

BUTLER JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE

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**TITLE IX/SECTION 504
STATEMENT**

Butler Area School District is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Dr. Edward Fink, Title IX Coordinator, or Mr. Derek Craig, Section 504 Coordinator, at 110 Campus Lane, Butler, PA 16001, 724-214-3120. For information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, contact Mr. Derek Craig at 724-214-3120.

**PROGRAM OF STUDIES
2011– 2012 School Year**

**Butler Junior High School
225 East North Street, Butler, PA 16001
724-287-8721, Ext. 3600/3601/3602/3603/3604/3605/3606
Butler Area School District Website: www.butler.k12.pa.us**

**STATEMENT OF
PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE**

The goal of the educational program in the Butler Junior High School is to maximize the academic, social, and emotional development of each student for effective living in a democratic society. This is accomplished by developing each student's ability to think rationally for the solution of life's problems. To stimulate such thinking to its fullest extent, a comprehensive curriculum is available.

**ADMINISTRATIVE
PERSONNEL**

Superintendent.....Dr. Edward E. Fink
Asst. Superintendent.....Dr. Michael A. Strutt
Asst. Superintendent.....Dr. Carolyn S. Cornish
Asst. Superintendent
for Personnel,
Technology, Federal/
State Programs.....Mr. Jerry Slamecka
Supv., Special Ed.....Mr. Derek Craig
Asst. Supv., Special Ed. Mr. Aaron Royhab
Principal.....Mr. Stephen Dobransky
Asst. Principal.....Mrs. Alicia Beighley
Asst. Principal.....Mrs. Carrie Morgan-
Davis

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

Mrs. Jennifer Noro....."A" to "Gn"
Mrs. Sarah Beneigh....."Go" to "N"
Mrs. Lisa Lynd....."O" to "Z"

CURRICULUM

In the Junior High School, each student will be assigned five academic subjects or periods and two non-academic (special) periods. Lunch is scheduled in the middle of the day, and, if time permits in the student's schedule, one study period may be assigned.

The academic subjects are assigned for the entire year, but the special subjects are assigned for different portions of the school year to provide varied experiences in these areas. The subjects and time periods are as follows:

Seventh Grade:

World Language.....18 wks.
Personal Typing/Keyboarding.....18 wks.
Physical Education/Health.....18 wks.
Art/General Music.....9/9 wks.

Eighth Grade:

Family and Consumer Science.....18 wks.
Technology Education.....18 wks.
Physical Education/Health.....18 wks.
Art/General Music.....9/9 wks.

**CURRICULUM
REQUIREMENTS**

Butler Junior High School has a variety of Remedial Programs which include PSSA Preparation for Math and/or Reading for seventh and eighth grade students as well as an eighth grade reading program to assist students in scoring proficient on the PSSA math and reading assessments.

In addition to the core classes, students not scoring proficient on the PSSA may be required to take additional course work in the following areas:

Seventh Grade:

Math and/or Reading Preparation may be required for students not scoring proficient in those areas. Requirements will be identified by the student's score on the most recent State Assessment (PSSA). Some students who have attained proficiency but may need additional skill work to maintain proficiency, may be included in the math and/or reading preparation courses. If a student's schedule does not allow the student to participate in the preparation courses, Exploratory World Language will be dropped from the student's schedule.

Eighth Grade:

Students who have not demonstrated proficiency or above on the most recent State Assessment (PSSA) will be required to participate in a reading program.

PSSA Math Preparation may be required for students not scoring proficient or advanced on the most recent PSSA. Some students who have attained proficiency but may need additional skill work to maintain proficiency may be included in the PSSA math preparation class.

If a student's schedule does not allow the student to participate in PSSA Math Preparation or a reading program, then General Art and General Music will be dropped from the student's schedule.

**GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT
(724-214-3611)**

Every student in grades seven through twelve has an assigned counselor available to assist him/her in planning programs of study. The counselors are also responsible for special services such as testing, Junior High School orientation, elementary school

visitations, career awareness and planning, and individual student counseling for personal adjustment. A planned program of instruction is the goal for each student. We urge each student, together with his/her parents or guardians, to review the academic program carefully and plan a program of study. Administrative personnel will assist with planning, if necessary. Students are encouraged to see their counselor if a concern should arise. Parents are encouraged to call the guidance counselor with any questions or concerns. Conferences can be scheduled at a mutually convenient time. Parents are also encouraged to frequently monitor their child's progress via Edline.

PERMANENT RECORD CARDS

Each student has a permanent record card in the guidance office. This card provides a record of a student's grades, attendance, and any record of standardized tests administered by the school.

TRANSCRIPTS

Each student must have a parental consent form on file in the guidance office before a transcript can be sent. Students moving to another community need a transcript sent to the new school; requests are completed by the guidance office secretary.

MARKING SYSTEM

*** NEW FOR 2011-2012 ***

Butler Area School District uses a five-letter grading system: A, B, C, D, E. Students should know the basis on which marks are determined and continually strive to meet the requirements. The following is the grading scale for the Butler Area School District.

A	Superior	100% to 90%
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B	Above Average	89% to 80%
C	Average/Fair	79% to 70%
D	Lowest Passing Mark	69% to 60%
E	Not Accepted For Credit	59 & Below

All subjects will be graded according to the above system. Any deviation in assigning letter grades based upon percentage equivalents must be approved by the building principal at the beginning of the grading period.

Report cards are issued every nine weeks (every 45 school days) in grades seven and eight. It is the responsibility of the student to deliver the report card to his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). A computer-generated report card will be mailed to the parent(s)/guardian(s) at the conclusion of each nine-week period. A mid-quarter progress report will be mailed home to parents who do not have Internet access for any student failing, in danger of failing or if they have dropped two or more grades. Failure notices will be mailed home to the parents of all students who are failing at mid-quarter. Six-weeks special courses will receive a report card at the end of each six-week course. A final cumulative grade is issued at the conclusion of the school year. Parents are also encouraged to frequently monitor their child's progress via Edline.

WITHDRAWALS

When a student withdraws from school, he/she should report first to the counselor and then to the attendance office. Arrangements can then be made for the student to fulfill any remaining obligations to the Butler Area School District. After the guidance office receives a request from the student's new school, a transcript of grades and other records can be sent.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A minimum of 21.5 credits in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade is required for graduation. Required subjects that are

failed must be rescheduled and completed with passing grades.

In addition to the current graduation requirements, each student must demonstrate proficiency in reading and math on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), or on a District assessment, or provide evidence of proficiency in reading and mathematics as determined by the District (Board approved 6/21/04).

Graduation requirements include:

<u>Course</u>	<u>Credits</u>
English.....	4.0
English 9 (Required, 1 credit)	
English 10 (Required, 1 credit)	
English 11 (Required, 1 credit)	
English 12 (Required, 1 credit)	
Business Education students may take	
Business English in grade 11 and	
English 11 in grade 12	
Mathematics.....	3.0*
Science.....	3.0
See Science Flowchart (pg. 18)	
Social Studies.....	3.5
World History 9 (Required, 1 credit)	
World Cultures 10 (Required, 1 credit)	
American Survey 11 (Required, 0.5 credit)	
American Government 11 (Required, 0.5 credit)	
Economics 12 (Required, 0.5 credit)	
A.P. American History can replace American	
Survey and American Government	
A.P. European History can replace Economics	
Arts/Humanities.....	2.0
Two units Humanities, or two units Arts	
- OR -	
One unit Arts and One unit Humanities	
Arts: Visual Arts, Practical Arts (includes	
Industrial Arts & Family and Consumer Science),	
Music, Band, Theater, Chorus	
Humanities: Social Studies, English, Language	
Philosophy	
Comp. Personal Health.....	0.5
Physical Education.....	1.0
Physical Education 9 (Required, .25 credit)	
Physical Education 10 (Required, .25 credit)	
Physical Education 11 (Required, .25 credit)	
Physical Education 12 (Required, .25 credit)	
Electives.....	4.5
TOTAL.....	21.5
Credits	

Approved: Board of School Directors
August 16, 1993

* = **Three full math credits must be earned between grades 9 and 12, regardless of**

the level of mathematics courses taken at the Junior High School.

