Peninsula School District

6-8 Middle School

Course Catalog

2012-2013

Goodman Middle School
Principal, Scott McDaniel
Assistant Principal, Rhonda Taylor
Office: 253-530-1600
Counseling Offices: 530-1632 and 530-1633

Harbor Ridge Middle School
Principal, Mike Benoit
Assistant Principal, Brian Wickens
Office: 253-530-1900
Counseling Offices: 530-1933 and 530-1932

Key Peninsula Middle School
Principal, Jeri Goebel
Assistant Principal, Ty Robuck
Office: 253-530-4200
Counseling Offices: 530-4232 and 530-4233

Kopachuck Middle School
Principal, Iva Scott
Assistant Principal, Casey Lindberg
Office: 253-530-4100
Counseling Offices: 530-4132 and 530-4133

Peninsula School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Contact the following school district offices with inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies: Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 RCW, Academic Officer for K-12 Programs, 14015 62nd Avenue NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 (253-530-1009) and Section 504/ADA, Executive Director for Student Services, 14015 62nd Avenue NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 (253-530-1080). August 2011
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Dear Students,

I hope you are excited to browse through this course guide. The courses offered are intended to interest you as well as expand learning.

Academic accomplishments do not come about easily. They reflect your hard work and dedication, the support and commitment of your parents and family and the instructional leadership of your teachers and administrators who work every day to find ways of providing rigor, challenge and support so that you are successful in your middle and high school experiences.

The challenges that you will face after high school in the world of work or college are ones that will require you to be collaborators, critical thinkers, problem-solvers, communicators, knowledgeable in the use and application of technology and flexible enough to adapt to the needs of our world. These skills are the skills of the 21st century and the skills that employers are seeking in the work force.

I encourage you to spend time on your own and with your parents reflecting on your future goals and aspirations. There are no limits to what you can achieve if you are willing to put forth the necessary effort and focus on learning that will be needed for your success in high school. Strong performance in your classes in high school will guarantee your readiness to succeed in college and beyond.

Take time to carefully study this course guide and with the help of your family, teachers and counselors begin to identify the courses and areas of study that will challenge you and ignite your interests. You are at the beginning of a wonderful journey in the path to personal accomplishment and service. We are here to support and encourage you along the way.

Sincerely,

Terry Nelsen Bouck,
Superintendent
General Information

This course guide gives you information about all courses that may be offered in Peninsula middle schools. Students are to enroll in and maintain a full schedule throughout middle school years. We hope this guide will answer all of your questions as you decide what middle school courses to register for next year. The courses in this guide will be offered next year only if enough students register this spring to fill a class. It is very important that you think carefully about your choices now so that the courses you want will be available next year. If you cannot find the answers you need or if you would like to have individual help in planning your program, please contact an administrator or counselor at your school.

INFORMATION FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Middle school requirements are explained on the following pages. Use the planning sheets to map out your three-year middle school plan for the required 6-period day. We also encourage you to think ahead about the sequence of courses you might want to take in high school. This way you will know what courses to choose in middle school to be prepared for the high school courses that interest you.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Three years of Language Arts and Social Studies taken in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade
- Three years of Mathematics taken in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade
- Three years of Science taken in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade
- Six trimesters of Physical Education / Health (see course information for specifics)

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR COURSES TAKEN IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Legislation and district policy allow 7th and 8th grade students to receive high school credit for some middle school courses. Incoming 9th grade students who did not attend a Peninsula middle school, who wish to request high school credit for designated courses, must submit a transcript from their former middle school that includes a copy of the course descriptions. The transcript will then be evaluated to determine if the courses requested can be added to the student’s PSD transcript. The following policies apply for high school credit for all students:

- High school credit for designated middle school courses may be requested once the student is in high school. The request can be made any time up to the point a student graduates from high school. Please note that once the grades are recorded on the high school transcript the grade and credit cannot be removed and are included in the computation of the student’s grade point average. If you have questions about this, please see a counselor at your high school.

