WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT MIDDLE LEVEL COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET

Grades 6 - 8

January 2024

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 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:

Eisenhower Middle High School

757-8878

Mrs. Amy Beers, Principal

Mrs. Nova Holeva, Assistant Principal Mr. Andrew Morrison, Counselor

1/11/1 11410 // 1/101115011, 0 0 411501

968-3720

Sheffield Area Middle High School Mrs. Misty Weber, Principal

Mr. Neal Kent, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Natalie Black, Assistant Principal

Ms. Carrie Warner, Counselor

Beaty-Warren Middle School

723-5200

Dr. Lyle Dosser, Principal

Mrs. Lisa Franklin, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Shelly Wagner, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Renae Getner, Counselor (Grades 5-6)

Mrs. Melissa Paduano Counselor (Grades 7-8)

Youngsville Middle High School 563-7573

Mr. Paul Crider, Principal

Mr. Jason Markiewicz, Assistant Principal

Dr. Susan Gizzie, Counselor

Warren County Career Center 726-1260

Mr. James Evers, Principal

Mrs. Carrie Smaroff, Counselor (WAHS Career Center students)

Virtual Academy 723-0574

Mrs. Misty Weber, Principal Mr. Matthew Getner, Counselor Mr. Neal Kent, Coordinator

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)**
- **00002** 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**
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- 00036 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

- 60037 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
- 00039 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

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
- O0123 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
- **00104** 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**

MATHEMATICS

- Od201 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
- 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. It provides them with the opportunity to complete an additional year of advanced mathematics. Students will take the Keystone Algebra Exam and the Grade 8 PSSA. Students must pass the Algebra I Keystone Exam with a Proficient or Advanced score to move onto the subsequent course: Honors 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. Full Year
- **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 Pre-Requisites: Completion of Mathematics 6.** In Mathematics 7, instructional time will focus on 5 critical areas:
 - (1) 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
- **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

SCIENCE

- **8. Science 6** In this sixth-grade general science course, students develop understanding of a wide range of topics that build upon science concepts from elementary school through more advanced content, practice, and crosscutting themes. Through engaging experiments, hands-on activities, and interactive discussions students will explore a diverse range of topics. These include thermal energy, weather, climate, & water cycling, plate tectonics & rock cycling, natural hazards, and cells & systems. Science 6 also includes the required middle level band Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE) that allows for student action and voice. The performance expectations in Science 6 blend core ideas with scientific and engineering practices and crosscutting concepts to support students in developing usable knowledge across the science disciplines. Standards from multiple branches of science and areas of the STEELS standards are integrated to ensure a cohesive and integrated science experience, aligning with the three-dimensional design of the standards. **District marking period assessments are required. Full Year**
- 8 Science 7 Students in this seventh-grade general science course continue to develop an understanding of key concepts to help them make sense of the world around them. Through engaging experiments, handson activities, and interactive discussions students will explore a diverse range of topics. These include chemical reactions & matter, chemical reactions & energy, metabolic reactions, matter cycling & photosynthesis, ecosystem dynamics, and Earth's resources and human impact. The six units in this general science course blend core ideas with science and engineering practices, incorporating crosscutting concepts. This approach supports students in developing usable knowledge across various science disciplines. Standards from multiple branches of science and areas of the STEELS standards are integrated to ensure a cohesive and integrated science experience, aligning with the three-dimensional design of the standards. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year
- 00307 Science 8 In this eighth-grade general science course, students will learn the fundamental principles of the natural world. Through engaging experiments, hands-on activities, and interactive discussions students will explore a diverse range of topics. These include contact forces, sound waves, forces at a distance, Earth in space, genetics, and the concepts of natural selection and common ancestry. The six units in Science 8 blend core ideas with science and engineering practices, incorporating crosscutting concepts. This approach supports students in developing usable knowledge across various science disciplines. Standards from multiple branches of science and areas of the STEELS standards are integrated to ensure a cohesive and integrated science experience, aligning with the three-dimensional design of the standards. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year

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**
- **00502 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

00603 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

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- **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
- **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. **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, and animation.
 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 and have a desire to improve these skills both individually and in an ensemble setting. 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**
- 00850 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**

STEM COURSES

O0794 STEM 6 (CLS – Grade 6) - In this STEM 6 course, sixth-grade students will further explore topics that are part of their Science 6 curriculum. They will investigate the physical, biological, and environmental principles behind natural disasters and learn about the ways in which extreme weather affects human societies and vise versa. They will also learn how we can prepare for and mitigate the impacts of these increasing phenomena not only for human populations but also for the planet as a whole. They will conclude this unit by designing a multi-part extreme weather arcade game using MakeCode and a weather forecast using Padcaster to demonstrate their new knowledge. In the second part of the course, students

will delve into the mysteries of space. They will investigate the physical and Earth science principles that govern the movement of celestial bodies, such as gravity and orbital mechanics. They will conclude this unit by creating a comic strip about space using the ComicLife program. By the end of the course, students will have gained a deeper understanding of key concepts in all three branches of science, and will have developed their skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, and scientific inquiry. Standards are incorporated from all three branches of science and all areas of the STEELS standards to ensure a well-rounded science experience in accordance with the three-dimensional design of these new standards.

Nine Weeks

00795 STEM 7 (**CLS – Grade 7**) – In this STEM 7 course, seventh-grade students will further explore topics that are part of their Science 7 curriculum by completing a variety of hands-on STEM activities. The course will explore the various physical, biological, and environmental aspects of green energy systems, including the components, design, and installation. They will investigate both hydrogen fuel cell cars and solar cars. In addition, students will learn about the benefits and challenges of tiny houses, including their affordability, sustainability, and energy efficiency. By the end of the course, students will have gained an appreciation for the importance of sustainable living and the potential of eco-friendly housing and transportation solutions. Standards are incorporated from all three branches of science and all areas of the STEELS standards to ensure a well-rounded science experience in accordance with the three-dimensional design of these new standards. **Nine Weeks**

00796 STEM 8 (CLS – Grade 8) – In this STEM 8 course, eight-grade students will further explore topics that are part of their Science 8 curriculum by completing a variety of hands-on STEM activities. Students will learn about the design and construction of robots and drones. They will learn about programming languages and coding principles and will use these skills to program their machines to complete various tasks. In addition to robotics and drones, students will use Vernier sensors to collect and analyze data pertaining to measuring heart rate, motion, temperature, and light. They will use some of their new knowledge to complete an environmental study at their school. By the end of the course, students will have a strong foundation in robotics, drones, and Vernier sensors. They will also have a deeper understanding of the principles of STEM and how these principles can be applied to solve real-world problems. Standards are incorporated from all three branches of science and all areas of the STEELS standards to ensure a well-rounded science experience in accordance with the three-dimensional design of these new standards. In the Medical Detectives unit, students play the role of real-life 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**

TENTATIVE STEM ELECTIVE 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. Elective Course: Semester Course
- **O0756** 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! **Elective Course:** Semester Course

- **O0757** STEM 8 (Medical Detectives Grade 8) In the Medical Detectives unit, students play the role of real-life 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**
- **O0758** 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**