Credit can be earned that will fulfill a portion of the 21.5 credits required for graduation, by scheduling the following courses at Butler Junior High School:

- Algebra I
- Geometry
- Computer (BASIC Language Programming)
- French I
- German I
- Spanish I

*** NEW FOR 2011-2012 ***

KEYSTONE EXAMS

Keystone Exams are a required component of Pennsylvania's new system of high school graduation requirements. They are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in the subject areas of Algebra I, Algebra II, Biology, Chemistry, Civics and Government, English Composition, Geometry, Literature, U.S. History, and World History. Beginning with the graduating classes of 2015 and 2016, students must demonstrate successful completion of secondary level course work in Algebra I, Biology, and Literature. For the graduating classes of 2017 and beyond, requirements under this option will be expanded to include the following:

- 1 Passing 2 English courses with Keystone Exams (Composition and Literature: The Composition Exams will be administered to 9th grade English classes and the Literature Exam will be administered to 10th-grade English classes).
- 1 Passing 2 Mathematics courses with

Keystone Exams (Algebra I, Algebra II, or Geometry).

- 1 Passing 1 Science course with a Keystone Exam (Biology or Chemistry).

- Passing 1 Social Studies course

with a Keystone Exam (Civics and Government, U.S. History, or World History).

1 Students must pass the course with the Keystone Exam weighted one third of the final grade in order to meet state graduation requirements. Students who do not meet these requirements will be required to take remedial programming and will be able to retake any Keystone Exam. A project assessment will be required for students who are unable to meet the Keystone Exam graduation requirement.

CREDITS AND G.P.A. CALCULATIONS – JR. HIGH

High school courses completed at the Junior High School will allow students to progress to the next level of course in that subject area. Students will earn credits for those courses, but the earned grade will not impact Q.P.A. or class rank in grades 9-12. Students will still be required to earn three credits in mathematics in the high school

level.

**CRITERIA: ADMISSION
TO BASIC LEVEL CLASSES
GRADE 8**

For placement in the following basic level classes: English 8, science 8, social studies 8, and geography 8, students must meet the following criteria:

- Scoring at or below the 25th percentile on the local norms on the 7th grade Stanford Achievement Test (TASK) in the area of Reading Comprehension.
- Teacher recommendation.

For mathematics basic level placement, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Scoring at or below the 25th percentile on the local norms on the most recent Stanford Achievement Test (TASK) in the area of Total Math.
- Teacher recommendation.

**CRITERIA: ADMISSION
TO BASIC LEVEL CLASSES
GRADE 7**

For placement in the following basic level classes: English 7, science 7, and social studies 7, students must meet the following criteria:

- Scoring 1158 or below on the 5th grade PSSA Reading Assessment.
- Teacher recommendation.

For mathematics basic level placement, the student must meet the following criteria:

- Teacher recommendation.
- Scoring at basic or below basic on the total scaled score on the 5th grade PSSA Math Test.

**EXPLANATION
OF ABILITY LEVELS**

All Levels: Students from all ability levels may schedule this course.

Basic Level: Course content is designed for the student as identified in the above in Criteria: Admission to Basic Level Courses.

Average Level: Course content is designed for the middle achieving student. (Includes courses with "Academic" course titles)

Average and Above: Course content is more challenging than average level. (Includes certain math and foreign language courses and courses with "College Tech Prep" course titles grades 9-12)

Honors Level: Course content is designed for the high achieving student.

Gifted Level: Course content is designed for the identified gifted student. Individual and group modifications will be provided.

HONORS COURSES

For purposes of establishing the GPA for honor roll purposes only, the following will apply to honors level classes:

- A = 4.5
- B = 3.5
- C = 2.5
- D = 1.5
- E = 0

**GIFTED EDUCATION
PROGRAM**

Programs for the gifted child in the Butler Area School District may have three components, beginning with the Individualized Education Program (GIEP) and including options and modifications. The GIEP is a written form that spells out the specific programs and services the child will receive. The GIEP also contains goals and objectives for the child, the date services are to start, and other information

about the program. Options are all of those co-curricular activities and offerings of an enrichment nature from which any gifted student may select those in which to participate. Preparation for and participation in the selected options usually require a combination of some scheduled in-school time and/or out-of-class time and some out-of-school time on the part of the student. Modifications are those alterations of an acceleration and/or enrichment nature made in scheduling classes or within the classroom that are designed because there is strong evidence that the student has demonstrated advanced knowledge and/or skills in certain areas. Usually, this means acceleration in skill areas such as math and acceleration, enrichment, or both in the content areas such as social studies. Modifications within the classroom are made by the teacher as indicated in the GIEP.

For additional information on Gifted Education, parents and students should refer to Butler Area School District's Gifted Education Program Handbook.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ELL) PROGRAM

English Language Learners (ELL's) will receive instruction in the same curriculum areas as the district's English speaking students. Equity in providing for these students' successful achievement of the standards and graduation requirements will be addressed by the regular classroom teachers and/or the ELL teacher. The amount and type of ELL instruction provided will depend upon the student's level of language development and proficiency as determined by an appropriate English Language Proficiency assessment. Instruction will take place as a "pull out" activity or in the mainstream classroom with supportive services.

SUMMER SCHOOL

A program may be available in the summer

for those students who need to make up failures. Two classes may be completed during summer school.

A second program may be available for students who have successfully met the requirements for promotion to ninth grade.

Upon the recommendation of the school administration and physical education department, the Board Education Committee has approved the following guidelines for summer school physical education, which will be implemented for the Summer School Program:

1. The District will offer as many classes as can be accommodated at the three secondary schools. Summer school will not be offered at elementary sites.
2. If there are more requests than can be accommodated, registration will be by lottery.
3. Students who schedule summer school physical education must have a full schedule for the fall and spring semesters of the upcoming school year. Once a student has taken summer school physical education, he or she will not be permitted to drop a class during the school year unless it is a drop/add approved by the principal.
4. Students who elect summer school physical education will be expected to participate fully in all activities, including swimming. Students with medical conditions preventing them from swimming must submit documentation from a physician prior to the first day of class.

If you have any questions regarding the summer school physical education program changes for the Summer, 2011, Program, please contact your building principal or the Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education.

**POLICY ON
REPEATED SUBJECTS**

When a high school level course is completed at the junior high level and repeated in grades 9-12, only the grade earned at the high school level will be used when determining high school Q.P.A. and class rank. The student will only receive credit for the course once.

NOTES

ART

ART 7

Grade 7 9 wks. All Levels

This course is designed to expose students to the world of art by focusing on a variety of media and artists. Students will have an opportunity to study and create different forms of art, including drawing, painting, water color, sculpture, and printmaking. Students will be introduced to the elements and the principles of design through class discussions, writing assignments, visual resources, and hands-on activities.