- Students enrolled in Algebra 1 and/or Geometry will take the High School End-of-Course (EOC) Assessment in these classes. Students must pass both the Algebra 1 and the Geometry EOC in order to earn a high school diploma. Multiple opportunities are available for students to retake the exam if they do not pass the first time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADING: REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

Teachers will provide to parents a report of each student’s progress at the end of the Trimester. Interim progress reports of a student’s outstanding or inadequate progress may be provided to parents. In addition, parents/guardians and students are able to access attendance, discipline and grade reports online throughout the year on the district’s Parent Connect Website at http://www.psd401.net/
**General Information**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADING: REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS**
Successful completion of middle school coursework expected
Successful completion of middle school occurs when a student meets the academic expectations of the required program. Students who experience difficulty in doing this will be assigned extra classes or placed in an academic support course that runs either during the school day or after school.

**FLEX-TIME, KOPA-TIME, COUGAR ACADEMY AND PRIME TIME**
In every middle school, a 30-minute tutorial is provided Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday during the school day.

**ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC SUPPORT**
Additional academic support provides targeted, structured intervention to students who need ongoing assistance in language arts or mathematics. This could take the form of in-class support during the period when the student is having difficulty, after-school support, or additional courses that will prepare the student for the following year. Every school designs its additional academic support program.

**STUDENTS WITH IEPs (Individual Education Plans)**
Parents and students will work in conjunction with IEP teams/case managers to determine best course placement for students based on needs. In addition, progress on specific goals and objectives is provided 3 times per year.

**Counseling Department**
Students should contact a counselor if they have questions about transitions between schools, registration, course selection, interpretation and use of test results or other requirements. Each middle school Counseling Center provides assistance in the following ways:
- Visits elementary schools prior to entry into middle school to assist in a smooth transition from elementary school to middle school.
- Assists students in planning, selecting and successfully completing middle school courses that prepare them for their future.
- Works with students, parents and families on addressing personal problems that may be interfering with student success.
- Monitors students’ academic progress and develops plans to support students so that they are successful in resolving problems in order to do well in school and classes.
- Provides a program to prepare students for an education beyond high school.
- Assists with harassment, intimidation and bullying training for students.

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**MIDDLE SCHOOL: THREE YEAR EDUCATION PLAN**

Below is a worksheet to help you plan the courses you will take during the sixth, seventh and eighth grades. You must enroll in six courses every year. **Use the middle school course requirements along with the list of electives in this book to plan your schedule.** Call your middle school for help if you need further information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sixth Grade</th>
<th>Seventh Grade</th>
<th>Eighth Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-AP Language Arts 1 year</td>
<td>Pre-AP Language Arts 1 year</td>
<td>Pre-AP Language Arts 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies 1 year</td>
<td>Social Studies 1 year</td>
<td>Social Studies 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics 1 year</td>
<td>Mathematics 1 year</td>
<td>Mathematics 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science 1 year</td>
<td>Science 1 year</td>
<td>Science 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE / Health 2 Trimesters</td>
<td>PE 2 Trimesters</td>
<td>PE / Health 2 Trimesters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choose 4 trimesters of electives or a trimester and a year-long course:</td>
<td>Choose 4 trimesters of electives or a trimester and a year-long course:</td>
<td>Choose 4 trimesters of electives or a trimester and a year-long course:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
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</tbody>
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The choices you make now will determine the future course of your life. By taking college-level Advanced Placement (AP) and advanced courses, you enter a world of knowledge and a learning environment that you might not otherwise experience in high school; by taking AP exams, you have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at many of the nation’s colleges and universities.

Advanced Placement courses are offered at GHHS and PHS. While the availability of classes differ among the schools, in the Peninsula School District we offer many different AP courses ranging from English, US History and Psychology to Statistics, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry and Music Theory. Surely, among all these offerings you can find classes that match your interests. Results from the Pre Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) given to all sophomores, also provide valuable information to students regarding AP potential.

Why Should You Sign Up for AP and Advanced Courses?
The greatest benefit of AP and advanced courses is the experience of taking academic courses in an enriched environment with classmates who, like you, are seeking intellectual challenge, are motivated to learn, and are committed to excellence. Participating in these courses is going to give you a head start on exactly the sort of work you will confront in college. You will improve your writing skills and sharpen your problem-solving techniques; develop the study habits necessary for tackling rigorous coursework; assume the responsibility of reasoning, analyzing and understanding for yourself and study subjects in greater depth and detail.

