

MERCER COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Middle School

CURRICULUM GUIDE

(Revised 2006-07)



Computer Technology

**WVEIS Code 2841
(06) (07) (08)**

These courses serve as introductory computer courses for Middle School focusing on the fundamentals of computer operation, introduction to Windows, Microsoft Word, and/or Corel Office 8 including word processing with Microsoft Word or Word Perfect and presentation methods with Power Point or Corel presentations. Basic reference and research skills will be included.

Prerequisite: None - **Note:** Internet Agreement signed by student and parent required.

MATH 6

WVEIS Code 3006

Math 6 places continued emphasis on the study of whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Real life application is sought via the use of problem solving using calculators and computers. Manipulatives will be used. The areas of probability, statistics, geometry and pre-algebra will be stressed.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 6

PRE-ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY

WVEIS Code 3007

The seventh grade course is an introduction to high school subjects such as algebra, geometry, probability and statistics. Instruction focuses on preparing the student for Algebra I in grade 8. There is less emphasis on paper/pencil computation therefore calculators and available technologies are utilized. Problem solving is embedded in the curriculum utilizing a variety of new concepts, while cooperative learning promotes communication skills.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 7

PRE-GEOMETRY/ALGEBRA

WVEIS Code 3008

Pre-Geometry with Algebra is an alternative course for students who do not qualify to take Algebra I in grade 8. This course serves to reinforce the concepts presented in Pre-Algebra/Geometry.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 8 and/or successful completion of Pre-Algebra/Geometry.

ALGEBRA I

WVEIS Code 3021

Algebra I is a gateway to all higher math courses. The course utilizes a conceptual approach to mathematics. Algebraic representations shall be used and the algebraic method used as a problem-solving tool. Manipulatives should be used to help bridge the gap from the concrete to the abstract. Available technology, such as calculators and computers, are appropriate learning tools.

Prerequisite: Must meet eligibility criteria established by county policy.

Note: Algebra I is a CREDIT course.

ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY PREP

WVEIS Code 3042

Algebra/Geometry Prep is designed to be a bridge between the concrete elementary curriculum and the more formal math curriculum of High School. Students explore algebraic concepts in an informal way to build a foundation for subsequent formal study of algebra. Emphasis should be on physical models, data, graphs and other mathematical representations rather than with formal algebraic manipulations. The geometry component is designed to assist students in making sense of their world, while providing opportunities for students to engage in more systematic exploration.

Prerequisite: *By special arrangement.* **Note:** Algebra/Geometry Prep is a CREDIT course.

GEOMETRY

WVEIS Code 3045

Geometry is a course that includes experiences and activities that foster in students a feeling for the value of geometry in their lives. Students should be encouraged to develop conjectures by inductive processes using manipulatives and computer software. Cooperative Learning groups are particularly effective in assisting students in analyzing conjectures and in formulating proofs. Emphasis should be placed on applications to the workplace and everyday life and on connections to other branches of mathematics and other disciplines.

Prerequisite: *Successful completion of Algebra I* **Note:** Geometry is a CREDIT course.

TITLE I MATH

WVEIS Code 3049

GENERAL MUSIC 6, 7, 8

WVEIS Code 3606,3607,3608

General Music courses provide opportunities for non-performing students to examine the basic elements of music (melody, harmony, texture, form, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, and timbre) while participating in the musical processes of singing and playing.

Prerequisite: *None*

CHORAL MUSIC 6, 7, 8

WVEIS Code 3616,3617,3618

Students will develop beginning singing skills including the demonstration of proper breathing and dynamics in musical phases. Further, students will improvise harmonies and melodies while participating in a four-part, full choral ensemble. Emphasis will be placed on developing a beginning level of performance, which may be built upon in the high school years.

Prerequisite: *None*

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC 6, 7, 8

WVEIS Code 3636,3637,3638

Students in band will continue a progression initiated in Beginning Band of developing their ability to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument in both a marching band and concert band setting. Emphasis will be on performing as an instrumental group. Skills that will be developed will include but not be limited to reading music and performing as a member of a musical group. As skills develop, the more challenging the musical content will become.

Prerequisite: *Successful completion of Beginning Band*

GUITAR

WVEIS Code 3726

String instruction provides for the development of the skills needed for playing of the guitar. Skills will include proper seating position, posture, hand position, as well as proper tuning, chords, and interpretation

of basic musical notation.