ART 8

Grade 8 9 wks. All Levels

This course builds upon the basic skills learned in Art 7. Art appreciation and art history are emphasized through class discussions, writing assignments, reading assignments, and visual resources. Students enhance their artistic understanding by producing several projects using a variety of mediums. Creativity and creative thinking are stressed through exploration of theme and artistic technique. Art careers will also be discussed.

BUSINESS, COMPUTER, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

COMPUTER KEYBOARDING

Grade 7 18 wks. All Levels

This course provides an opportunity for all students to learn to key correctly and develop speed and accuracy on a computer. In addition, students will be introduced to Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint techniques. There will also be opportunities to explore the Internet.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

The eighth grade Family and Consumer Sciences Program consists of three separate six-week segments. All eighth grade students are required to schedule Family and Consumer Sciences.

TODAY'S TEEN

Grade 8 6 wks. All Levels

Discussions and assignments will focus on students becoming smart consumers. Topics will include unit pricing, purchasing decisions, media messages, the appropriate use of credit cards, interviewing skills and seeking employment in the job market. A nutritional component will include making effective eating choices, as well as

understanding nutritional labels and the food guide pyramid. A babysitting section will include appropriate childcare skills and basic first aid techniques.

FOODS

Grade 8 6 wks. All Levels

Safety techniques, proper sanitation, food preparation, and reading a recipe are emphasized. This course focuses on two important meals: breakfast and lunch. The importance of nutrition in the daily diet is stressed throughout the six weeks.

SEWING

Grade 8 6 wks. All Levels

While learning basic sewing techniques and the proper use of equipment, students will complete a teacher-chosen project which utilizes a sewing machine and requires manual dexterity. Students will learn a lifetime skill to use when needed or as a leisure activity.

GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHY 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Pg. 4, Admis. to Basic Level Classes

Students will learn basic geography skills as they study selected regions of the world. Activities and assessments will focus on improving basic geography skills, reading comprehension, and writing skills.

ACADEMIC GEOGRAPHY 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Average Level

This course will include a comprehensive study of the world. Students will learn the relationship between humans and their environment by utilizing the fundamental

themes for geographic education. This course includes an overview of the seven continents with a detailed study of selected countries within the continents.

HONORS GEOGRAPHY 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level

Prerequisite: Student will have an "A" average in American History 7 or a "B" average in Honors American History 7

This course will examine the seven continents of the world. The regions and physical features of the various nations will be emphasized. Honors Geography 8 will target students with an above average reading level and a high level of interest in the discipline. The course will draw upon supplemental resources to provide greater depth and detail about geographic concepts.

HEALTH/

PHYSICAL

EDUCATION

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade 7 18 wks. All Levels

This course will include the changes which are rapidly taking place during the junior high school years. This course is on a rotational basis throughout the 18 wks. The course will introduce basic fundamentals, progressive skills and content knowledge for team sports, individual sports, swimming

and personal fitness. The content will consist of co-educational activities, lifetime activities, personal fitness and developmental of swimming strokes (American crawl, Back stroke, Side stroke). The subject matter in health will be an introduction to body systems, nutrition, personal hygiene, tobacco, alcohol. An informational unit of CPR and First Aid is

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade 8 18 wks. All Levels

This course is a continuation of the goals and values introduced in the seventh-grade. This course is on a rotational basis throughout the 18 wks. The course is a combination of team sports, individual sports, swimming, personal fitness and health education. Some of the activities in physical education will include co-educational activities, lifetime activities and development of swimming skills. Some of the subjects in health will include personal hygiene, mental health, peer relationships, increasing the knowledge of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse and muscular development. An informational unit on HIV/AIDS is also included in this course.

ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Grade 7 or 8 18 wks. All Levels

Prerequisite: Medical Excuse

This co-educational course is designed for those students who are physically unable to participate in regular class activity for more than two weeks. A medical excuse and adaptive form signed by the physician must be available to the instructor the first week of the course. Activities will depend on the student's capabilities and physician's recommendations. This course follows the same guidelines as regular P.E. class. The student will be informed of the dangers associated with chemical use and abuse.

also included in this course.

INDUSTRIAL/ TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

(The eighth grade Industrial/Technology Education Program consists of three separate six-week segments. Both male and female eighth grade students are required to schedule Technology Education.)

ELECTRONICS & ROBOTICS

Grade 8 6 wks. All Levels

In this course, students will be introduced to basic circuit theory. Lab work will provide students with experience using different electrical components. Students will then utilize this knowledge in the study of robotics. Lego Mind Storm kits are used in teaching the basics of robotics. Students will learn about programming, block diagrams, sensors and gears.

INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS

Grade 8 6 wks. All Levels

This course will provide students with an opportunity to work with wood, metal, and plastic. Students will be instructed in the responsible and safe use of the tools and machines related to woodworking, metal working, and plastics. The students will learn how to solve problems, make decisions, communicate effectively, work safely with others, and follow directions.

VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

Grade 8 6 wks. All Levels

In this course, students explore the field of technical drawing. Technical drawing is the universal language of industry; it is how designers communicate their thoughts and ideas to a manufacturer. Students will utilize two different methods for creating drawings. In the first, manual drafting, students use mechanical tools to accurately represent an object. In the second, computer-aided drafting (CAD), students use computer software to create technical drawings. During this course, the following areas in technical drawing will be investigated: surface developments, multi views, pictorials, and architectural design.

LANGUAGE ARTS

In addition to the current graduation requirements (pg. 3), each student must demonstrate proficiency in reading and math on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), on a District Assessment, or provide evidence of proficiency in reading and mathematics as determined by the District. (Board approved 6/21/04)

– ENGLISH –

As outlined in the current English curriculum for grades 7 and 8, students will follow a prescribed course of study that

encompasses literature, grammar and writing activities appropriate to grade level.

Teachers in all English classes will teach and assess the following Pennsylvania Academic Standards related to reading:

- Learning to Read Independently
- Reading Critically in All Content Areas
- Reading, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature
- Characteristics and Functions of the English Language
- Elements of Research

The English Department will administer the 4Sight Reading Assessment (Tests 1 & 3) throughout the school year to assess students' performance on these state standards in reading. The response (one paragraph) to an open-ended question related to an article on this test will be scored by teachers in the English Department, utilizing the Pennsylvania Reading Assessment Rubric. Classroom instruction will be tailored to meet the needs of the students as evidenced by their test results.

In addition to the aforementioned reading standards, teachers in all English classes will devote approximately 25% of instruction time to writing instruction. Thus, one quarter of a student's grade will be based on the assessment of his/her writing.

- Students will produce both formal and informal types of writing.

Some of the writing pieces will focus on specific skills, particularly those skills required for a student to be proficient on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). These writing pieces will be based on the modes prescribed by the state: narrative/imaginative, informational or persuasive. Writing instruction and assessment will be guided by the Pennsylvania Writing Assessment Handbook.

At least one piece of writing each semester will be a response (five paragraph essay) to an open-ended prompt and will be scored by two or more teachers in the English Department who will use the Pennsylvania Writing Assessment Handbook. Teachers are encouraged to have students maintain classroom writing folders which include the writing assignments produced as part of the course.

Assessment Domain Scoring Rubric.

All other pieces of writing each semester will be purposeful in addressing other forms of written expression in connection with other curricular goals. These pieces might include journals, multi-paragraph essays, research papers, business and personal letters, creative pieces in a variety of genres, essay responses of significant length to test questions, reaction papers, self reflections, etc.

strong emphasis on the writing process: pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and sharing. Students will be encouraged to improve their spelling and vocabulary and to be creative in their word choices.