What Are the Requirements?
AP and advanced courses are challenging, however, we offer just the classes you need in order to be well prepared. In the Course Catalog, you will find a flowchart for each content area that describes a recommended course sequence leading up to AP and advanced courses. Other than that, the only requirement for taking advanced courses is a curiosity about the subject you plan to study and the willingness to work hard.

Want to Learn More About Advanced Placement?
For more information about this program, you can check with your school counselor. Additional information may also be found online at:

Advanced Placement:  http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html
College Board:  http://www.collegeboard.com
ACT:  http://www.act.org/aap/
A minimum of 22 credits is required for high school graduation in the Peninsula School District. A semester course is worth 0.5 credits. Specific graduation requirements are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (1 credit of lab science)</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career &amp; Technical Education</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts (Drama, Music, Visual)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.0</strong></td>
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# PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT
## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Peninsula School District</th>
<th>Peninsula School District</th>
<th>PSD and State of WA</th>
<th>Recommended Courses for Colleges and Universities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Classes of 2013</td>
<td>Class of 2014 - 2015</td>
<td>Class of 2016 &amp; Beyond**</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3.5 Credits</td>
<td>3.5 Credits</td>
<td>4.0 Credits</td>
<td>4.0 Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math</td>
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<td>3.0 Credits</td>
<td>3.0 Credits</td>
<td>4.0 Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>2.0 Credits</td>
<td>2.0 Credits</td>
<td>2.0 Credits</td>
<td>3.0 - 4.0 Credits</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>3.5 Credits</td>
<td>3.0 Credits</td>
<td>3.0 Credits</td>
<td>3.0 - 4.0 Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual or Performing Arts</td>
<td>1.0 Credit</td>
<td>1.0 Credit</td>
<td>1.0 Credit</td>
<td>1.0 Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Fitness</td>
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<td>2.5 Credits</td>
<td>2.5 Credits Fitness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational Education/CTE</td>
<td>2.0 Credits</td>
<td>1.5 Credits</td>
<td>1.5 Credits</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Language</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2.0 - 4.0 Credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>4.5 Credits</td>
<td>5.5 Credits</td>
<td>5.0 Credits</td>
<td>A.P./Honors Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22 Credits</td>
<td>22 Credits</td>
<td>22 Credits</td>
<td>**</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Classes of 2013-2014:** Must pass a state exam in Reading, Writing and one End-of-Course Exam in Math OR approved alternatives.

**Classes of 2015 and Beyond:** Must pass a state exam in Reading, Writing, one Science End-of-Course Exam (Biology), two Math End-of-Course Exams (Algebra and Geometry) OR approved alternatives.
Mathematics Sequence

Middle School
Each course is one year unless otherwise noted

3 years of high school math is required of all students. Math is recommended for 4 years in high school.

**Grade 6**
Math 6 or 7

Additional math support may be provided within or outside the school day for identified students.

**Grade 7**
Math 7, Math 8 or Algebra 1

**Grade 8**
Math 8, Algebra 1 or Geometry

High School
Each course is one year/one credit unless otherwise noted
Elective Courses in Mathematics may vary in each high school

Math support is taken by identified students in conjunction with Algebra 1

**Grade 9**
Algebra I or Geometry or Algebra 2

**Grade 10**
Geometry, Algebra 2 or A.P.

OR . . . . Segmented Math, Financial Math (GHHS only), *
or Construction Math **

* 1 Semester / .5 credit
** 1 or 2 semesters / .5 or 1 credit

**Grade 11**
Algebra II, A.P. or other advanced courses (see below)

**Grade 12**
AP Calculus, Math Service Leadership, AP Statistics, Pre-Calculus, Statistics/Trigonometry (GHHS)

See your high school's online course catalog for specific course information and more detail regarding requirements
English/Language Arts Sequence

