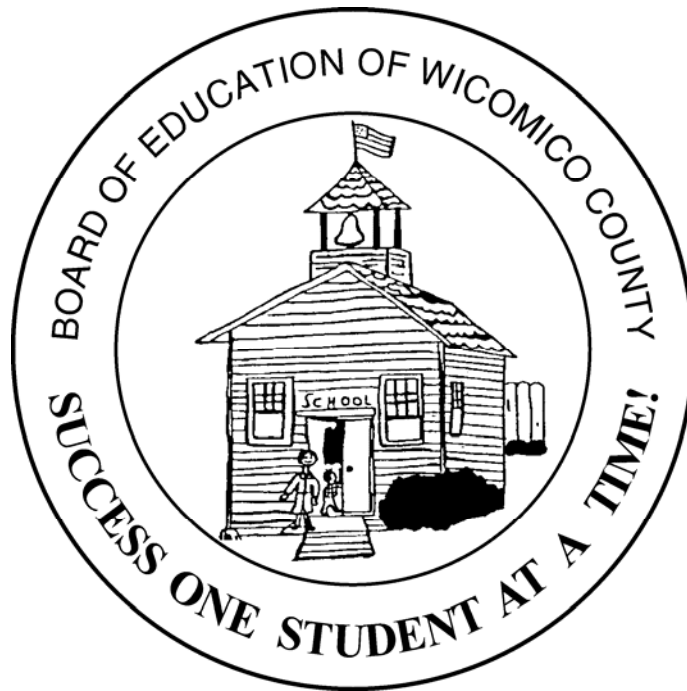


MIDDLE SCHOOL

CATALOG OF COURSES

2008-2009



WICOMICO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thomas B. Field

INTERIM-SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Middle School Catalog of Courses

MEMBERS OF THE
WICOMICO COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Thomas B. Field
Interim-Superintendent of Schools

It is the policy of the Wicomico County Board of Education to provide equal educational and employment opportunities regardless of age, gender, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation.

WICOMICO COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Mr. C. Michael Johnson
Bennett Middle School
Tele #: 410-677-5140
Fax #: 410-677-5133

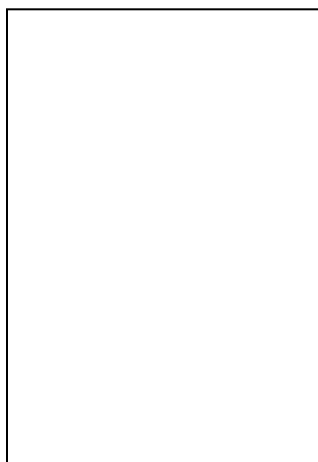
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Wicomico Middle School
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Superintendent's Message



Just as the varied and vital parts of an automobile keep it moving, so does a diverse curricular program keep a student moving towards graduation and ultimately into a chosen career.

In order to achieve *Success - One Student At a Time*, the Board of Education of Wicomico County offers programs that contribute to achieving that mission. No matter whether the student is planning to continue his/her education in an institution of higher learning, pursuing a career in the visual or performing arts or in a career and/or technology program, or is planning to immediately enter the world of work, there is an appropriate program for every student. All students have the opportunity to learn by taking advantage of the diverse curricular program accompanied by a caring and supportive

school environment.

Please take the time to carefully review the *Middle School Catalog of Courses*. Read the course descriptions and the state-mandated graduation requirements. Do not hesitate to ask your parents, teachers, and/or guidance counselors for help when choosing your academic program.

The Wicomico County Public School System is committed to providing the best education possible for all students with the ultimate mission of *Success - One Student At a Time*. My best wishes to each of you as you continue your middle school education and pursue your chosen career.

Thomas B. Field
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Wicomico County Middle Schools

School	Grades	Guidance Counselor	Telephone Number
Bennett Middle 200 East College Ave. Salisbury, MD 21804 Principal: Mr. C. Michael Johnson	6 - 8	Charlene Creese Robin Harmon	Main Office 410-677-5140 Guidance 410-677-5131
Pittsville Middle 34404 Old Ocean City Rd. Pittsville, MD 21850 Principal: Joyce Dunn	6 - 8	Valerie Hughes	Main Office 410-677-5811 Guidance 410-677-5897
Mardela Middle/High P.O. Box A 24940 Delmar Rd. Mardela Springs, MD 21837 Principal: Mr. Micah Stauffer	6 - 8 9 - 12	Lisa Armstrong Roland Finger	Main Office 410-677-5142 Guidance 410-677-5163
Salisbury Middle School 607 Morris St. Salisbury, MD 21801 Principal: Mr. Michael Cody	6 - 8	Debra Turner John Williams Jr.	Main Office 410-677-5149 Guidance 410-677-5121
Wicomico Middle School 635 East Main St. Salisbury, MD 21804 Principal: Mr. Jon Shearer	6 - 8	Tameka Holden Oliver Johnson	Main Office 410-677-5145 Guidance 410-677-5194
Director of Secondary Education Kimberly Miles Director of Curriculum Ms. Ruth F. Malone Supervisor of Guidance Mr. D. Joe Koehler Wicomico County Board of Education 101 Long Avenue Salisbury, MD 21804			410-677-4584 410-677-4560 410-677-4597

