



West Chester Area School District
**2020-21 MIDDLE SCHOOL
CYBER PROGRAM
COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE**



Cyber Program

Log In. Learn On.

**The mission of the
West Chester Area School District is
"to educate and inspire our students
to achieve their personal best."**

WC CYBER PROGRAM

The WC Cyber Program (WC Cyber) is a new and smarter approach to online learning. We are in it because we can do it better! West Chester Area School District's rich history of tradition and academic success is now at your fingertips.

The WCASD recognizes the need for choice in education because there is no one-size-fits-all approach to learning. Beginning in the 2020-21 school year, our top-ranked education will be available ONLINE for students in grades 6 through 12, providing a higher quality, flexible education that fits the needs of your child & family.

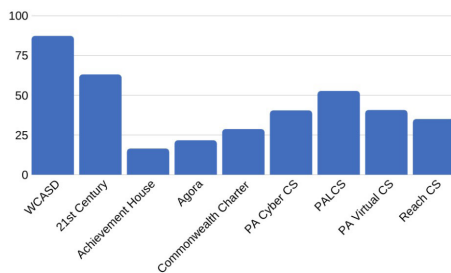
Data shows that student academic performance at **Pennsylvania's 15 cyber charter schools falls short** compared to traditional public school students. **We believe we can provide a higher quality, flexible online education that suits the needs of your child and family.**

At WC Cyber, we focus on the whole student, providing a robust online curriculum created and taught by our highly qualified educators.

WCASD is consistently ranked among the **top public schools in the nation.** (US News & World Report/Newsweek)

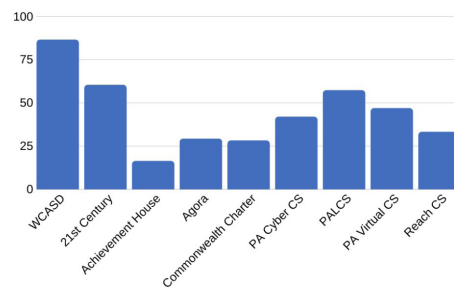
- **97% average graduation rate**, nearly 35% higher as compared to regional cyber schools
- **WCASD Keystone Exam scores for all three high schools are on average higher** than regional cyber schools:

Percentage of Students who Passed the 2019 Keystone Algebra Exam*



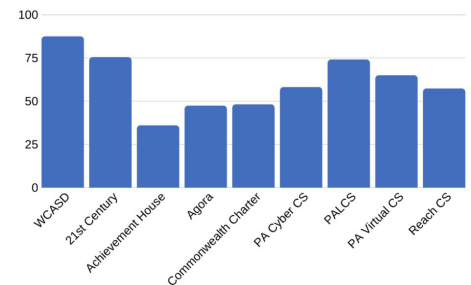
*Source - PA Department of Education

Percentage of Students who Passed the 2019 Keystone Biology Exam*



*Source - PA Department of Education

Percentage of Students who Passed the 2019 Keystone Literature Exam*



*Source - PA Department of Education

While enrolled in the WC Cyber Program, students have full access to WCASD student support services, extra-curricular activities, athletics, clubs, an award-winning music program, and more.

- Full array of student support services, including counseling, learning support and mental health services
- Career Exploration Program
- College & Career Readiness
- Dual Enrollment Courses with West Chester University

Unlike other cyber schools, WC Cyber Program does not contract with external education companies to teach our program. Courses are taught by OUR highly qualified teachers!

- 81% of WCASD teachers hold advanced degrees
- 94% of WCASD parents would recommend the district to parents whose children attend elsewhere
- 90% of staff members say they are proud to work in WCASD

WCASD Points of Pride

In 2019, 56 WCASD students were named National Merit Scholars and 339 students were named AP Scholars

National Merit Scholars

11 National Merit Finalists
12 National Merit Semi-Finalists
33 National Merit Commended



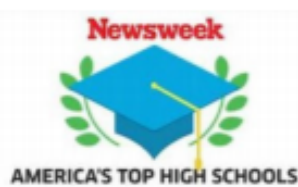
AP Scholars

AP Scholars

122 AP Scholars
130 AP Scholars w/ Distinction
64 AP Scholars w/ Honors
23 National AP Scholars



East, Henderson, & Rustin High Schools are consistently ranked among the top public schools in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report.



Newsweek ranks East, Henderson, & Rustin High Schools among the top high schools locally, regionally, and nationally.



WCASD schools have been awarded the U.S. Department of Education's coveted National Blue Ribbon Award multiple times.



Multiple recognitions as a Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation.