Middle School
Each course is one year unless otherwise noted

Additional reading courses may be assigned according to individual need

- Pre-AP 6th Grade Language Arts
- Pre-AP 7th Grade Language Arts
- Pre-AP 8th Grade Language Arts

High School
Electives may vary in each high school
Each course is one year/one credit unless otherwise noted

- Pre-AP Freshman Language Arts
- Pre-AP Sophomore Language Arts
- Pre-AP Junior Language Arts
  - A.P. Language and Composition
  - A.P. Literature and Composition
- Senior English
  - A.P. Language and Composition
  - A.P. Literature and Composition
Social Studies Sequence

Middle School
Each course is one year unless otherwise noted

6th Grade
Ancient Civilizations

7th Grade
World History &
Washington State History

8th Grade
U.S. History

High School
Each course is one year / 1 credit unless otherwise noted
Social Studies electives may vary in each high school

AP Courses:

- We the People / AP US Government (PHS)
- AP US Government
- AP Economics
- AP Psychology

9th Grade
No requirement –
Possible elective

10th Grade
World History or
World History Honors
Possible elective

11th Grade
US History
Possible elective

12th Grade
Civics (1 semester)
Possible elective
Science Sequence

Middle School
Each course is one year unless otherwise noted

- 6th Grade
  Earth Science

- 7th Grade
  Life Science

- 8th Grade
  Physical Science

High School
Each course is one year / 1 credit unless otherwise noted
Science electives may vary in each high school

- 9th Grade Opportunities
  Lab Science 9
  Biology
  AP Environmental Science (PHS)

- 10th Grade Opportunities
  Biology
  AP Biology
  AP Environmental Sci (PHS)
  AP Chemistry
  Physics
  Electives

- 11th & 12th Grade Opportunities
  AP Physics
  AP Chemistry
  AP Environmental Science
  AP Biology
  Electives
**Health & P.E./Fitness Course Sequence**

**Middle School**

**Grade 6**
- 2 Trimesters
- Health and P.E. / Fitness

**Grade 7**
- 2 Trimesters of P.E. / Fitness

**Grade 8**
- 1 Trimester P.E. / Fitness
- 1 Trimester Health

**High School**

*P.E. electives may vary in each high school*

- **2.0 Credits (4 semesters)**
  - P.E. / Fitness

- **.5 Credits (1 semester)**
  - Health
World Language Course Sequence

Grades 8-12
Each course is one year / 1 credit

Grade 8
Spanish I

Grades 9-12
Chinese, French, German (GHHS), Spanish, American Sign Language (ASL)

Third Year and Beyond in World Language is provided based upon enrollment. Please work closely with counselors and teachers if needing to take a 3rd year or more.
Elective Courses in Middle School

(Check with your middle school for current offerings and grade levels)

- Aerospace
- Art* (beginning and advanced)
- Assistants: library, office, P.E., classroom
- Band (yearlong: beginning, concert*, symphonic*, jazz (may be offered outside the school day)
- Choir (yearlong)
- Computers
- Computer-Aided Drafting and Design (CADD)
- Creative Writing and Journalism
- Digital Photography* (beginning and advanced)
- Drama
- Design Engineering
- Elective P.E.
- Elementary School Tutor (Goodman & Kopachuck)
- Forensics (Kopachuck)
- Guitar / Keyboarding (HRMS)
- Home Arts* (beginning and advanced)
- Introduction to Leadership
- Leadership
- Multimedia Productions
- Newspaper
- Play Production
- Robotics* (beginning & advanced)
- Spanish I**
- Woodworking* (beginning & advanced)

*Pre-requisite – must have taken the beginning course to sign up for the advanced course
**Spanish I is a high school course. Pre-requisite: a ‘B’ or better in Language Arts and a ‘B’ average in all classes
# Career & Technical Education (CTE) Elective Courses