Wicomico County Board of Education

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Wicomico County Public School System is to provide all students an educational foundation and a set of skills, which will enable them to become responsible and productive citizens in our society.

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to educate each student to his or her full potential.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Public education in Wicomico County is based on the democratic principle that students have, by right, the opportunity to develop their potential to the fullest. While the pursuit of education is a right, a privilege and a responsibility that is shared by the school, the student, the home, and religious and other community entities, the primary responsibility for this education development lies with the student and the school.

It is acknowledged that individuals vary greatly in their needs and abilities. Consequently, the school system has the obligation to provide diversified and well-balanced programs.

Education in Wicomico County is concerned not only with the intellectual and skill development of the students, but also with other aspects of their growth. Since education is a continuous process, it is the responsibility of the school system to make its instructional program relevant to the present as well as applicable and useful for the future.

In our school system, education should be a dynamic process subject to evaluation, revision and updating of existing programs based upon the need of students, the latest knowledge and current scientific information as to how individuals learn.

In conformity with this philosophy, the Wicomico County School System will:

- Provide a safe environment that will insure the physical and emotional well-being of students as they pursue their education.
- Help students acquire knowledge, habits, and attitudes necessary to become responsible and productive citizens.
- Provide a rigorous academic curriculum which challenges all students to develop their intellectual capabilities to the fullest.
- Devise techniques of teaching that will prepare students for a world of rapid change requiring continuous learning.
- Maximize the potential of each student by adapting teaching methods to the diversity of learning styles and capabilities of students.
- Create an environment designed to encourage a students' development and maintenance of a positive self-image and attitude toward school.
- Assist students and staff in developing an understanding of and an appreciation for persons of different social, economic, cultural, and ethnic groups.
- Provide encouragement of and opportunities for creativity.
- Assist in the development of sound health habits and an understanding of the conditions necessary for the maintenance of physical and emotional well-being.
- Prepare students to take advantage of present and future career opportunities.
- Work cooperatively with other public and private community entities to enhance and support student learning experiences.
- Enhance community interest in and understanding of the purposes and processes of public education.

BELIEFS

We, the members of the Wicomico County Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, believe the following:

- All students can learn.
- Each student should be challenged to reach his or her full potential.
- The diversity of each individual, including his or her unique and innate characteristics, should be respected.
- Students should be exposed to a wide array of academic, co-curricular, and extracurricular experiences.
- Students should experience rigorous content and achieve high standards.
- Each student should acquire a core body of knowledge and a set of definable skills prior to graduation.
- Community-based values should be reinforced.
- Parents or guardians should be intimately involved in the education of their child(ren).
- Schools should welcome and encourage parental and community involvement.
- Students benefit when those closest to the action are involved in the decision-making process.
- Continual evaluations of the school system should be made to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of high quality public education.
- Public education should be governed by local board of education.
- The Maryland State Board of Education, the Maryland State Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Education should be supportive of the local boards of education.

Revised 3/11/97

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS
Maryland High School Diploma

The Maryland High School Diploma is awarded to those students who have met four basic requirements:

A. Enrollment

The student must have been a full-time student for four years beyond Grade Eight unless one of the alternatives approved by the Maryland State Board of Education is satisfied.

B. Credits

The student must have earned a minimum of twenty-one credits at the completion of grade twelve. At least four of these credits shall be earned after the completion of Grade Eleven unless an alternative method is approved. The credits must include the following:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Core Credits</u>
English	4
Social Studies	3 Modern World History (1), Foundations of American Government (1), and United States History (1)
Science	3 Science Biology and 2 other laboratory science courses All must have a laboratory experience.
Mathematics	3 One - With fundamental or advanced algebraic concepts and topics One - With fundamental or advanced geometric concepts and topics
Health	½
Physical Education	1 (½ Maryland / ½ Wicomico County)
Fine Arts	1 Art, music, or drama
Technology Education	1

*A student must also meet one of the following career preparation options:

1. Satisfactory completion of two credits in the same foreign language.
2. Satisfactory completion of one of the state approved Career Technology programs.
3. Satisfactory completion of two credits in Advanced Technology.