ENGLISH 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Pg. 5, Admis. to Basic Level Courses

Students placed in the basic-level English class will work with high-interest, appropriate-reading-level materials that will encourage reflection and discussion. All communication skills -- writing, speaking, and listening will be stressed so that students feel more knowledgeable and comfortable using the language. Correct sentence structure, vocabulary development, and spelling will all be a focus.

ACADEMIC ENGLISH 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Average Level

This is a program of integrated language arts with composition, grammar, and usage skills taught through the study of fine literature, including short stories, poetry, drama, non-fiction, and a novel. There is a

HONORS ENGLISH 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Honors Level

Prerequisite: It is recommended that a student have an "A" average in Language Arts and Reading and score advanced on the 5th grade Reading PSSA. If borderline, the student should consult with his/her Language Arts/Reading teachers.

An enriched English program is offered to students with outstanding abilities in reading and use of the English language. Students are placed into the program according to their

ability and the recommendation of their sixth grade teacher. The student will move more rapidly; and a more in-depth study will be done in writing, research, and literature. Several optional enrichment activities will be available for accelerated students who wish to challenge themselves further in a particular area.

HONORS ENGLISH 7 (GIFTED)

Grade 7 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Student must be in the Gifted Program. Student must also meet the criteria for Honors English 7.

This intensified course will parallel the honors integrated language arts curriculum. Students will, however, have a more in-depth view of novels, poetry, and drama. Research writing and critical thinking skills will also be enforced. When possible, resource personnel from the community or from educational service organizations will be invited to provide discussions in their field of expertise.

ENGLISH 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Pg. 4, Admis. to Basic Level Courses

Students in English 8 will continue working with the mechanics of the English language -- writing, speaking, and listening. Through high-interest, appropriate-level literature selections, they will have the opportunity to develop stronger vocabularies and practical composition skills. Sentence construction, paragraph development, and spelling will also be stressed.

ACADEMIC ENGLISH 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Average Level

This course is a continuing program of integrated language arts with composition and usage skills taught through the study of literature. There is a continuing emphasis on

the writing process and the development of creative and critical thinking and writing skills. Students are also encouraged to develop their vocabulary and improve their

spelling skills.

HONORS ENGLISH 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level

Prerequisite: It is recommended that a student have an "A" average in English 7 or a "B" average in Honors English 7 and score advanced on the 6th grade Reading PSSA.

If borderline, student should consult with his/her teacher or guidance counselor.

An enriched English program is offered to recommended students with outstanding abilities in reading and language usage. The same basic concepts of the Academic English 8 course are covered; however, it is an accelerated program in which more challenging pieces of literature are offered, more sophisticated language skills are stressed, and more mature and diversified writing is required. Several optional enrichment activities will be available for interested students.

HONORS ENGLISH 8 (GIFTED)

Grade 8 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Student must be in the Gifted Program. Student must also meet the criteria for Honors English 8.

This intensified course will parallel the honors integrated language arts curriculum. Students will, however, have a more in-depth view of novels, poetry, and drama. Research writing and critical thinking skills will also be enforced. Considerable emphasis will also be placed on creativity and higher-level thinking skills. Field trips or guest speakers will be arranged whenever possible to enhance the curriculum. Summer reading may be required.

– READING –

Butler Area School District has made a commitment to provide reading instruction to our students to allow for their success on the PSSA and in achieving the District graduation requirements. To identify the most appropriate reading program for each student, the principals and guidance counselors review the most recent student data to allow for informed decision-making. Consequently, changes to a student's reading program may occur.

Our reading program is a progression of levels for students to move through to acquire the necessary skills to meet their reading goals. Students will be given a placement exam at the end of sixth grade to determine placement in the appropriate level for them.

All of the skills required for a student to be a successful reader will be incorporated into the lessons presented at each level: phonemic awareness; word recognition and spelling; vocabulary and word meaning; grammar and usage; listening and reading comprehension; speaking and writing skills.

PSSA READING PREPARATION

Grades 7 and 8 18 wks All Levels

Students identified as needing additional test preparation are required to take PSSA Prep. Parents will be notified by letter if their student is required to take this course.

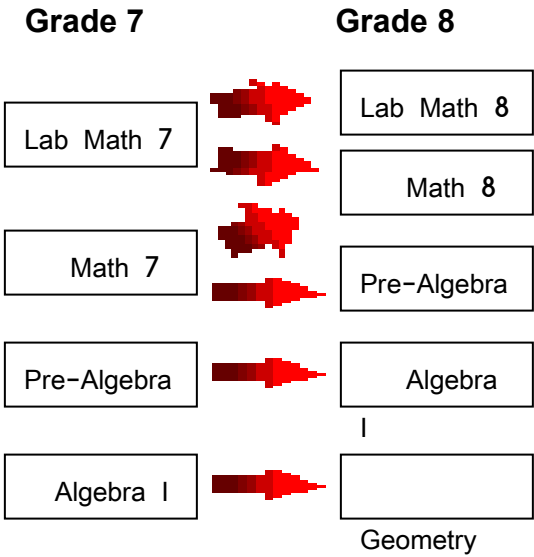
Eligibility for 7 th & 8 th Grade Students Scheduling PSSA Reading Preparation		
Advanced		
Proficient		1497
Basic		-thru-
Below Basic		1322

This course is skills-based, addressing such areas as vocabulary, reading strategies, and test taking skills. The goal of this course is to assist students in acquiring the necessary skills to achieve a score of proficient on the PSSA Reading Assessment. A supplemental course, PSSA Reading preparation is taken in addition to a student's reading class in grade 7, or as a student's reading instruction in grade 8. This is a non-graded course.

MATHEMATICS

In addition to the current graduation requirements (pg. 3), each student must demonstrate proficiency in reading and math on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), or on a District assessment, or provide evidence of proficiency in reading and mathematics as determined by the District. (Board approved 6/21/04)

Recommended Math Course Sequences



The Recommended Math Course Sequence Chart for Grades 8-12 appears on the following page.

RECOMMENDED MATH COURSE SEQUENCES GRADES 8 – 12

This chart represents the most commonly recommended course sequences in the math program; however, students may select Alternative course sequences with "Teacher Approval."

*= College Tech
Prep Course

If your current course is not on this outline, your math teacher will discuss your appropriate selection at scheduling time.

Basic to Average Level Sequences		Average to High Ability Level Sequences		High Ability to Honors Level Sequences		
Lab Math 8 Or Math 8		Pre-Algebra 8		Algebra I 8	Geometry 8 or Honors Geometry 9	
Applied Math I 9	Pre-Algebra 9	Algebra I or CTP Algebra I* 9		Geometry or CTP Geometry* 9	Honors Algebra II 9 or 10	
Applied Math II 10	Algebra I 10 or 11	Geometry or CTP Geometry* 10		Algebra II or CTP Algebra II* 10	Honors Precalculus 10 or 11	
Applied Math III Or Algebra I 11	Geometry 11 or 12	Algebra II or CTP Algebra II* 11		Honors Precalculus or **Precalculus, Part I 11	AP Calculus AB 11 or 12	AP Statistics 11 or 12

Options: Based on teacher Recommendations, the following options may be available for grade 12: Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II		**Precalculus, Part I or Honors Precalculus 12		AP Calculus AB or **Precalculus, Part II or AP Statistics 12		AP Calculus BC or AP Statistics 12	

****= Precalculus, Part I and Part II is the equivalent of the Honors Precalculus course. Students receive one honors credit upon the successful completion of Precalculus, Part II.**

MATH LAB 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Students should meet all of the following and have Teacher Recommendation:

1. Scoring at basic or below basic on the total scaled score on the 5th grade PSSA Math Test.
2. Scoring below a "C" grade for quarterly grades in Mathematics in grade six.
3. Scoring below a "C" grade on the mid-year math assessment.