## Middle School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goodman MS</th>
<th>Harbor Ridge MS</th>
<th>Key Peninsula MS</th>
<th>Kopachuck MS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Aided Drafting &amp; Design (CADD)</td>
<td>Design &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>Aerospace</td>
<td>Design &amp; Engineering</td>
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<td>Multi-Media Productions</td>
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<td>Robotics</td>
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<td>Robotics I</td>
<td>Robotics I</td>
<td>Advanced Robotics *</td>
<td>Robotics I</td>
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<td>Advanced Robotics *</td>
<td>Advanced Robotics *</td>
<td>Woodworking</td>
<td>Advanced Robotics *</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Engineering</td>
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<td>* based on enrollment</td>
<td>Forensics</td>
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* based on enrollment

## High School

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<tr>
<th>Gig Harbor High School</th>
<th>Peninsula High School</th>
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<td>Marketing 1, 2, 3, 4</td>
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<td>Decisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Writing</td>
<td>AP Economics</td>
<td>Financial Math</td>
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<tr>
<td>Speech &amp; Debate</td>
<td>Computer Applications</td>
<td>Graphic Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Advanced Journalistic Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>AP Economics</td>
<td>Yearbook</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Math</td>
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<td>Web Page Design</td>
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<td>Advanced Journalistic Writing</td>
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<td>Yearbook</td>
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<td>Intro to Nutrition &amp; Food Prep</td>
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<td>Intro to Nutrition &amp; Food Prep</td>
<td>Ethnic Foods</td>
<td>S.T.A.R.S. (Early Childhood Education)</td>
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<td>Child Psychology</td>
<td>Teen Parenting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign Language Interpreter 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>AP Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Medicine 1 – Personal Trainer</td>
<td>Fashion Design &amp; Construction</td>
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<td>Sports Medicine 2 – Physical Therapist</td>
<td>Sign Language Interpreter 1 &amp; 2</td>
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<td>Sports Medicine 3 – Practicum</td>
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<td>Video Productions</td>
<td>Broadcasting 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Graphic Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Web Page Design</td>
<td>Media Productions 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Digital Photography</td>
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<td>Newspaper</td>
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<td>Yearbook</td>
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<td>Digital Photography</td>
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<td>Theater Design &amp; Technology</td>
<td>Glass Art</td>
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<td>Jewelry</td>
<td>Silkscreen</td>
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<td>Glass Art</td>
<td>Ceramics</td>
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<td>Construction Math</td>
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<td>Cabinetry / Woods</td>
<td>Wood Construction</td>
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<td>Pre-Engineering Technology</td>
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<td>Criminal Justice</td>
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<td>AP Environmental Science</td>
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<td>Forensics</td>
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Course Descriptions for Required Courses

Middle School Mathematics

(3 years)

The goal for middle school mathematics is for students to engage in meaningful contexts in order to reason, communicate and solve real world math problems proficiently. Through a balanced curriculum, students should gain skills with conceptual understanding, problem solving and the use of vocabulary and mathematical representations. Each year students are asked to apply knowledge with increasingly difficult problems.

6TH GRADE UNITS WILL FOCUS ON:
Multiplication and division of fractions, decimals and percents, understanding and modeling positive and negative integers and rational numbers, solving algebraic expressions and equations, understanding and solving problems with rates and ratios including theoretical and experimental probability, working with the properties of two and three dimensional figures to determine circumference of a circle, area and perimeter of a composite figure and surface area and volume of prisms using formulas.

7TH GRADE UNITS WILL FOCUS ON:
Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of rational numbers, representing and solving two step linear equations, understanding of proportionality, similarity and scale factor to solve problems, determining the surface area and volume of various prisms, cylinders, cones and spheres, working with measures of center, variability in data, comparing distributions and representing data with the use of tables, graphs, dot and line plots and graphing ordered pairs in the coordinate plane.

8TH GRADE UNITS WILL FOCUS ON:
Using properties of geometric figures, solving problems with angle measurement, transformations, rotations, dilations or reflections, recalling square roots, demonstrating the Pythagorean Theorem, summarizing and comparing data sets, selecting, constructing, comparing, and analyzing data displays including box and whisker and scatter plots, determining probabilities for mutually exclusive, dependent and independent events, representing numbers in scientific notation and solving problems involving numbers in scientific notation, using laws of exponents, identifying rational and irrational numbers.