C. Assessment

The student must have a passing score on the HSA tested areas or a combined score of 1602, designed by the Maryland State Department of Education. At middle school these tests apply to students completing Algebra.

Grade 7 or 8 Only
End of course testing in Algebra

D. Student Service Learning

The student must have satisfactorily met the student service requirement. For additional information see page 8.

EARNING CREDIT

A. Credit for Courses Taken While in Middle School

1. A rising ninth grader who has completed one or more of the following courses with a grade “C” or better while in middle school will receive high school credit for:
 - a. Approved middle school courses that are the same as offered in the high school and are tested by the same criterion reference test (Algebra I, Algebra I Part II, Algebra II/Trig, French I, Latin I and Spanish I)
 - b. Actual courses taken in high school.
 - c. An approved comparable and recognized high school program, e.g., The Johns Hopkins CTY program.
2. Students who receive a final grade of “A”, “B” or “C” will receive a credit and the appropriate grade points will count toward their high school grade point average.
3. A student who decides to retake one of the identified courses in high school will receive the higher grade and corresponding grade points.
4. Students who do not want the grade(s) and grade points from middle school courses to remain on their high school record must contact their high school guidance counselor in writing by the end of the first marking period of the ninth grade to have them removed.

B. Credit by Examination - A rising ninth grader who is entering from outside the Wicomico County Public School System may earn high school credit through the following provisions:

1. The student must have completed one of the following courses or programs while in middle school:
 - a. Approved middle school courses offered in the high school, such as Algebra I, Algebra II/Trig, French I, Spanish I, and Latin I.
 - b. Actual courses taken in high school.
 - c. Approved, comparable and recognized high school program, e.g., The Johns Hopkins CTY program.
2. The student must have a final grade of “A”, “B” or “C”.
3. The student must take and pass the challenge examination with a passing grade of 70 percent or higher.
4. The student may take a challenge examination only once.
5. Students will receive the actual grade earned of “C” or better and the appropriate grade points earned while in middle school. This credit will count toward their high school grade point average.
6. A student who decides to retake one of the identified courses in high school will receive the higher grade and corresponding grade points.
7. Students who do not want the grade(s) and grade points from middle school courses to remain on their high school record must contact their high school guidance counselor in writing by the end of the first marking period of the ninth grade to have them removed.

SERVICE-LEARNING: A REQUIRED CURRICULUM COMPONENT

ALL students in Maryland must meet the state graduation requirement in service-learning which must include *preparation, action* and *reflection*. In Wicomico County, that requirement is met in Grades Six through Nine with service learning as a component of the curricula for English, mathematics, science and social studies.

Service-Learning Sequence by Grade and Subject in Wicomico County

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>MINIMUM HOURS</u>
6	Social Studies (Orientation)	5
	English (Infused)	5
	Science (Infused)	5
	Family & Consumer Sciences	5
7	Social Studies (Infused)	5
	English (Infused)	5
	Science (Infused)	5
	Mathematics (Infused)	5
8	Social Studies (Infused)	5
	English (Infused)	5
	Science (Infused)	5
	Mathematics (Infused)	5
9	Social Studies (Infused)	5
	English (Infused)	5
	Science (Infused)	5
	Mathematics (Infused)	5
10	(No infused core curricular hours committed to service learning)	
11	Elective: Students Organized for Service I (Parkside High only)	
12	Elective: Students Organized for Service 11 (Parkside High only)	

Students become involved in *preparation, action* and *reflection* of class, team and individual service projects. *Infusion* is accomplished by including experiential service-learning activities in already existent units of study. In middle school, infusion may be accomplished through using service-learning as a theme for interdisciplinary teams. In all instances, projects/plans should offer a wide array of choice.

**GENERAL INFORMATION
GRADE SIX**

I. COURSE SELECTION

- A. Course selections should be discussed with teachers, parents/guardians, and your middle school counselor.
- B. Elective courses chosen for the coming school year should be checked on the Course Selection Form, taken home and reviewed with your parents/guardians, and returned with the required signatures by the deadline date.
- C. Course placement will take into consideration both academic performance (grades, MSA scores, SRI scores, etc.) and teacher recommendations.
- D. **DURING THE SCHEDULING PROCESS, PARENTS HAVE THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN DETERMINING THE COURSES IN WHICH THEIR STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED. HOWEVER, IF THEIR DECISION CONFLICTS WITH THE ADVICE OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL, PARENTS MUST SIGN INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO FOLLOW THIS ADVICE.**