Math Lab students will be selected based on educational needs as determined from previous teachers and standardized test results. Those students for whom a prediction of success can be envisioned will receive prime consideration for the Mathematics Laboratory. The course will strengthen basic skills in arithmetic using computer-based programs. The course will develop the concepts of proportions, fractions, data and analysis, integers, expressions, equations, and beginning geometry.

MATHEMATICS 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Low Average Level

Prerequisite: Students should meet all of the following and have Teacher Recommendation:

1. Scoring basic or low proficient on the total scaled score on the 5th grade PSSA Math Test.
2. Scoring a "C" grade for quarterly grades in Mathematics in grade six.
3. Scoring a "C" grade on the mid-year math assessment.

This course will emphasize the following topics: 1) Patterns, number sense, integers, fractions, decimals, and percents; 2) Drawing and interpreting graphs and data; 3) Using variables in solving equations, along with problem solving in real life applications; and 4) Study of geometry and probability. Successful completion of this course leads to a Pre-Algebra course.

PRE-ALGEBRA, 7TH

Grade 7 36 wks. Average & Above Level

Prerequisite: Students should meet all of the following and have Teacher Recommendation:

1. Scoring proficient or advanced on the total scaled score on the 5th grade PSSA math Test.
2. Scoring a "C" grade or higher for quarterly grade in Mathematics in grade six.
3. Scoring a "C" grade or higher on the mid-year math assessment.
4. Should have Reading scores at grade level or higher.

This course will emphasize basic algebraic skills and concepts such as variables, equations, and problem solving over the set of real numbers. Other topics include the coordinate graphs, data analysis, probability, and an introduction to geometry. This course is designed to prepare a student to take Algebra I the following year.

ALGEBRA I, 7TH

Grade 7 36 wks. Honors Level
1.0 Credit (4.5 Quality Points)

Prerequisite: Students should meet all of the following and have Teacher Recommendation:

1. Scoring advanced on the total scaled score on the 5th grade PSSA Math Test.
2. Scoring an "A" grade (93%-100%) for quarterly grade in Mathematics in grade six.
3. Scoring an "A" grade (93%-100%) on the mid-year math assessment.
4. Reading scores at grade level or higher.

This course is recommended for those students who excel in mathematics and are planning a post-secondary education in science and math. The course consists of solving and graphing linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Also included will be the quadratic formula, connections to geometry, factoring, and simplifying rational expressions. Daily homework and the use of technology will be important parts of this course.

Students in this course are required to take the end-of-course Keystone Exam.

MATH LAB 8 & MATHEMATICS 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Basic Level

*Prerequisite: Pg. 4, Admission to Basic Level
Classes and Teacher Recommendation*

Math Lab 8 students and Mathematics 8 students will be selected based on educational needs ascertained from previous teachers and standardized test results. These students will choose the same course selection, then be divided into the proper class at the beginning of next school year.

Those students for whom a prediction of success can be envisioned will receive prime consideration for the Mathematics Laboratory. To provide a different mode of instruction, we will utilize materials written to match the specific needs of the students.

The Mathematics 8 course will strengthen fundamental arithmetic concepts and skills of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, integers, and percents. This course will include an introduction to basic algebraic skills and various geometric topics.

PRE-ALGEBRA, 8TH

Grade 8 36 wks. Average & Above Level

*Prerequisite: Students need a grade of "C" or better
in Mathematics 7 and Teacher Recommendation.*

This course will emphasize basic algebraic skills and concepts such as variables, equations, and problem solving over the set of real numbers. Other topics include the coordinate graphs, data analysis, probability, and an introduction to geometry. This course is designed to prepare a student to take Algebra I the following year.

ALGEBRA I, 8TH

Grade 8 36 wks. Average & Above Level

1.0 Credit (4.25 Quality Points) *Prerequisite:*

Students need to be in Pre-Algebra 7th, have at least a "C" average or higher, and have Teacher Recommendation.

This course consists of solving and graphing linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Also included will be the quadratic formula, connections to geometry, factoring, and simplifying rational expressions. Daily homework and use of technology will be important parts of this course.

Students in this course are required to take the end-of-course Keystone Exam.

GEOMETRY

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level
1.0 Credit (4.5 Quality Points)

*Prerequisite: Must complete Algebra I 7th with a "B" grade
or higher and Teacher Recommendation.*

This course is designed to challenge the better academic math students. The subject matter for this course is developed through inductive reasoning. Figures studied include lines (parallel and perpendicular), angles, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, and three-dimensional figures.

Students in this course are required to take the end-of-course Keystone Exam.

PSSA MATH PREPARATION

Grades 7/8 18 wks. All Levels

Students who have scored basic on the most recent PSSA in math are required to take PSSA Prep.

Students who have scored minimally proficient on the most recent PSSA are recommended to take this class as well.

Eligibility for 7 th & 8 th Grade Students Scheduling PSSA Math Preparation		
Advanced		
Proficient		_____
Basic		1338 thru 1174 _____

Below Basic		
-------------	--	--

This course is skills based, addressing such areas as numbers and operations, measurement, geometry, algebraic concepts, and data analysis and probability. The goal of this course is to provide a low-pressure environment where students can develop the skills needed to achieve a score of proficient on the PSSA math test. This is a non-graded course.

MUSIC

GENERAL MUSIC 7

Grade 7 9 wks. All Levels

This course is intended to expose students to a wide variety of musical topics. Topics will be selected from the following categories: patriotic music, instruments of the band and orchestra, basic elements of music, music history, and opera. During the study of these topics students will explore various related composers.

GENERAL MUSIC 8

Grade 8 9 wks. All Levels

This course is intended to continue the exploration of various musical topics. Topics will be selected from the following categories: musical styles of the 20th century, musical theater, careers in music, keyboard instruments, exploring the keyboard through creative performance. During the study of these topics, students will explore various related composers.

MIXED CHORUS

Grade 7 and/or 8 36 wks. All Levels

This elective course is designed to provide students with a mixed vocal experience. The student is expected to actively participate in

exploring and performing medium difficulty levels of Soprano/Alto/Baritone and Soprano/Alto/Tenor/Bass choral literature. Fundamental elements and techniques of vocal production and style, music reading, and rehearsal and performance skills will be stressed.

STRING ORCHESTRA

Grade 7 and/or 8 36 wks. All Levels
Prerequisite: Elementary training in specific instrument.

This course is intended to offer the string student an ensemble experience while developing skills and knowledge of orchestral repertoire through the study of popular and classical music. Basic string techniques, music reading, and rehearsal and performing skills will be stressed.

BAND I

Grades 7 or 8 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Students must be participating in instrumental music and have a teacher recommendation.

This is a performance ensemble designed for the student that has completed an entry level instrumental method or has some ensemble experience. The students will work on expanding their knowledge about their instrument, extending range and improving tone production. Students will work on complex rhythms, syncopation, cut time, 6/8, dynamics, articulation, basic phrasing, expression, introduction to sight-reading, and music terminology. Ensemble performance will be emphasized.