ALGEBRA 1
Algebra 1 serves as the foundation for the study of mathematics at the high school. It is the first course of an integrated sequence focusing on algebra and functions, geometry, statistics, probability and discrete mathematics. Students can expect an active learning environment, using engaging everyday contexts to develop mathematical concepts.

Topics include investigating patterns in data, developing methods to represent and predict change, modeling linear and exponential situations, investigating properties of 2 and 3 dimensional spaces, and utilizing simulation models to describe and understand chance. Graphing calculators are utilized on a daily basis. While students have access to graphing calculators in class, it is strongly recommended that students purchase a TI-83 or TI-84 for use on homework and make up work.

GEOMETRY PREREQUISITE
C or better 2nd Semester of Algebra 1 or Teacher Recommendation. Geometry is the second year of the high school math sequence.

This course will cover topics such as using matrices and matrix operations, investigating patterns of location, shape and size, using direct and inverse power variation and quadratic functions to model a variety of problems, investigating and modeling trigonometric functions and periodic change, and patterns in chance. Graphing calculators are utilized on a daily basis. While students have access to graphing calculators in class, it is strongly recommended that students purchase a TI-83 or TI-84 for use on homework and make up work.
LANGUAGE ARTS
(3 years)

6TH GRADE Pre-A.P. LANGUAGE ARTS

This course sets the foundations for secondary English/language arts through a pathway of rigorous reading and writing opportunities. Students will examine the theme of CHANGE through the units they study. They will connect their personal experiences with change to the texts they read and write. Students will write in a variety of modes including expository, narrative and literary analysis. Students will develop skills in critical reading and thinking, reflection, revision, collaboration and oral communication. The primary goals of the course are to foster independent learning, encourage in-depth exploration of the content and develop academic habits that prepare students for the next level and begin development toward college and career readiness.

7TH GRADE Pre-A.P. LANGUAGE ARTS

This course improves upon the learning set in 6th grade and pushes students to further application and synthesis of those English/language arts skills. Students will examine the theme of CHOICE through the units they study. They are introduced to the concept of choice, the consequences of those choices and outside influences of choices through analytical study of a variety of texts, including short stories, editorials, essays, advertisements, film, novels and poetry. Students will write in a variety of modes including expository, narrative, persuasive writing and literary analysis. Students will develop skills in critical reading and thinking, reflection, deep level revision, collaboration and oral communication.

8TH GRADE Pre-A.P. LANGUAGE ARTS

This course continues to improve on prior learnings and pushes students to further application and synthesis of English/language arts skills. Students will examine the theme of CHALLENGES and the academic skills necessary for students as they transition to high school. They are introduced to the types of challenges people face as they study a variety of texts (including a unique opportunity to participate in literature circles). Students will write in a variety of modes including expository, persuasive and literary analysis. Students will develop skills in critical reading and thinking, reflection (including increased metacognition), revision, collaboration and oral communication, preparing them to transition to rigorous high school courses.
Three themes spiral through all grade levels. Inquiry, application and systems provide continuity and a process for exploring the various content. Students learn how to ask a question that can be scientifically answered and how to set up an investigation that will explore their question. Not only do PSD students learn the content but they also learn how to apply their learning. The application thread and systems thread strengthens the ability of the students to apply learning to real-world issues. Technology is integrated through all three grade levels as a tool for learning.

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

The focus of this course is Earth Science. Introductory Physical concepts are also explored. Students explore planet Earth as an interacting system of solids, liquids and gases. Students gain an understanding of important Earth system cycles as they impact us today and as a way to understand the geological history of our planet. Volcanoes, earthquakes and plate tectonics are examples of specific features that are explored in terms of energy and components of a larger system. Beginning chemistry is explored and provides a strong foundation to more complex chemical understandings in 8th grade science.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

The focus of this course is Life Science. Students study living organisms as systems composed of different layers of organization. Cells, tissues, organs and organ systems contain specific structures that are related to function. Plants, animals, and microscopic organisms are studied. Ecosystems and the flow of energy through ecosystems are very important concepts that allow students to comprehend our very complex Earth. The mastery of 7th grade concepts also allows students to gain a better understanding of the processes that govern inheritance, genetics, variation and diversity of life.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

