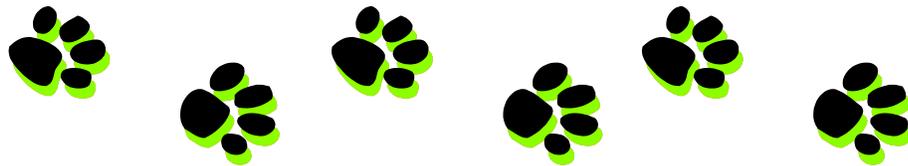


Midland Park High School

MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROGRAM OF STUDIES



**250 Prospect Street
Midland Park, New Jersey 07432
201-444-7400**

www.midlandparkschools.k12.nj.us

TABLE OF CONTENTS

English.....	3
Social Studies.....	3
Mathematics.....	4
Science.....	5
World Languages.....	5
Physical Education and Health.....	6
Fine Arts.....	7
Music.....	7
Exploratories.....	8
Special Education.....	8

ENGLISH

English 7

This seventh grade course covers concepts including grammar (parts of speech, punctuation, sentence structure, and paragraphing) and vocabulary. These areas are incorporated into the writing process and literature is presented in the form of novels and short stories. Reading and writing for various purposes will be a primary focus, especially in preparation for the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge- NJASK.

English 8

The study of English on the eighth grade level will follow the students' accomplishments in grade 7. A major emphasis will be in the study of literature from around the world and the writing process. Reading and writing for various purposes will be a primary focus, especially in preparation for the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge- NJASK. Grammar, poetry, and vocabulary will also be studied

English 7 & 8 Honors

This two year sequence of courses offers an intensive reading and writing workshop environment for students who have demonstrated accomplishment and/or intense interest in the subject as learners will be asked to assimilate and synthesize information from multiple media and literary sources at a quicker pace. Both novels and non-fiction reading materials will be provided to students as they focus on the development of their writing skills reflective of extended strategic thinking. Throughout these classes, students will also be asked to enhance their public speaking abilities, engage in class discussions, to journalize, and to create reading logs. Technology and other 21st Century Learning Skills will be infused throughout so as to better prepare the student to master the new Common Core Literacy Standards and for college and career.

SOCIAL STUDIES

United States History 7

The social studies course in seventh grade will include a survey of early American history, making specific connections to New Jersey. The course will be presented thematically incorporating modern implications of the history in each theme. The four major themes include: The People of America, Establishing a Democratic-Republic, Physical and cultural growth, Division and Reform in American Society. A heavy concentration on social studies skills as well as research and writing will be integrated throughout the curriculum.

World History 8

World History 8 is designed to provide a cross cultural study of the development of early civilizations through the Age of Exploration. Emphasis will be placed on the development of these early civilizations in Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Students will also make connections with these early civilizations to today's society. Students will participate in daily class readings and discussions. Students will also complete workbook activities in order to improve social studies, including critical thinking, cause and effect and mapping skills.

MATHEMATICS

Math 7

This course is an extension of previously learned skill areas. The four basic operations: whole numbers, fractions, and decimals are reviewed and then expanded to a higher degree of difficulty. The students will be expected to be able to apply these skills to word problems. Pre-algebra skills and concepts as well as Geometry are explored. Particular attention is paid to ensuring students have the skills required for eighth grade math as well to pass the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge- NJASK.

Math 8

This course builds on students' prior math experiences. Particular attention is paid to ensuring students have the skills required for ninth grade math as well as to pass the New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge- NJASK. All operations are used with whole numbers, exponents, fractions, and decimals to evaluate expressions and solve pre-algebra questions. Through practice and real-world applications, students learn to use probabilities, analyze data, use proportions and percents, graph in the xy plane, and work with transformations

Math 7 & 8 Honors

This two year sequence of courses offers more rapid pacing of coursework in pre-Algebraic, Geometric, and Trigonometric concepts, introduces in-depth units of study that require the use of extended high school level abstract thinking and utilize problem-based learning techniques. Sample topics to be included are arithmetic of fractions and decimals, the coordinate system, solving of linear equations, surface area and volume, exponentiation, probability and statistics, absolute value, trigonometry, measurement and graphing. Technology and other 21st Century Learning Skills will be infused throughout so as to better prepare the student to master the new Common Core Standards in Mathematics and for college and career.

SCIENCE

Life Science 7

This course is an introductory, survey course of the biological sciences. It provides students with a foundation in the various kingdoms of living things, their characteristics and classification. This course also includes ecology and effects of humankind on the environment. Hands-on activities, critical thinking skills and the application of concepts to students' lives are emphasized. The student finishes this course with a foundation of Biology which will be expanded in high school.

Science 8

The Science 8 course is designed to emphasize the skills and process of science. In this course, the students are introduced to areas of study within the extremely broad fields of Matter, Geology, and Astronomy

WORLD LANGUAGES

French 7

French 7 is an introduction to the French language and culture. The students will not only gain specific knowledge and skills in order to communicate in real life situation, but will develop cultural and esthetic appreciation of the French speaking world. Through listening, speaking, reading, and writing French, the student will begin to develop the fundamental skills needed for effective communication in the world language. Students will also make connections to other disciplines. Furthermore, the French 7 student will acquire an understanding of the Francophone countries and the desire to pursue further learning and gain greater proficiency in the language.

Spanish 7

Spanish 7 is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. The students will not only gain specific knowledge and skills in order to communicate in real life situation, but will develop cultural and esthetic appreciation of the Spanish speaking world. Through listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish, the student will begin to develop the fundamental skills needed for effective communication in the world language. Students will also make connections to other disciplines. Furthermore, the Spanish 7 student will acquire an understanding of the Spanish speaking countries and the desire to pursue further learning and gain greater proficiency in the language.