BAND II

Grades 7 or 8 36 wks. Int. to Advanced Level

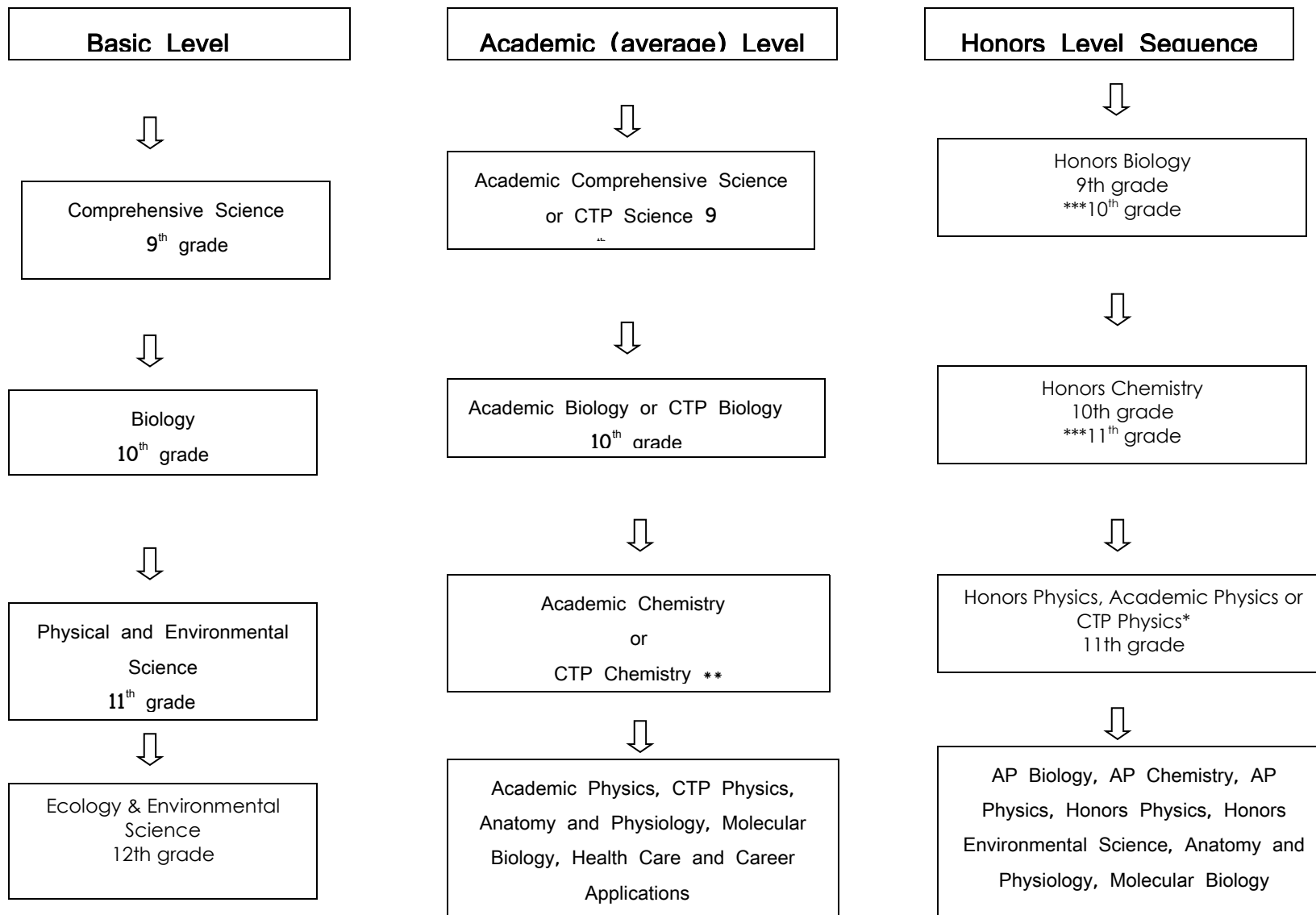
Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, advanced skills on their instrument, ability to perform extended range, and two or more years advanced ensemble experience.

This is a performance ensemble designed for the student that has proficient skills and knowledge on their instrument. Students will work on sight-reading, enhanced technique such as trills, glissandos, grace notes, dynamics, and phrasing. Students will work on advanced techniques, articulation, and ear training. The purpose of this

ensemble is to increase the student's knowledge of various musical styles, musicianship, and total performance.

RECOMMENDED SCIENCE COURSE

SEQUENCES



***11th grade Physics students (any level) may concurrently enroll in AP Biology, AP Chemistry, Honors Environmental Science, Anatomy and Physiology, Molecular Biology, and/or Healthcare and Career Applications.**

****11th grade Academic, and CTP Chemistry students may concurrently enroll in Anatomy and Physiology and/or Healthcare and Career Applications.**

*****NOTE: With teacher recommendation and all prerequisites satisfied, students can move from lower to higher courses**

SCIENCE

SCIENCE 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Pg. 5, Admis. to Basic Level Classes and teacher recommendation

Science 7 is a science survey course designed to meet the educational needs of students identified in the above prerequisites. Topics will include Life Science, Environmental Science, and the Nature of Science.

ACADEMIC SCIENCE 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Average Levels

Academic Science 7 is intended for students with an average interest and ability in science. The students will study Life Science, Environmental Science, and the Nature of Science. The course will be taught in lecture and laboratory settings. Pennsylvania Environmental issues will be discussed.

HONORS SCIENCE 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Honors Level

Prerequisite: Student should have earned an "A" average in 6th grade science and score at the 70th percentile or higher on the 6th Grade mid-year Reading Assessment in Reading Comprehension. If borderline, the student should consult with his/her science teacher.

Honors Science 7 is intended for students with a high level of ability and interest in science. The student will study Life Science, Environmental Science, and the Nature of Science. Pennsylvania environmental issues will be discussed.

HONORS SCIENCE 7

(GIFTED)

Grade 7 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Student must be in the Gifted Program. Student must also meet the criteria for Honors Science 7.

This intensified course will parallel the Honors

Science 7 curriculum. Group and individual modifications are provided for gifted students.

SCIENCE 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Pg. 4, Admis. to Basic Level Classes and teacher recommendation

Science 8 is a science survey course designed to meet the educational needs of students identified in the above prerequisites. Topics will include Physical Science, Earth and Space Science, and the Nature of Science.

ACADEMIC SCIENCE 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Average Levels

Academic Science 8 meets the needs of the majority of students. This course is a survey of Physical Science, Earth and Space Science, and the Nature of Science. The course will be taught in lecture and laboratory settings.

HONORS SCIENCE 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation. Students should have taken Pre-Algebra, 7th or Algebra I (with a "B" average). Also, an "A" average in Science 7 or a "B" average in Honors Science 7.

Honors Science 8, intended for students with a high level of ability and interest, includes a survey of Physical Science, Earth and Space Science and the Nature of Science. The course will be taught in lecture and laboratory settings.

HONORS SCIENCE 8

(GIFTED)

Grade 8 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Gifted Student. Students should have taken Pre-Algebra 7th or Algebra I with a "B" average, and have an "A" average in Science 7 or a "B" average in Honors Science 7.

This intensified course will parallel the Honors Science 8 curriculum. Group and individual

modifications are provided for gifted students.

level 6th grade social studies and score at the 70th percentile or higher on the 6th grade mid-year Reading Assessment in Reading Comprehension. If borderline, the student should consult with his/her social studies teacher.

SOCIAL STUDIES

AMERICAN HISTORY 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Pg. 5, Admis. to Basic Level Classes

The instructional level is geared to help those students who have difficulty reading and comprehending historical materials. This course is a survey of American history from discovery and exploration through the end of the American Civil War. Alternative learning materials may be used to compliment the textbook.