II. REQUIRED COURSES

- A. Reading /English Language Arts 6
- B. Math 6
(Each student will be enrolled in one of the following selections, according to data and teacher recommendation)
 - 1. Pre-Algebra
 - 2. Math 6
- C. Ancient History 6
- D. Integrated Science 6
- E. Physical Education 6
- F. Fine Arts 6 - (students will select one)
 - 1. Choral Music
 - 2. General Music
 - 3. Beginning Band
 - 4. Continuing Band
 - 5. Strings (currently not available at Pittsville Middle)
 - 6. Art
- G. Related Arts
 - 1. Family and Consumer Science 6
 - 2. Technology Education 6
- H. Health 6
- I. Computer 6

III. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) This program is provided at Bennett

Middle School for all eligible students in Grades 6-8.

IV. SPECIAL EDUCATION/504

Special Education services are provided at the middle school level for students with disabilities. Wicomico County special education services comply with federal and state laws. These laws specify that students with disabilities will be educated with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate and have access to the general education curriculum in the least restrictive environment.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS GRADE SIX

English

Reading/English Language Arts 6 (RELA)

RELA 6 is a continuation of the developmental reading program which requires the alignment of the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Grade 6. Program implementation involves direct, explicit comprehension instruction of strategies and skills along with differentiated instruction utilizing both literary and informational texts with a wide range of topics and reading levels.

Social Studies

Ancient History 6

Students will focus on studying the geographic, political, economic, and social development of early civilizations. They will explore the earliest recorded history of civilizations to the empires of Greece and Rome. The course begins with an in-depth study of ancient Egyptians, Mesopotamian society, as well as cultures of early Africa, India and China. Students will also examine the characteristics of the major world religions including Christianity, Judaism, Islam and Buddhism.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

This course is a one year program of algebra readiness. Concepts taught will include basic operations with decimals, fractions, integers as well as equations with variables. Students will work on graphing equations, collecting and analyzing data and determining probability. In addition, this course will include content standards from the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for grade seven.

Mathematics 6

This course will focus on concepts from the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for grade six. Students will move beyond the four basic operations of whole numbers and apply these operations to fractions and decimals. Students will continue to work with measurement, graphs, statistics, probability and geometry.

Science

Integrated Science 6

Grade 6 Science includes content from Earth and Space Science, Life Science and Physical Science. The content from all three domains is required. A coordinated or integrated program is envisioned at each school level. The knowledge, processes and applications of science introduced in middle school should expand student knowledge of scientific concepts learned in grades K-5. Students will employ questions, activities, projects and other techniques to develop creative and critical thinking skills. This program is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum and the objectives are achieved using a balanced approach of hands-on, inquiry and traditional methods of education.

ESOL

ESOL I English for Speakers of Other Languages (Bennett Middle School only) **Grades 6-8**

ESOL I is designed to prepare non-English speaking students to communicate orally and to acquire both linguistic proficiency and cultural awareness. Students focus upon English skills necessary for classroom success. In addition, students learn to participate in the community and to understand basic cultural differences. ESOL I students will focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening skills at a beginning level. In placing new students, the ESOL teacher will administer the LAS Links Assessment and review prior records to determine the student's level of English proficiency. Foreign language credit may be given for this course.

ESOL II English for Speakers of Other Languages (Bennett Middle School only) **Grades 6-8**

ESOL II is designed to prepare limited English proficient students to communicate proficiently, to polish linguistic skills and to enhance their cultural awareness. Students focus upon skills necessary for classroom and community success. Student proficiency level is intermediate to advanced in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In placing new students, the ESOL teacher will administer the LAS Links Assessment and review prior records to determine the student's level of English proficiency. Foreign Language credit may be given for this course.

Fine Arts/Performing Arts

Art 6

This course will encourage students to be creative while covering the basic elements of art and principles of design using a variety of techniques and media. Students will draw, paint, design crafts and study art history. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts.

General Music 6

This course will study rhythm, melody, harmony, form and orchestral instruments. Students will be expected to apply fundamentals of music as they review American and worldwide music of the past and present. This course is aligned with Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts.

Choral Music 6

This course will teach good singing techniques, the rudiments of rhythm and sight singing, and increase students' knowledge of musical literature. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts. **Students are required to attend concerts and rehearsals during after school hours.**

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the elementary music teacher.

Beginning Band 6

This course will teach students to play woodwind, brass or percussion instruments at the beginning level. Method materials and music practiced will develop musical skills and discipline. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts.

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the elementary band director and the student must provide his/her instrument.

Continuing Band 6

This course will review and expand beginning knowledge and skills acquired in grade five beginning band. Method materials and music practiced will develop musical skills to perform "Grade I and II" music reasonably well. Intermediate skills and knowledge will be explored. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts. **Students are required to attend concerts and rehearsals during after school hours.**

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the elementary band director.

