

THE PEMBROKE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 8

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

2023 - 2024

PEMBROKE
HILL SCHOOL

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

8th GRADE - ALGEBRA I (new students only)

The eighth grade Algebra I curriculum focuses on order of operations, algebraic properties, integers, graphing relations and functions, analyzing linear equations and solving linear inequalities. Emphasis will be placed on a step-by-step approach to problem solving and making connections of these skills to real world applications. After completing this course, students should have a solid understanding of the concepts of Algebra and be ready for the study of geometry.

ALGEBRA I - YEAR 2

This course is a continuation of the seventh grade Algebra I – Year 1 course. Review of the seventh grade course will take place at the beginning of the year. The Algebra I curriculum during the eighth grade year focuses on the study of functions, graphing quadratic equations, solving rational and radical expressions, systems of equations, solving and graphing inequalities, factoring, polynomials, quadratic and exponential functions. An emphasis will be placed on using a step-by-step approach to problem solving and making connections between these skills to real world applications. After completing this course, students should have a solid understanding of the concepts of Algebra and be ready for the study of geometry.

ALGEBRA II (ACCELERATED) (Prerequisite: Geometry Accelerated)

This course covers many topics including, but not limited to quadratic functions and factoring, polynomial functions, rational exponents, radical functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational functions, quadratic relations and conic sections and trigonometry. Students can expect to cover new material, take extensive notes and have homework every day. The aim of this course is to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to successfully absorb and retain these concepts in preparation for Calculus.

ENGLISH

This course continues to emphasize the importance of effective communication in written and oral language. The literature component comprises several genres including a Shakespearean play, poetry, short stories and novel. Students write poetry and personal narratives and produce creative and analytical writings in conjunction with their literature study. Vocabulary is expanded through an age-appropriate online program as well as terms that emerge from assigned reading. Several literature choices complement material taught in the current events 8th grade Social Studies class. Sixth and seventh grade grammar skills are solidified, and more complex concepts are introduced. Writing projects encourage use of these structures for a more mature voice. In an effort to recognize different learning styles, classroom activities are based on class lecture and discussion as well as small-group and individual projects. The literature of 8th grade hopes to spark classroom discussions on themes surrounding social justice, appreciation of culture, and the inclusion and equity of all people.

GEOMETRY (ACCELERATED) (Prerequisite: Accelerated Algebra)

This course covers all the basic topics of plane geometry--lines, planes, angles and triangles, circles and spheres, areas of circles and sectors, polygonal regions and their areas, and coordinate geometry. An appreciation of the difference between congruence and similarity is stressed. In addition, students study the volumes of solids and are introduced to right triangle trigonometry. Topics are introduced through postulates and theorems. It is a major aim of the course that every student should be able to recognize and write logical proofs and, in the process, develop the skill of logical argument.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The objectives of the eighth grade physical education program are to provide an environment conducive for the student to attain an acceptable physical fitness level, to understand team sports and individual sports and an appreciation for lifelong fitness. Students should develop the skills and knowledge to continue with a healthy lifestyle as they transition to their upper school years.

SCIENCE

The objective of 8th grade science is to build a basic understanding of physics and chemistry. During the study of chemistry students will experiment with and observe atomic theory, element periodicity, compound formation and chemical reactivity. Fundamental laws of motion, forces, and energy will be explored as part of the physics unit. Scientific problem solving will be used throughout the year to connect concepts to real life learning. Technology will be implemented to collect, interpret, evaluate, and effectively communicate data.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

The focus of the 8th-grade social studies curriculum is based on contemporary global issues. Students will research, analyze, and discuss trends that transcend boundaries related to current events around the world and the impact of recent history on these events. Students will gain a global perspective on current events by participating in group projects, presentations, discussions, and working with primary source materials.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

EIGHTH GRADE FRENCH

This course is the second half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of French I. Further refinement of oral skills and vocabulary development as well as an emphasis on both the spoken and written word will be enhanced by cultural studies of France and the French-speaking world. Upon completion of this course, the student should be prepared for French II at the upper school.

EIGHTH GRADE LATIN

This course is the second half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of Latin I. Students will further develop their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar and will continue to sharpen their reading and translating skills. English word study is a prominent feature of the course. Students will study life in the Roman Empire, focusing specifically on Roman Britain and Alexandria, Egypt. Upon completion of this course, students will be prepared for Latin II at the upper school.

EIGHTH GRADE MANDARIN CHINESE

The course will focus on further refinement of oral skills and vocabulary development. An emphasis on both the spoken and written word will be enhanced by cultural studies of China and the Chinese-speaking world. Upon completion of this course, the student should be prepared for Chinese II at the upper school.

EIGHTH GRADE SPANISH (RED)

This course is a continuation of the 7th grade Red course and will elaborate on skills developed in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and grammar. The course will use formal textbook and supplementary materials as well as novels, movies, and other culturally immersive materials. This class will primarily be conducted in the target language, by the end of the year students should feel confident and able to converse in Spanish in many varied real life situations. Students will end the year prepared for Level III of Upper School Spanish.