ACADEMIC AMERICAN HISTORY 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Average Level

This course is designed to meet the needs of the majority of the students. This course provides the student with a chronological survey of American history from discovery and exploration to the conclusion of the American Civil War. The use of alternative textbooks and learning methods can be a part of this class.

HONORS

AMERICAN HISTORY 7

Grade 7 36 wks. Honors Level

Prerequisite: Student should have an "A" in average

This course provides the student with a chronological survey of American history from discovery and exploration up to the conclusion of the Civil War. This level is designed for those students with an interest in social studies, a motivational level higher than average, and an above-average reading ability.

HONORS AMERICAN

HISTORY 7 (GIFTED)

Grade 7 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Student must be in the Gifted Program. Student must also meet the criteria for Honors American History 7.

This course is designed for highly motivated students with a genuine interest and ability in the general area of Social Studies. Extensive homework, special project work, and positive active involvement in class discussions will be expected of all class members. This class will also include selected enrichment activities. The course provides the student with a chronological survey of American history from discovery and exploration up to the end of the Civil War.

AMERICAN HISTORY 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Basic Level

Prerequisite: Pg. 4, Admis. to Basic Level Classes

The instructional level is geared to help those students who have difficulty reading and comprehending historical materials. This course is a survey of American history from the Reconstruction Era continuing to the end of World War II. Alternative learning materials may be used to compliment the textbook.

ACADEMIC AMERICAN HISTORY 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Average Level

This course is designed to meet the needs of a majority of the students. This course will begin with the Reconstruction Era and will conclude with an overview of the Cold War period. The use of

alternative textbooks and learning activities can be a part of this class. Library research will be used to enhance the textbook.

HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY 8

Grade 8 36 wks. Honors Level

Prerequisite: Student have an "A" average in American History 7 or a "B" average in Honors American History 7.

This course will begin with the Reconstruction Era and will conclude with an overview of the Cold War period. Library research will be used to enhance the textbook. This level is designed for those students with an interest in history, a motivational level higher than average, and an above-average reading ability.

HONORS AMERICAN HISTORY 8 (GIFTED)

Grade 8 36 wks. Gifted Level

Prerequisite: Student must be in the Gifted Program. Student must also meet the criteria for Honors History 8.

This course is designed for highly motivated students with a genuine interest and ability in the general area of Social Studies. Extensive homework, special projects, and positive active involvement in class discussions will be expected of all class members. The course will begin with the Reconstruction Era and conclude with an overview of the Cold War Era. This class will also include selected enrichment activities. Library research will be used to enhance the textbook.

WORLD LANGUAGE

WORLD LANGUAGE EXPLORATORY

Grade 7 18 wks. All Levels

Prerequisite: Student must be proficient in reading on the most recent State Assessment (PSSA)

Students will study three world languages (French, German, Spanish), each for six weeks. Basic vocabulary, culture, and geography of the target languages will be taught. This course should help one determine which language to pursue in the next grade or later.

FRENCH I

Grade 8 36 wks. 1.0 credit (4.5 Quality Points)

Prerequisite: The student should score at or above the seventh stanine in Total Reading or Total Language on the most recent Stanford Achievement Test, have an "A" in Exploratory Language, and the recommendation of his/her Exploratory Language teacher.

Reading, writing, and spelling of the French language is introduced. Correct grammar is also emphasized. The course develops communication skills using basic phrases and familiarization with pronunciation through role playing, skits, text, and workbook activities. French culture is explored through class activities, outside projects, and library research.

GERMAN I

Grade 8 36 wks. 1.0 credit (4.5 Quality Points)

Prerequisite: The student should score at or above the seventh stanine in Total Reading or Total Language on the most recent Stanford Achievement Test, have an "A" in Exploratory Language, and have the recommendation of his/her Exploratory Language teacher.

Reading, writing, and spelling of the German language is introduced. Correct grammar is also emphasized. The course develops communication skills using basic phrases and familiarization with pronunciation through role playing, skits, text, and workbook activities. German culture is explored through class activities, outside projects, and library research.

SPANISH I

Grade 8 36 wks. 1.0 credit (4.5 Quality Points)

Prerequisite: The student should score at or above the

seventh stanine in Total Reading or Total Language on the most recent Stanford Achievement Test, have an "A" in Exploratory Language, and have the recommendation of his/her Exploratory Language teacher.

Reading, writing, and spelling of the Spanish language is introduced. Correct grammar is also emphasized. The course develops communication skills using basic phrases and familiarization with pronunciation through role playing, skits, text, and workbook activities. Spanish culture is explored through class activities, outside projects, and library research.

ENRICHMENT STUDIES PROGRAM

PROGRAM STATEMENT

The Enrichment Studies Program (ESP) at Butler Junior High School has been in existence for more than two decades. ESP is a regular education program. Application is open to all students who meet the admission criteria outlined in the next section of this curriculum guide.

ESP operates on a trimester schedule, with each course lasting for 12 weeks, allowing students to take three courses per year. ESP courses enroll both seventh and eighth grade students.

Students will be scheduled into first trimester courses on the third day of the school year, following a two-day introduction to the program and presentation of course descriptions. Students will be given course selection forms upon which they will indicate their course preferences. Every effort will be made to honor students' preferences, but enrollment in preferred courses cannot be guaranteed. A similar scheduling process will be followed for the second and third trimesters.

ESP teachers will provide parents with a written evaluation of their child's work upon completion of each course, though no grade will be indicated on the school report card or reported to Edline.

Students accepted into the ESP program and who take ESP courses will not take Reading in the seventh grade or Geography in the eighth grade.

PROGRAM ADMISSION

Applicants will be admitted to the program according to the following criteria:

1. Applications will be made available to students in January for the following academic year.
2. Applicants will be ranked in descending order according to their Grade Point Average (GPA).
 - a) GPA for students entering seventh grade will be based on grades in Reading, English, Spelling, Math, Social Studies, and Science from all of fifth grade and the first half of sixth grade.
 - b) GPA for students entering eighth grade will be based on grades in Reading, English, Spelling, Math, Social Studies, and Science from all of sixth grade and grades in Reading, English, Math, History, and Science for the first half of seventh grade. (The seventh grade Reading grade is excluded from the calculations for students who were in ESP during their seventh grade year).
- * Applicants who are not proficient on the PSSA must take the appropriate courses to improve their scores, so may not have room in their schedules to take ESP courses.
3. Students will be offered admission based on

the GPA ranking in descending order until all available spaces in ESP are filled.

4. All applicants will be notified of acceptance or rejection by the end of the scheduling process in the spring of the year.
5. Exceptions to the above criteria will only be considered after a letter is written by the parent/guardian describing, in detail, the reason for the request for an exception. Such requests will be considered by the ESP Coordinator, the Principal, and a Guidance Counselor. The decision of this group will be final.
6. Application for acceptance into ESP is necessary in the winter prior to both the seventh and eighth grade.

COURSE OFFERINGS

In the Enrichment Studies Program: Please be aware that changes may be made in the courses taught, the trimesters in which they are taught, and the staff who teach in this program at any time.