Prerequisite: Students must provide own instrument and instructional text

HANDBELL/CHOIR CHIMES

WVEIS Code 3742

The student will explore beat, rhythm and basic techniques used in the ringing of music.

The student performer will explore musical elements and techniques involved in rehearsing and performing in small ensembles and as a soloist.

Prerequisite:

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 6

WVEIS Code 4006

English/Language Arts at the sixth grade level promotes continued proficiency in communication skills of students. Listening and speaking skills are emphasized. Reading objectives strive to promote the development of various vocabulary and comprehension skills that enhance learning. Further emphasis is placed on the development of effective writing skills, including pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing and publishing.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 6

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 7

WVEIS Code 4007

Course is second in a three course middle school series and builds upon the requisite grammar and composition skills that are rudimentary at the middle school level. Reading and vocabulary skills will be emphasized through a wide variety of literary genre. Language mechanics and expression are targeted as well as the ability to gather, organize, and interpret information.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 7

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 8

WVEIS Code 4008

Course is final in three part middle school series and further builds upon the grammar and composition skills that will be needed in High school. Literature components as well as opportunities to write are included.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 8

YEARBOOK

WVEIS Code 4071

A class that is used for the development of the middle school yearbook, including the writing, design, layout and pre-publication skills that are necessary to produce a book.

Prerequisite: None

DEVELOPMENTAL READING 6, 7, 8

WVEIS Code 4806,4807,4808

Developmental Reading courses are intended to improve a student's vocabulary, critical thinking, and analysis skills, or reading rate and comprehension level. Although works of fiction are typically

emphasized, non-fiction may also be included. Developmental Reading courses often have a time-management focus, offering strategies for note-taking or for understanding and evaluating the important points of a text.

Prerequisite:

TITLE I READING

WVEIS Code 4809

ASSISTED READING 6, 7, 8

WVEIS Code 4836,4837,4838

Assisted Reading courses offer students the opportunity to focus on their reading skills. Assistance is targeted to students' particular weaknesses, and is designed to bring poor readers' reading comprehension up to the desired level, or to develop strategies to read more efficiently in order to progress at a steady rate through high school.

EXPLORATORY FRENCH

WVEIS Code: 5620

Exploratory French allows students to comprehend and produce words phrases and simple sentences using memorized words and phrases from the target language. Emphasis is on comprehension and oral skill rather than on writing. Basic communication as a foundation for more formal future instruction is the focus. Students are introduced to ways in which French is connected to the English language.

Prerequisite: None

FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEVEL I (FRENCH)

WVEIS Code: 5621

EXPLORATORY SPANISH

WVEIS Code: 5660

Exploratory Spanish allows students to comprehend and produce words, phrases and simple sentences using memorized words and phrases from the target language. Emphasis is on comprehension and oral skill rather than on writing. Basic communication as a foundation for more formal future instruction is the focus. Students are introduced to ways in which Spanish is connected to the English language.

Prerequisite: None

FOREIGN LANGUAGE LEVEL I (SPANISH)

WVEIS Code: 5661

The *Level I* in modern foreign languages allows students to comprehend and produce simple short sentences and ideas using memorized words and phrases in the target language. Topics of reading and conversation center around immediate concerns and interests. Comprehension is generally more developed than language production. Basic communicative tasks are facilitated by memorizing patterns, resulting in fewer errors. Since the key to communicating with the ancient world is reading, students in a *Level I* classical language course are oriented to the language through simple primary sources and passages which use appropriate levels of vocabulary and structure. Reading comprehension is enhanced by repeating, reading aloud, reciting and writing simple sentences. During *Level I* study, in both modern and classical languages, students also learn to recognize people, products and viewpoints of the target culture and begin to compare native and target cultures. Students are introduced to ways in which the target language is connected to the native language, to other disciplines and to resources beyond the classroom.

MEDIA

WVEIS Code 5691

This course is offered to all 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. It helps students to become literate in acquiring

information efficiently, to become independent learners, and to develop a sense of responsibility to the learning community and society.