French 8

French 8 is a continuation of the introduction to the French language and culture. Through speaking, reading, writing, and listening activities, the student will build vocabulary, develop and introductory knowledge of French grammatical structure and an appreciation of the French cultures throughout the world. There will be particular emphasis on the regions of France and Paris. By the end of this course, the students will be able to converse, read, write and understand French at the first year level and be ready to continue their French language study in high school.

Spanish 8

Students in Spanish 8 will increase their proficiency in the Spanish language. The students will use their prior knowledge and competencies in the four basic language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking to further develop those skills. Students should be able to use grammar and vocabulary to accurately communicate in the target language. Students in Spanish 8 should also continue to develop an appreciation and acceptance of the heritages and cultures of the Spanish speaking world.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Physical Education 7- One Semester

This course focuses on students becoming health literate and physically educated. Students will understand movement concepts and principles and apply them as they practice, assess, and refine movement skills in a variety of large group activities including Project Adventure initiatives.

Health 7- One Semester

The purpose of this course is to provide information in such a way that it influences students to take positive actions about their own health. Students will be introduced to various areas of study such as: Health and Wellness, Fitness, Nutrition, Hygiene, Character Education, Communication, Decision Making, Goal Setting and Drugs and Alcohol. The second section of the course involves a career planning program entitled, "The Real Game." This program gives students the opportunity to explore adult realities such as taxes, living expenses, workplace environments and unexpected emergencies.

Physical Education 8- One Semester

This course continues to develop students' health literacy and physical education. Students will utilize movement concepts and principles and practice and apply them to everyday life. Large game and group activities including Project Adventure initiatives will serve as a foundation for learning.

Health 8- One Semester

This course will provide each student with a solid foundation in the area of health, upon which they can build in subsequent years. Students will be introduced to the systems of the body: skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, endocrine and reproductive. Students will also investigate the decision making process, self esteem, human sexuality and reproduction.

FINE ARTS

Art 7- One Semester

This course uses a wide range of methods and media to encourage the students to continue to explore the field of art. Work in drawing, lettering, painting, and printing started in Art 7 is continued in Art 8. Additional work in sculpture, ceramics, basic perspective, color use, and art appreciation are introduced in these elective courses.

Art 8 - One Semester

This course is an extension of activities in Grade 7.

MUSIC

Band 7-8

Students who desire to develop their skills in instrumental music may enroll in band during each year in high school. Band rehearsals are conducted during the school day and for limited periods of time after school, depending on the needs of the organization, but particularly just prior to major concert programs and shows. Membership in the band requires self-discipline with regard to practice, dedication with regard to daily and extra rehearsal sessions, and compliance with the demands of the director with regard to performance standards.

Chorus 7-8

Chorus is a performance-oriented class for students in grades 7-8. Students in Chorus will learn techniques of basic vocal production through a selected repertoire that is appropriate for the developing voice of the middle school child. Secular and sacred choral music of varying styles and time periods will be taught. Students are required to perform in concert during the academic school year. Other related trips are scheduled for the purpose of performance and adjudicated experiences. At the teacher's discretion, some students are also eligible to audition for Bergen County Chorus. Students in the vocal music program will participate in lessons. Lessons can be for individual students or for small/medium size groups of singers. Students will work on technique, prop vocal production, music for concert, audition material, music for solo performances or anything the teacher deems necessary for the lesson. Students must be in Chorus to participate in the vocal lesson program.

EXPLORATORIES

Reading 7-8

Students in this course will improve upon their reading comprehension skills by learning various reading strategies that will help them become strategic readers in all academic courses. Building vocabulary is an essential aspect of this course as it directly relates to reading comprehension skill. In addition, students will learn strategies that will help them to prepare for the language arts/literacy section of the NJASK.

Writing 7-8

This is a comprehensive language arts program focusing on step--by-step instruction in the writing process. Students apply readings and personal experiences to produce various types of writing. The course will also concentrate on writing for varied purposes and audiences. In addition, students will learn strategies that will help them to prepare for the language arts/literacy section of the NJASK.

Math 7-8

This course focuses on the review and enrichment of key topics in the four major content areas: 1) number sense, concepts and applications, 2) Geometry, 3) data analysis and probability, and 4) Algebra. In addition, students will learn strategies that will help them to prepare for the mathematics section of the NJASK.

Technology 7-8

Students in this course will develop new skills by exploring programs in Microsoft Office and applying these skills to short term projects

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Resource Center Program 7- 8

The resource center program provides classified students individualized as well as small group instruction in the core academic subjects. Instruction is based upon individual goals as stated in the IEPs which are guided by student needs and frame worked around the Core Curriculum Content Standards. The purpose of the program is to assist the youngsters in bridging academic gaps supporting their movement into a less restrictive environment in the future.

Study Skills 7- 8

This course of study is designed to assist the special education student to have a successful experience in mainstream classes. Students will be taught techniques to improve listening skills, organizational skills, study habits, specific reading and writing skills, note-taking skills, test-taking skills and problem solving skills. Students will have the opportunity to improve vocabulary, concentration, memory and topic research skills. In addition, students will develop a better awareness and understanding of various learning disabilities and how they affect performance in school. Students will also be taught the skills needed to self advocate in a small group or one-to-one situation. Once the student develops the skills necessary for academic success and/or no longer benefits from the program, then goals of this course have been achieved and the student will transition out of the study skills program.