ADVANCED COMPUTERS

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 3rd Trimester Only

Students who have successfully completed Basic Computers and are recommended by their Basic Computers teacher may take this course. Students will complete the programming course in BASIC which was begun in the Basic Computers course. **Successful completion of both Basic and Advanced Computers will earn students 0.5 credit in high school.**

ANIMAL WELFARE

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 3RD Trimester Only

Students will learn about animal welfare and responsibility, specifically in regard to the dog. Students will learn about the anatomy and social behaviors of the dog, the laws regarding pets, the role of humane societies, positive reinforcement

dog training, and will participate in a vet tech section. We will have several guest speakers, including local veterinarians, dog trainers, and K9 officers. There will be a team project and many individual projects and Pet Day. Students will take a trip to the Animal Friends Animal Shelter.

BASIC COMPUTERS

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 1st & 2nd Trimesters Only

Students enrolled in Math 7 or higher mathematics courses may enroll in this course. Students will be introduced to computer programming with mathematical applications. The programming will be done using TRUE BASIC. Students will write programs, prepare them to run, run them, and make the necessary corrections for them to execute correctly. During the course, students will develop their own graphics project in programming. **Successful completion of both Basic and Advanced Computers will earn students 0.5 credit in high school.**

CALCU-BOT

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 2nd Trimester Only

Students enrolled in Pre-Algebra or higher mathematics courses may enroll in this course. Students will create a "calcu-bot" by giving a graphing calculator wheels and using TI Basic programming to control that robot. Students will then program their calcubot to perform tasks like measuring, drawing, and following a maze. The calcubot will allow the students an opportunity to combine programming, logic, mathematics and science to complete a variety of missions. No prior experience with programming is necessary.

DRAMA

Grades 7 & 8
Stagecraft: 1st Trimester, Drama: 2nd Trimester,
Play Writing: 3rd Trimester

Students will learn all aspects of the theatre, backstage and onstage. Students will learn important technical skills and gain confidence in working behind the scenes of a theatre. They will learn how to creatively develop a character, deal with stage fright, and speak clearly to a large audience. Also, through study of outstanding

playwrights' work, they will write and produce one-act plays that adhere to the dramatic style of writing. Stagecraft and Drama include involvement in a play production.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 1st Trimester Only

Students will examine various environmental issues in our local area, with an emphasis placed upon human-nature interactions. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and debates on issues such as deer management, Marcellus shale drilling, and trout stocking in wild trout streams. Members of this class will have the opportunity to construct a birdhouse, which may be taken home or donated to a local habitat improvement project. Other topics of class will include water quality and park development. students may not retake this course.

ENVIROTHON

Grades 7 & 8 3rd Trimester Only

Students in this course will participate in the Envirothon Competition, a nationwide contest that tests knowledge in environmental issues. Students will be able to compete in the Butler County competition sponsored by the Butler County Conservation District. Members should expect a fast-paced course with lots of hands-on environmental activities in the fields of wildlife, aquatics, soils, forestry, and current events. To help prepare for the competition, students should be prepared to do lots of individual evaluation of materials. Students may repeat this course.

GALAXY

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 3rd Trimester Only

Students will participate in a simulation of a space society on the brink of civil war. Students will study astronomy, mathematics, map reading, navigation, and spacecraft design.

GENETIC STUDIES

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 1st & 3rd Trimesters Only

Students will experience all topics of modern genetics. Students will start with simple DNA studies and will work up to genetic crosses involving the fruit fly. Students will engage in personal research, group projects, lab write-ups, and hands-on experiments.

GEOGRAPHY FUN!

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. All Three Trimesters

Students will improve on their geographic literacy in this course that explores a variety of topics. Students will learn how to create maps, find geographic information, and solve problems related to the themes of geography. Throughout the course, attention will be given to current events, and students will learn to think critically about what is happening in their world.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESEARCH

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. All Three Trimesters

Students will learn about the people who represent them in local government and the scope of their authority. Students will participate in field trips, municipal government day activities, mock elections, debates, local issues weekly updates, and the writing of a grant proposal.

MATH IN A WORLD OF DATA

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 3rd Trimester Only

Students enrolled in Pre-Algebra or higher mathematics courses may enroll in this course. Students will use statistics to discover how mathematical patterns control many real-life, scientific situations. Students will use the concepts they have learned in math class to participate in a series of data activities, including the Gummy Bear Launch, Bungee Barbie, Incredible Edible Tower, and "Awe Chute."

MISSION TO MARS

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 1st Trimester Only

Students will participate in a simulation of human exploration of our solar system's fourth planet. Students will exercise decision-making skills as they endeavor to complete a successful mission to Mars.

MYSTERIES OF HISTORY

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. All Three Trimester

Students will assume the role of historical detectives as they learn about the most-debated puzzles of American history. Students will examine primary and secondary sources to debate several historical controversies. Throughout the course, students will weigh the facts on both sides of historical debates to achieve answers to America's most astonishing mysteries.

NEW ATLANTIS

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 2nd Trimester Only

Students will participate in a simulation in which they will role-play teams of International scientists living in an underwater work station trying to solve mission survival problems and ocean mysteries.

NEWSLETTER

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. All Three Trimesters

Students will develop, research, write, and publish a Butler Junior High school newsletter entitled, "The Tornado Connection." This newsletter will be posted on the Junior High's website each trimester in order to inform parents of policies, events, activities, and classes offered to students at the Junior High School. The spring edition will also be distributed to all sixth grade students. This is not a creative writing class. Articles for this newsletter are based on facts and on research. Other areas of journalism may also be explored, such as radio and television broadcasting. The course instructor will select a "Chief Editor" for each trimester based on applications expressing interest in repeating the course.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. All Three Trimesters

Students will learn to convey their thoughts and ideas to others through public speaking which is an invaluable skill for all students in any class. Students will learn how to prepare a speech and deliver it effectively. Speeches will be presented in various venues throughout our school. During each trimester, students will be filmed at least once and will then use the filmed presentation to observe and critique himself/herself so that improvements may be made in the future.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 1st Trimester Only

Students will explore geometric concepts and how they affect the world. Students will use inductive reasoning and hands-on applications. All students are welcome to participate, regardless of the math class in which they are enrolled.

TROUT

Grades 7 & 8

2nd Trimester Only

This course will offer an in-depth study of the trout, including biological, environmental, and social aspects. Students in this course will be responsible for the day-to-day upkeep of our cold-water aquariums and the approximately 500 trout that were hatched there. Daily tasks include water testing and aquarium trouble-shooting. Also included in this course is the biology of the trout, habitat in our waterways, and how people historically and currently use trout in their lives. This class may not be repeated.

TV/VIDEO PRODUCTION

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. All Three Trimesters

Students who enroll in this course must have an Internet card indicating parental permission to use Internet resources in school. Students will develop a television broadcast based on national and local news, weather, sports, and entertainment. Students will also provide technical and behind-the-scenes support using cameras, PowerPoint, mixer, sound board, and editing equipment.

YEARBOOK

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 2nd Trimester Only

Students will produce the Junior High School yearbook. **Students who wish to take this course must follow the application procedure that will be announced during the first two days of the school year.** Students in this course do everything involved in creating the yearbook, including sales, distribution, cover design and selection, photography, and page layout.

ZOOLOGY

Grades 7 & 8 12 wks. 1st & 2nd Trimesters Only

Students will learn about the “new zoo” approach, including a behind the scenes trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo. Students will design and build a zoo, which meets SSP and AZA requirements. We will learn about animal behavior, both in the wild and in captivity, and how to care for these animals. We will also discuss the Species Survival Plan and Endangered Species Act.

OTHER E.S.P. COURSES MAY BE OFFERED BASED ON STUDENT INTEREST AND STAFF AVAILABILITY.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS
