justify his/her work. Nine Weeks
- **00700** Art 7 This course is designed to satisfy creative instincts and, through the manipulation of tools and materials, develop skills, techniques, and appreciation of art. The course will include drawing, color theory, sculpture, graphics, crafts, design, weaving and animation. Evaluations of the course will be done on a student's projects as well as effort and the ability of the student to justify his/her work. Elective Course: Semester Course
- **00706** Family and Consumer Science 7 is a middle level elective course providing a basic foundation for Family and Consumer Sciences at a higher level. This course includes a unit on Foods and Nutrition emphasizing healthy food preparation, safety and sanitation, recipe literacy, and resource conservation. The Textiles unit emphasizes time management, budgeting, making use of available resources, decision making, basic sewing skills, and the ability to read and follow instructions to create and complete a project. Students are responsible for their individual project materials. Elective Course: Semester Course

- Applying Technology (Grade 7) This is a semester-long, activity-based course that introduces students to Technology by examining the systems of communication, manufacturing, construction, transportation and bio-related technologies. Emphasis will be placed on the design process and the application of using tools and materials to complete various Technology activities. This course provides a foundation for future studies in Technology and is a pre-requisite for 8th Grade Technology Education. Semester Course
- **00740** Creating Technology (Grade 8) This is a semester long activity-based course in which students will build upon skills and knowledge from 7th Grade Technology Education. This includes the use of tools, machines and materials to create their projects. Emphasis will be placed on wood-working, utilizing the design-model process and 3D printing various products. Elective Course: Semester Course

MUSIC

- **Middle Level Band** is a course in intermediate instrumental music techniques that meets one period each day. The course is open to all students in grades 6-8 that have level appropriate performance skills on a band instrument and have a desire to improve these skills both individually and in an ensemble setting. Middle Level Band will present at least two performances per year. All performances will be scheduled and placed in the school calendar. Concerts are mandatory and will be part of the course grade. Absence from these performances will be allowed at the director's discretion. The course places emphasis on personal improvement in instrumental music skills, and a performance schedule that provides opportunities for demonstration of the level of mastery achieved by the students. Elective Course
- **Middle Level Orchestra** is a course in intermediate instrumental music techniques that meets one period each day. The course is open to all students in grades 6-8 who have level appropriate performance skills on an instrument (string, brass, woodwind, or percussion) and have a desire to improve these skills both individually and in an ensemble setting. The string instruments will meet five times a week and the brass, woodwinds, and percussion will be added two of those five days. In smaller programs, the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students will be combined with the senior high school orchestra. Individual or group lessons may be included as a part of this planned course and could be considered a requirement for participation in this course. The Middle Level Orchestra will present two mandatory concert performances each year. **Elective Course**
- **Middle Level Chorus** is an elective music course open to middle level students. No musical training or background is required, but all students must have the desire to sing and begin work in understanding the voice as an instrument and singing as an ensemble. Emphasis is placed on improving each student's individual vocal capabilities. Students will be introduced to the basic elements of sigh singing and theory. The chorus will sing in the holiday and spring concerts and attendance is mandatory. Music is sung from memory and consists of contemporary music in addition to the classics. Elective Course
- Middle Level Band/Chorus Combination is an elective music course open to middle level students. Students would take both band and chorus throughout the school year during the same period. (The student may do three days band/two days chorus and then alter the next week with three days chorus/two days band. Principal discretion pending scheduling ability.) Please view the course descriptions above Elective Course

LIBRARY

- Research and Study Skills (Grade 6) Students will learn research and study skills that will equip them to be ready for a career or college. Nine Weeks
- Research and Study Skills (Grade 7) Students will learn research and study skills that will equip them to be ready for a career or college. Nine Weeks

TENTATIVE STEM COURSES

- **00755** STEM 6 (Design and Modeling Grade 6) Design and Modeling provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. Students are introduced to the unit problem in the first activity and are asked to make connections to the problem throughout the lessons in the unit. Students learn and utilize methods for communicating design ideas through sketches, solid materials, and mathematical models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent an authentic situation and generate data for further analysis and observations. Students work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design, fabricate, test, and make necessary modifications to optimize the design solution. Nine Weeks
- **00756 STEM 7 (App Creators Grade 7)** App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. The course provides students opportunities for self-expression. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service – the options are endless! **Nine Weeks**
- **00757** STEM 8 (Medical Detectives Grade 8) In the Medical Detectives unit, students play the role of reallife medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. Elective Course: Semester Course
- **00758** STEM 8 (Automation and Robotics Grade 8) Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the 'VEX Robotics ® platform to design, building, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. Elective Course: Semester Course

(STEM Courses will be determined on the implementation phases of these courses and professional development opportunities offered for teachers teaching these courses. Not all courses may be offered in each building.)

01043 Middle Level Advisory - Advisory is a time when students are supported in their academic and social success in the middle school arena. Students are assigned in small groups to a specific teacher who monitors their progress and leads them in school-wide projects and initiatives. All students schedule an advisory period. Full Year