Strings 6

This course will review and expand beginning knowledge and skills acquired in grade four and five beginning strings. Method materials and music practiced will develop musical skills to perform “Grade I and II” music reasonably well. Intermediate skills and knowledge will be explored. This course is aligned with Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts. **Students are required to attend concerts and rehearsals during after school hours.**

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the elementary string teacher.

Health and Physical Education

Health 6

This course will help prepare students to make decisions, which will enable them to develop in a healthy manner. Topics to be discussed are personal health and hygiene, substance abuse prevention, nutrition, human development and safety.

Physical Education 6

This course includes twelve activity units with one required unit in rhythm and dance, recreational and lifetime activities and cooperative activities. The team sports activities include field hockey, football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, lacrosse, softball and track and field. These activities focus on learning the basic skills of each sport and how to apply the skills in game situations. Health related fitness is an important part of the curriculum and is integrated into the course at each school. Each student’s proficiency in the components of physical fitness should be monitored.

Technology Education

Computer 6

In this course students are taught touch fingering techniques to enter alphanumeric data on a keyboard. This course allows students to both communicate and obtain information electronically. Computer crime, security, reliability, and social issue of privacy will also be introduced.

Family And Consumer Sciences 6

Family and Consumer Science is designed to give students basic life skills. Students learn skills to help them cope with the challenges and stresses of middle school. Also covered are topics such as nutritional snacks, basic hand sewing and friendship. Students will also complete five hours of student service learning. Students are responsible for the expense of the hand sewing project. A fee of \$5.00 is assessed for the kit.

Technology Education 6

This course will place emphasis on using technology to solve problems in the areas of transportation, manufacturing, communications, and power/energy/transportation. Students will solve practical problems using science, math, and technology skills. Teamwork, positive work habits, and safe use of tools and equipment will be stressed.

GENERAL INFORMATION GRADE SEVEN

I. COURSE SELECTION

- A. Course selections should be discussed with your teachers, parents/guardians, and your guidance counselor.
- B. Elective courses chosen for the coming school year should be checked on the Course Selection Form, taken home and reviewed with parents/guardians, and returned with required signatures by the deadline date.
- C. Course placement will take into consideration both academic performance (grades, MSA scores, SRI scores, etc.) and teacher recommendations.
- D. **DURING THE SCHEDULING PROCESS, PARENTS HAVE THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN DETERMINING THE COURSES IN WHICH THEIR STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED. HOWEVER, IF THEIR DECISION CONFLICTS WITH THE ADVICE OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL, PARENTS MUST SIGN INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO FOLLOW THIS ADVICE.**

II. REQUIRED COURSES

- A. Reading/English Language Arts 7
- B. United States History 7
- C. Integrated Science 7
- D. Mathematics 7 - (each student will be enrolled in one of the following selections, according to data and teacher recommendation)
 - 1. Algebra I CM
 - 2. Algebra I, Part I
 - 3. Pre-Algebra
- E. Physical Education 7
- F. Computer 7
- G. Health 7
- H. Fine Arts/Performing Arts - Select one of the following: art, band, strings, chorus or general music - (strings not currently available at Pittsville Middle)

III. ELECTIVE COURSES - Note: seventh grade students will select from the following list:

- A. Family and Consumer Science 7
- B. Technology Education 7
- C. An additional Fine Arts/Performing Arts course
- D. Exploratory Foreign Language

IV. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) This program is housed at Bennett Middle School for all eligible students in grades 6-8.

V. SPECIAL EDUCATION/504

Special Education services are provided at the middle school level for students with disabilities. Wicomico County special education services comply with federal and state laws. These laws specify that students with disabilities will be educated with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate and have access to the general education curriculum in the least restrictive environment.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS GRADE SEVEN

English

Reading/English Language Arts 7 (RELA)

RELA 7 is an integrated program of literature, writing, oral communication, grammar, and mechanics. Skills and strategies are aligned with Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Grade 7. Comprehension is presented as a strategic process which enables the reader to construct meaning. Students are presented with a variety of literary and informational text.

World Language

Exploratory Foreign Language 7

The exploratory course in world language presents students with strategies for language learning, offers insight into the nature of language itself, and introduces students to French, Latin, Spanish and American Sign Language. Students will receive exposure to the culture of other countries. Native language skills will be refined and expanded continuously. World language career options and advantages are discussed. The intention of the course is to inspire curiosity, interest, and success leading to the formal study of a world language.