EIGHTH GRADE SPANISH (BLUE)

This course is the second half of a two-year program designed to complete one full level of Spanish I. Further refinement of oral skills and vocabulary development as well as an emphasis on both the spoken and written word will be enhanced by cultural studies of the Spanish-speaking world. Upon completion of this course, the student should be prepared for Spanish II at the upper school.

ENCORE and ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective Courses -

ADVANCED DRAMA

Students will focus on more complex scenes while building on acting skills from seventh grade Drama in areas of movement, voice, and character development. Students will work collaboratively to put on performances through the roles of director, prop master, actor, dramaturg, sound designer, and stage manager while applying the elements of drama and technical theatre.

ADVANCED VOCAL PERFORMANCE

Students will focus on singing, learning choreography, and performing in this vocal performance course. From the classics to jazz, from Broadway to pop, this class is for those who want to develop advanced vocal and performance skills while experiencing all styles of music. Course goals include singing, performing, and collaborating together culminating in performances at the Holiday Concert and the spring *Showcase*.

ART

Students will be expected to apply their knowledge of the elements and principles of design in a variety of media such as drawing, painting, ceramics, fiber, sculpture and printmaking. Students will develop more advanced studio projects by using conceptual and abstract ways of thinking. Project solutions will be discussed and evaluated throughout the assignment to achieve unique and creative solutions. Students involved in a full year of art will use the second semester to create their own curriculum plan focused on self interests. For example, they could focus only on ceramics, printmaking, or journaling. This plan will be created collaboratively with the teacher and grades will reflect the students ability to problem solve, look for creative solutions to projects and ability to stay focused on their self directed curriculum.

DEBATE

This course introduces students to the techniques of speech writing and delivery, both prepared and extemporaneous. Additionally, this course introduces students to the elements of competitive debate, focusing on the principles and practices of Public Forum Debate (PUF debate), the format used for debate tournaments at both the middle school and high school levels. Debate pedagogy includes case preparation, critical thinking and research skills, the identification of logical fallacies, and more. Students will be exposed to current affair topics and challenged to consider key issues from both sides. In this course, students will grow in their communication and critical thinking skills as well as their development of respectful and empathetic public discourse.

MUSIC LAB: PIANO & GUITAR

This class is designed for the student who wants to learn to effectively read music and develop basic keyboard and guitar playing skills. This class takes the learning elements of music and applies them to the study of piano and guitar. Strategies cover rhythm, time signatures, bass and treble clefs, scales, and chord structure, while learning and creating songs in working with both instruments. Music as it relates to history, culture and other subjects will be integrated into the course.

With differentiated instruction, it is also designed for the more advanced piano/guitar student to hone their skills in expanding their musical growth. Students will achieve a higher level of music appreciation, skill achievement, and music independence by expanding their music foundation. Students will develop and demonstrate their basic understandings through the three modes of musical learning – performing, creating, and responding.

RAIDER FIT

Get faster, stronger, more athletic, and more flexible! In this elective we learn how to use exercise to improve athletic performance and health. This course will give you the tools to be the best athlete you can be. We focus on developing strength, speed, and agility through weight lifting fundamentals.

Encore Courses - all year, twice a week

CHORAL MUSIC

Choral Music is a year-long course and is open to any 7th and 8th grade student. Not only will the students be developing their singing and musical skills, but they will also be learning to make music together while developing many friendships along the way. Some invaluable life lessons such as cooperation, respect, teamwork, self-discipline, problem-solving, risk-taking, perseverance, sensitivity and self-expression will occur as they make music in the “room where it happens”. The first semester focus will be on building vocal foundational skills for performance of classical and seasonal choral music on the annual Holiday Concert. Second semester focus is on preparation for performing in the annual spring *Showcase*. *Showcase* is a full-scale musical production consisting of a variety of selections from Classical, Broadway, Jazz, and medleys featuring songs by popular musicians from today and yesterday. This musical production will include selections performed by the Treble, Bass, and Full Choruses while providing solo and small ensemble opportunities. The students will work with a professional choreographer and be accompanied by a professional pit orchestra for this traditional production.

CONCERT BAND

The middle school concert band is open to all instrumental music students in grades 6, 7, & 8. This year-long course provides a fun, creative, and educational environment for students to develop successful ensemble and music performance skills. The ensemble rehearses during the school day and performs a variety of music that is stylistically and culturally diverse. Focus is rooted in developing music performance skills, self-expression, creativity, rehearsal etiquette, and ensemble social skills. In addition to school-related performances and Pep Band games, students are required to perform for two major concerts (winter and spring). Come join our team and have fun making music together!

GAME ON

In this class students will explore different sports and game opportunities for physical activity. Students will have the opportunity to be active in various sporting activities.

STUDIO ART

This course will involve all things Art!! Students will have the opportunity to take their knowledge learned in art class and continue to explore those techniques further. The options are endless... painting, printmaking, hand-building with clay, mixed-media collage and fibers. Students can create their own curriculum or have guidance by the instructor!