The focus of this course is Physical Science. The physical science components also are foundational for the Earth and Space component of 8th grade science. Students delve deeper into chemistry and learn about the properties of matter and changes in properties of matter. Chemical reactions and the flow of energy in chemical reactions are mastered. 8th grade also features a significant physics unit. The study of unbalanced and balanced forces, acceleration and speed, energy and friction and gravity provide content for highly engaging experiments. Students also use their new knowledge of physics and chemistry as they study Earth and Space. The Earth-Moon-Sun system is studied along with our place in the Solar System. In addition, students learn about the Solar System's place in the Milky Way Galaxy and our galaxy's relationship to other galaxies.
SOCIAL STUDIES
(3 years)

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth grade social studies deepens students’ understanding of the Earth and its peoples through the study of history, geography, politics, culture and economic systems. Higher levels of critical thinking are emphasized by considering why civilizations developed where and when they did and why they declined. Students analyze the interactions among the various cultures, emphasizing their enduring contributions and the link between the contemporary and ancient worlds.

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In seventh grade social studies, students become more proficient with core concepts through a study of both World and Washington State history. The first part of the year is focused on a continuation of world history from sixth grade as students look at the geography, civics and economics of major societies up through 1450. The second part of the year asks students to bring their understanding to their world today as they examine Washington State from 1854 to the present. While these two contexts are quite different, the purpose of studying these various regions and eras is the same: to develop enduring understandings of the core concepts and ideas in civics, economics, geography and history.

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In eighth grade social studies, students further develop their understanding of U.S. history and government from 1776 to 1900. Students explore the ideas, issues and events from the framing of the Constitution up through Reconstruction and industrialization. After reviewing the founding of the United States, students explore the development of politics, society, culture, and economy in the United States to deepen conceptual understandings in civics, geography and economics. In particular, studying the causes and consequences of the Civil War helps them to comprehend more profoundly the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a culturally diverse democracy. Paired with a study of the U.S. economic structure is a brief study of personal finance in preparation for the Junior Achievement experience for 8th graders.
HEALTH AND P.E./FITNESS
(6 trimesters)

The Peninsula School District Middle School Physical Education curriculum is divided into three main content areas which include: Health and Fitness Academics, Fitness and Motor Skills. Most Peninsula School District middle schools have blended grade levels in Physical Education classes so the curriculum is spiraled in a three year cycle rather than divided by grade levels (Kopachuck M.S. is the exception).

HEALTH AND FITNESS ACADEMICS

Year 1: The Five Components of Fitness, Intensity, Cardiorespiratory Endurance and the FITT (Frequency, Intensity, Type and Time) Principle, Nutrition

Year 2: Muscular Strength and Muscular Endurance and the FITT Principle, Flexibility and the FITT Principle, Macronutrients and Muscles

Year 3: Nutrition, Fitness Planning, Body Composition and the FITT Principle

FITNESS

Years One through Three: Fitness Measurements, Goal Setting, Circuit Training and any Physical Training as it relates to Cardio-Respiratory Endurance, Muscular Strength, Muscular Endurance and Flexibility

MOTOR SKILLS

Years One through Three (May differ in each school): Track, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, Golf, Speedball, Games and Team Competitions, Hockey, Softball, Touch Football, Ultimate Frisbee, Disc Golf, Racquet Sports

HEALTH

The Health curriculum is divided by grade levels and is generally delivered in a traditional classroom setting due to the sensitive nature of the content.

The 6th Grade Health Curriculum will focus on:
Drugs and Alcohol, Refusal Skills, Human Development, Exploitation, Puberty, Reproduction and HIV/AIDS

The 8th Grade Health Curriculum will focus on:
Concepts of Health and Wellness, Contributing Factors to Teen Suicide, Suicide Prevention, Decision Making Process, Media Influences in Decision Making, Nutritional Awareness and Planning, Body Image and Eating Disorders, Communicable and Infectious Diseases, Noninfectious/non-communicable diseases, Tobacco, Alcohol, Drugs, CPR, AED Training, Health and the Environment, Personal and Social Relationships and Conflict Management