Social Studies

United States History 7

The course begins with a study of the English colonies, the struggles for political power, declaring and winning independence and the forging of a new republic. Analysis of primary source documents such as: Articles of Confederation, Mayflower Compact, and Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution will be addressed during this class. The War of 1812, Manifest Destiny, Jacksonian Democracy, and the plight of enslaved individuals will also comprise major emphasis in this course. The course will end with in depth discussions of the Civil War and Reconstruction.

ESOL

ESOL I English for Speakers of Other Languages (Bennett Middle School only)

Grades 6-8

ESOL I is designed to prepare non-English speaking students to communicate orally and to acquire both linguistic proficiency and cultural awareness. Students focus upon English skills necessary for classroom success. In addition, students learn to participate in the community and to understand basic cultural differences. ESOL I students will focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening skills at a beginning level. In placing new students, the ESOL teacher will administer the LAS Links Assessment and review prior records to determine the student's level of English proficiency. Foreign language credit may be given for this course.

ESOL II English for Speakers of Other Languages (Bennett Middle School only)

Grades 6-8

ESOL II is designed to prepare limited English proficient students to communicate proficiently, to polish linguistic skills and to enhance their cultural awareness. Students focus upon skills necessary for classroom and community success. Student proficiency level is intermediate to advanced in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In placing new students, the ESOL teacher will administer the LAS Links Assessment and review prior records to determine the student's level of English proficiency. Foreign Language credit may be given for this course.

Fine Arts/Performing Arts

Art 7

This course will use a variety of visual art techniques and media. The students will complete approximately seven projects dealing with drawing, paints, crafts, 2-D design, 3-D design, and art history. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts.

General Music 7

This course will study rhythm, melody, harmony, form, and orchestral instruments. Students will be expected to apply fundamentals of music as they review American and world-wide music of the past and present. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts.

Choral Music 7

This course will teach good singing techniques, rudiments of rhythm and sight singing, and increase students' knowledge of musical literature. Students will build upon skills learned in Grade 6 music/chorus. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts.

Students are required to attend concerts and rehearsals during after-school hours.

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the middle school choral director.

Band 7

This course will review and expand beginning knowledge and skills acquired in grade six band. Method materials and music practiced will develop musical skills to perform "Grade II" music reasonably well. Intermediate skills and knowledge will be explored. Class members may audition for the Concert Band and Marching Band. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts. **Students are required to attend concerts and rehearsals during after-school hours.**

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the middle school band director.

Strings 7

This course will review and expand beginning knowledge and skills acquired in grade six strings. Method materials and music practiced will develop musical skills to perform "Grade I and II" music reasonably well. Intermediate skills and knowledge will be explored. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts. **Students are required to attend concerts and rehearsals during after-school hours.**

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the middle school string teacher.

Health and Physical Education

Health 7

This semester course encourages the student to develop skills, attitudes and behaviors that enable one to make responsible decisions about health and avoid health-related crises. Topics include mental health, personal and consumer health, nutrition and fitness, human development, disease and injury prevention and drug prevention.

Physical Education 7

This course includes twelve activity units with one required unit in rhythm and dance, weight training and cooperative activities. The team sports activities include passover football, speedball, basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, lacrosse, softball and track and field. These activities focus on learning the basic skills of each sport and how to apply the skills in game situations. Health related fitness is an important part of the curriculum and is integrated into the course at each school. Each student's proficiency in the components of physical fitness should be monitored.

Technology Education

Computer 7

This course begins with a review and refinement of keyboarding skills from grade Six. Keyboarding applications are then introduced. Keyboarding applications are the process by which students will cover all features of word processing and desktop publishing. They will learn how to format documents that they will need in their future studies. These include reports, letters, envelopes, memorandums, newspapers, and tables. Computer crime, security, reliability, and social issue of privacy will be introduced to all students.

Family and Consumer Science 7

This course is designed to give students an overview of the basic areas of Family and Consumer Science; personal development, clothing construction, nutrition, food preparation, and consumer issues. Activities include creating a hand sewing project, preparing breakfast foods in the kitchen, writing consumer letters, and problem-solving skills as related to the student and family. Students are responsible for the expense of the hand sewing project. A fee of \$5.00 - \$10.00 is assessed for the kit.

Technology Education 7

Students will explore the use of technology in the areas of transportation, manufacturing, communications, and power/energy/transportation. Students will use drafting tools, CADD software to design products. They will mass produce a product and will design and test a model bridge or structure. Students will learn about careers. Teamwork and safe use of tools and equipment will be stressed.

**GENERAL INFORMATION
GRADE EIGHT**

I. COURSE SELECTION

- A. Course selections should be discussed with your teachers, parents/guardians and your guidance counselor.
- B. Elective courses chosen for the coming school year should be checked on the Course Selection Form, taken home and reviewed with your parents/guardians, and returned with the required signatures by the deadline date.
- C. Course placement will take into consideration both academic performance (grades, MSA scores, SRI scores, etc.) and teacher recommendations.
- D. **DURING THE SCHEDULING PROCESS, PARENTS HAVE THE FINAL AUTHORITY IN DETERMINING THE COURSES IN WHICH THEIR STUDENTS ARE ENROLLED. HOWEVER, IF THEIR DECISION CONFLICTS WITH THE ADVICE OF SCHOOL PERSONNEL, PARENTS MUST SIGN INDICATING THAT THEY HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO FOLLOW THIS ADVICE.**

II. REQUIRED COURSES

- A. English/Reading/World Language
 - 1. Reading/English Language Arts 8 -
 - 2. Reading 8/World Language (each student will be enrolled in one of the following selections, according to academic performance and/or teacher recommendation).
- B. World History 8
- C. Integrated Science 8
- D. Mathematics 8 - (each student will be enrolled in one of the following selections, according to academic performance and/or teacher recommendation).
 - 1. Algebra II/Trigonometry CM
 - 2. Algebra I, Part II CM
 - 3. Algebra I, Part I
- E. Physical Education 8
- F. Computer 8
- G. Health 8

III. ELECTIVE COURSES - (Choose two) one must be a Fine Art/Performing Arts

- A. Art 8
- B. Band 8
- C. Chorus 8
- D. General Music 8
- E. Strings 8 (currently not available at Pittsville Middle)
- F. Family and Consumer Science 8

- G. Technology Education 8
- H. Exploratory Foreign Language

IV. ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) This program is housed at Bennett Middle School for all eligible students in Grades 6-8.

V. SPECIAL EDUCATION/504

Special Education services are provided at the middle school level for students with disabilities. Wicomico County special education services comply with federal and state laws. These laws specify that students with disabilities will be educated with their non-disabled peers to the maximum extent appropriate and have access to the general education curriculum in the least restrictive environment.

The exploratory course in world language presents students with strategies for language learning, offers insight into the nature of language itself, and introduces students to French, Latin, Spanish and American Sign Language. Students will receive exposure to the culture of other countries. Native language skills will be refined and expanded continuously. World language career options and advantages are discussed. The intention of the course is to inspire curiosity, interest, and success leading to the formal study of a world language.

Social Studies

World History 8

Students will continue to explore world history by focusing their attention on the study of Greek and Roman cultures from an economic, political, geographic, and historic perspective. Students will examine what life was like and how it started to change during the early and later middle ages, and throughout the Renaissance and Protestant Reformation. Students will also gain an understanding of the role of the religious institutions in the political, social, and economic climate of the time.

Mathematics

Algebra II/Trigonometry - CM

3022

Grades 8-12

1 high school credit

This course extends the skills taught in Algebra I with emphasis on teaching equation solving and its application to word problems. Topics included are graphing of linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, relations and functions, irrational numbers, roots and radicals. Triangle trigonometry is introduced. In addition, content standards and process standards from the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for grade eight will be reviewed. Students successfully completing this course with a final grade of “C” or better will receive a high school credit.

Prerequisite: C or better in Algebra I

Algebra I, Part II - CM

3027 Grades 8-12

1 high school credit

This course addresses the second half of the Algebra I curriculum from the Maryland Core Learning Goals 1 (Functions and Algebra) and Goal 3 (Data Analysis and Probability). Topics include the use of fractions in solving equations, functions, systems of linear equations, inequalities and rational and irrational numbers. In addition, content standards and process standards from the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for grade eight will be reviewed.

In middle school, a final grade of “C” or higher will earn a high school credit. At the end of this course, students will take the Maryland High School for Algebra.

Passing the Maryland High School for Assessment for Algebra is a Maryland graduation requirement.

Prerequisite: C or better in Algebra I, Part I.

Algebra I, Part I

This course is the first year of a two-year algebra program addressing the Maryland Core Learning Goals 1 (Functions and Algebra) and Goal 3 (Data Analysis and Probability). Topics include working with real numbers, solving equations, problem solving and polynomials. In addition, content standards and process standards from the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for grade eight will be reviewed.

Science

Integrated Science 8

Grade 8 Science includes content from Earth/Space Science, Life Science and Physical Science. The content from all three domains is required. A coordinated or integrated program is envisioned at each school level. The knowledge, processes and applications of science introduced in middle school should expand student knowledge of scientific concepts learned in grades K-5. Students will employ questions, activities, projects and other techniques to develop creative and critical thinking skills. This program is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum and the objectives are achieved using a balanced approach of hands-on, inquiry and traditional methods of education.