CATS 6

WVEIS Code 6006

This CATS (Coordinated and Thematic Science) course is the first in the three course middle school series. Emphasis at grade 6 is placed on the properties of matter, structures, functions, and adaptations of organisms and the structure of the earth's systems. New concepts include motions and forces, ecosystems, diversity of life, energy transformations, plate tectonics, earth's resources and weather. A minimum of 50% of instruction shall be hands on activities.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 6

CATS 7

WVEIS Code 6007

CATS 7 reviews motions and forces, ecosystems, diversity of life, energy transformations, plate tectonics, earth's resources, and weather. Major concepts introduced at the seventh grade level include elements, mixtures and compounds, populations/ecosystems, conservation of matter and energy and earth history. Fifty percent (50%) of instruction shall be hands on.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 7

CATS 8

WVEIS Code 6008

CATS 8 reviews elements, mixtures and compounds, populations/ecosystems, conservation of matter and energy, and earth's history. Major concepts introduced at grade 8 include reproduction, genetics, behavior, chemical reactions and environmental concerns. Fifty percent (50%) of instruction shall be hands on.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 8

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6

WVEIS Code 6606

Physical Education promotes the concept of lifelong learning of personal health and wellness skills. Emphasis is on the reinforcement of the major components of: lifetime wellness, social skills, motor skill development, movement, and physical activity. WV Code 18-1-7a requires the President's Physical Fitness Test (PPFT) be administered to all students enrolled in PE.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 6

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

WVEIS Code 6607

Physical Education promotes the concept of lifelong learning of personal health and wellness skills. Emphasis is on the major components of: lifetime wellness, social skills, motor skill development, movement and physical activity. WV Code 18-2-7a requires that the President's Physical Fitness Test (PPFT) be administered to all students enrolled in PE.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 7

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

WVEIS Code 6608

Physical Education promotes the concept of lifelong learning of personal health and wellness skills. Emphasis is on the major components of: lifetime wellness, social skills, motor skill development, movement and physical activity. WV Code 18-2-7a requires that the President's Physical Fitness Test (PPFT) be administered to all students enrolled in PE.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 8

HEALTH 6

WVEIS Code 6906

This course builds on the foundation established in the K-5 health education curriculum and prepares student to become wise healthcare consumers and responsible productive citizens, Students examine personal health choices while analyzing current health issues. Instruction continues to focus on prevention of high-risk behavior.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 6

HEALTH 7

WVEIS Code 6907

This course builds on the foundation established in the K-6 grade health program and prepares students to become wise healthcare consumers and responsible productive citizens. Students examine personal health choices while examining current health issues. Instruction continues to focus on prevention of high-risk behavior.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 7

HEALTH 8

WVEIS Code 6908

This course builds on the foundation established in the K-7 grade health curriculum and prepares students to become wise healthcare consumers and responsible productive citizens. Students examine personal health choices while analyzing current health issues. Instruction continues to focus on prevention of high-risk behavior.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 8

WORLD REGION 6

WVEIS Code 7006

The sixth grade course provides an interdisciplinary study of selected regions of the world: North America, South America, Western Europe and the Middle East. The study of early civilizations and their impact on

modern cultures will emphasize how culture have adapted to environmental changes and have emerged into a global society.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 6

WORLD GEOGRAPHY 7

WVEIS Code 7007

This program of study includes the five themes of world geography: location, place, movement, human environmental interaction and regions. The purpose of the program is to present a picture of a crowded world, a physical world more threatened and global regions more competitive than previously existed. This study will be accomplished through the analysis of the physical and human characteristics of world regions.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 7

WV STUDIES 8

WVEIS Code 7008

This course consists of a comprehensive course on West Virginia, from the Pre-Columbian period to present day. Special focus is placed on the interdependence of geographic, cultural, political, environmental and economic factors involved in the history of the state.

Prerequisite: Be in grade 8

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

WVEIS Code 7691

The elective Bible courses are a literary approach to the Bible, dealing with the poetry sections of the Old Testament, and with the narrative sections of both the Old and new testaments. Students first see the overall structure of the Bible. Then, through the many narrative passages recorded within the structure, students see their own human experiences in the lives of the Bible characters. This is followed by a study of the songs, or poetry, that these people sang, records of their heart reactions to the troubles and joys which they experienced. In addition to enlarging their understanding of the Bible, students see the roots of many thought patterns and principles that formed American society. (Theology and Biblical criticism, subjects more appropriate to religious institutions and colleges than to elementary **and high** schools are not dealt with.)