ESOL

ESOL I English for Speakers of Other Languages (Bennett Middle School only) **Grades 6-8**

ESOL I is designed to prepare non-English speaking students to communicate orally and to acquire both linguistic proficiency and cultural awareness. Students focus upon English skills necessary for classroom success. In addition, students learn to participate in the community and to understand basic cultural differences. ESOL I students will focus on reading, writing, speaking and listening skills at a beginning level. In placing new students, the ESOL teacher will administer the LAS Links Assessment and review prior records to determine the student's level of English proficiency. Foreign language credit may be given for this course.

ESOL II English for Speakers of Other Languages (Bennett Middle School only) **Grades 6-8**

ESOL II is designed to prepare limited English proficient students to communicate proficiently, to polish linguistic skills and to enhance their cultural awareness. Students focus upon skills necessary for classroom and community success. Student proficiency level is intermediate to advanced in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. In placing new students, the ESOL teacher will administer the LAS Links Assessment and review prior records to determine the student's level of English proficiency. Foreign Language credit may be given for this course.

Health and Physical Education

Health 8

This course is designed to increase the student's health knowledge, develop health-related decision-making skills, and aid in the formation of positive attitudes and behaviors about self and others. Units of study include mental health, personal and consumer health, nutrition and fitness, human development, disease and injury prevention and drug prevention.

Physical Education 8

This course includes ten activity units with one required unit in weight training and cooperative activities. The team sports activities include field hockey, soccer, basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, softball and track and field. These activities focus on learning the basic skills of each sport and how to apply the skills in game situations. Health related fitness is an important part of the curriculum and is integrated into the course at each school. Each student's proficiency in the components of physical fitness should be monitored.

Fine Arts/Performing Arts

Art 8

This course is designed for students to become acquainted with a variety of art mediums and to demonstrate their abilities in drawing, cartooning, painting, and sculpture. Students will become aware of a number of artists and their styles. Students who show advanced knowledge and skill will work on a higher level. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts.

Band 8

This course will review and expand intermediate knowledge and skills acquired in Band 7. Method materials and music practiced will develop musical skills to perform “Grade I and Grade II” music reasonably well. Advanced skills and knowledge will be explored. Marching techniques will be demonstrated. Class members are eligible to perform in the 8th grade Concert Band and may audition for the Marching Band/Symphonic Band. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts. **Students are required to attend concerts and rehearsals during after school hours.**

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the middle school band director.

Choral Music 8

This course will teach good singing techniques, the rudiments of rhythm and sight singing, and increase student’s knowledge of musical literature. Students will build upon skills learned in Grade 7 music/chorus. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts.

Students are required to attend concerts and rehearsals during after school hours.

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the middle school choral director.

General Music 8

This course will allow students to demonstrate creative ability experimenting with different sounds and improvisation. It also covers music theory and musical instruments. The elements of music history, voice, and piano are also explored. It will be taught at a more advanced level than General Music 7. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts.

Strings 8

This course will review and expand beginning knowledge and skills acquired in Grade 7 Strings. Method materials and music practiced will develop musical skills to perform “Grade II” music reasonably well. Intermediate skills and knowledge will be explored. This course is aligned with the Maryland Voluntary State Curriculum for Fine Arts. **Students are required to attend concerts and rehearsals during after school hours.**

Prerequisite: Recommendation from the middle school string teacher.

Technology Education

Computer 8

This course will provide an introduction to the concepts of basic computing skills. All eighth grade students will have the opportunity to acquire skills necessary for database, spreadsheet, graphing, and desktop publishing applications. Additionally, word processing skills will be reinforced. Students will be exposed to a combination of lectures, demonstrations, class work exercises, and hands-on activities using a word processing software program and supplementary materials.

Family and Consumer Science 8

This course is based on skills and knowledge developed in Family and Consumer Science 6 and 7. The units of study include child care, nutrition, clothing construction, personal development, food preparation and consumer issues. Activities include a sewing project, preparing lunch foods in the kitchen, and developing presentations on the basic nutrients. Interpersonal skills, problem-solving skills and communication skills will be emphasized throughout the course. Students are responsible for the expense of the sewing project. A fee of \$5.00 - \$10.00 is assessed for the sewing kit.

Technology 8

This course emphasizes problem solving skills and the systems approach as related to technology. The areas of transportation, power/energy/transportation, manufacturing, and communications will be examined. Students will gain knowledge in a hands-on learning approach through various projects and activities. Teamwork and the safe use of tools and machines will be stressed.