WCASD is considered a top-rated school district according to Niche.com and Schooldigger.com users.



Multiple WCASD elementary schools recognized for having superior, federally-funded school programs.

Upon graduation, WC Cyber Program students will continue on their journey, backed by a WCASD diploma.

Questions? Email wccyber@wcasd.net.

Our Reputation. Our Teachers. Our Resources. Our Diploma. Your Education.

WC Cyber Program – Log in. Learn On.

PURPOSE

The intent of this Course Description Guide is to provide students and parents with descriptions of courses offered in the middle schools of the West Chester Area School District.

LEVEL RECOMMENDATION GUIDELINES

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC LEVELS:

The WCASD offers some courses at an accelerated level. In both content areas, the cyber teachers will provide students with opportunities to display their knowledge and ability ABOVE grade level through project based activities.

Note: High school credit is not offered for any course taken in middle school.

THE KEYSTONE EXAMS

The Keystone Exams are one component of Pennsylvania's new system of high school graduation requirements. Keystone Exams help assess student proficiency of the Pennsylvania Core Standards - standards aligned with expectations for success in college and the workplace. In order to receive a diploma, students must also meet local district credit and attendance requirements and complete a culminating project, along with any additional district requirements.

Beginning with the class of 2020, Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations for the state of Pennsylvania require that, in lieu of completing a graduation project, students must demonstrate proficiency on the Algebra 1, Biology, and Literature Keystone Exams in order to graduate. Keystone Exams help assess student proficiency of the Pennsylvania Core Standards - standards aligned with expectations for success in college and the workplace. Students will be offered multiple opportunities to take the Keystone Exams throughout their high school careers.

GRADING SCALE

Grade point averages (GPA) are computed as recommended by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Students have the

option to include elective courses at the Career and College Prep level into the GPA. Grades are weighted in honors, accelerated honors, and AP courses.

At the end of each school year, final grades shall be reported on the report card and student transcript on a 100 point scale. All courses, including summer school courses, are included in the GPA with the exception of neutrally weighted elective courses as designated in the course selection guide.

Middle School Grading Scale:

A+= 97-100	A = 93-96	A- = 90-92
B+= 87-89	B = 83-86	B- = 80-82
C+= 77-79	C = 73-76	C- = 70-72
E = 60-69		
F = below 60		

CYBER CENTER

The WC Cyber Center is located at Fugett Middle School and will serve as a student "hub". Students will be able to come here to work collaboratively on projects, access specialized equipment and materials, and seek the assistance of our cyber coach.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Students enrolled in the WCASD Cyber Program are encouraged to participate in the numerous extracurricular activities offered. For more information, please visit your home school's activities and athletics webpages or email the athletic director.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

FUGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Tom Swift, tswift@wcasd.net

PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Sam Virgilio, svirgilio@wcasd.net

STETSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Willi Corcoran, wcorcoran@wcasd.net

SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS

Counselor assignments for the 2020-21 school year are listed below.

FUGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL:

6th grade: Bernadette Simpson, 484-266-2911
bsimpson@wcasd.net
7th grade: Malina Bowen, 484-266-2914
mbowen@wcasd.net
8th grade: Mike Cassidy, 484-266-2912
mcassidy@wcasd.net

PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL:

6th grade: Akieda Behlin, 484-266-2512
abehlin@wcasd.net
7th grade: Stephanie Roesener, 484-266-2513
sroesener@wcasd.net
8th grade: Carol DeMarco, 484-266-2511
cdemarco@wcasd.net

STETSON MIDDLE SCHOOL:

6th grade: Heather Selgrath, 484-266-2711
hselgrath@wcasd.net
7th grade: Christian Specht, 484-266-2713
cspecht@wcasd.net
8th grade: Dawn McNeil-McMillan, 484-266-2712
dmcmillan@wcasd.net

PERFORMANCE ENSEMBLES

Cyber students are invited to participate with their home school's performing ensembles. Students who opt for this are exempt from the Classroom Music course. This may require the student to be on campus during the scheduled time. The WCASD offers students the following curricular ensembles: Band, Chorus, Orchestra.

For more information, please contact the appropriate ensemble director or Dr. Kristen Barnello, Supervisor of Fine Arts & Social Studies, kbarnello@wcasd.net.

FUGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND DIRECTOR: Ms. Jenna Knaster,
jknaster@wcasd.net

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Mr. Matt Hill,
mhill@wcasd.net

ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR: Mr. Tim Celfo,
tcelfo@wcasd.net

PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAND DIRECTOR: Mr. Kyle Shollenberger,
kshollenberger@wcasd.net

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Mrs. Denise Boyd,
dboyd@wcasd.net

ORCHESTRA DIRECTOR: Mrs. Liz Shafman,
eshafman@wcasd.net

Stetson Middle School

Band Director: Mr. Don Kelley,
dkelley@wcasd.net

Choir Director: Mrs. Melissa Grello,
mgrello@wcasd.net

Orchestra Director: Mrs. Katrina Kelly,
kkelly@wcasd.net

WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020-21 CYBER PROGRAM COURSE DESCRIPTION

GRADE 6 - 8 BY GRADE

6TH GRADE CORE COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS - ENGLISH

English 6 Cyber includes the study of a variety of texts: novels, poetry, short stories, drama, and nonfiction (NOTE: This list is not all-inclusive). The course integrates reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing skills, encouraging students to think critically through explanation, evaluation, and analysis. Communication through writing of various formats helps students illustrate and expand upon their learning. Students study grammar, spelling, and vocabulary according to the 6th grade scope and sequence.

MATHEMATICS

All sixth grade Math classes study content as outlined by the Pennsylvania Core Standards, Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. This includes: Positive & Negative Numbers and the Number Line, Fractions & Decimals, Ratios, Rates, Percent, Algebraic Expressions, Equations & Inequalities, The Coordinate Plane, Area of Polygons, Surface Area & Volume, Statistics, and Measures of Central Tendencies. Instruction focuses on the progression of mathematics from concrete to pictorial to abstract.

SCIENCE

The sixth grade science curriculum emphasizes the nature of science and the scientific method which facilitates an appropriate vertical alignment from the elementary science program to the middle school sequence. In accordance with the Pennsylvania State Standards and Assessment Anchors, the principles of life science are taught. Topics include cells, bacteria, plants, animals, heredity, and environmental science. The course utilizes guided

inquiry laboratory activities and reading strategies. It offers students a variety of opportunities for acquisition of content and skill development that facilitate their understanding of the process of science and prepares them to become actively engaged in their future learning experiences.

SOCIAL STUDIES

WORLD CULTURES AND GEOGRAPHY

In accordance with Pennsylvania State Standards, the sixth grade World Cultures/Geography class focuses on geography, government, economics, and historical analysis of cultures from regions around the world. Included in the study of each region are a variety of thinking skills, problem solving activities, and analysis of text. As the students engage in interactive and creative opportunities, they become more knowledgeable about our world and its diversity. The units of study include a strong emphasis on map and globe skills, Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia/Oceania.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our Cyber Health & Physical Education (HPE) course is designed to motivate and encourage the development of life skills for optimal mental, physical, and social health. A main goal of the program is for students to apply the knowledge gained to make healthy lifestyle decisions. Students will be exposed to a variety of physical activities including team sports and personal fitness.

6TH GRADE UNIFIED ARTS COURSES

All 6th Grade students will take the following four unified arts courses, each for one marking period of the school year.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

This course is designed to explore the growth and development of children from birth through preschool. Students will discover the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional development of young children. Students learn to utilize the appropriate nurturing skills, communication and safety that support the positive development of children.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science 6 provides an introduction to topics such as hardware, software and networking while teaching computer skills in word processing, multimedia and spreadsheets. Digital Citizenship topics are reviewed and practiced throughout the course while applying the basic concepts of computer programming through flowcharts, algorithms and applications of the coordinate plane.

CLASSROOM MUSIC*

All Classroom Music students study a variety of topics, including music theory, music history, instrumentation, composition, musical careers, recording, and the music industry. The Classroom Music course is designed to develop and expand upon the students' knowledge of history and culture through the medium of music. The course focuses on various instruments of the symphonic orchestra, world instruments, the voice, melody, rhythm, harmony, form and musical theatre productions.

*Students interested in participating in one of our performing music ensembles. Please refer to pg. 5 of this guide for further information and guidance.

VISUAL ARTS

Visual art is the primary focus of this curriculum is to incorporate the elements and principles of art through global study. Students learn the arts of different cultures through projects utilizing a variety of media. Vocabulary and writing exercises are included in lessons to reinforce new concepts. Each unit is modified, whenever appropriate, to have simplified, adapted and/or advanced activities. Ideas learned at the elementary level are reviewed and built upon in the sixth grade.

7TH GRADE CORE COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS - ENGLISH

English 7 Cyber includes the study of a variety of texts: novels, poetry, short stories, drama, and nonfiction, which includes speeches, biographies, autobiographies and editorials. Integrating reading, speaking, listening, writing, and viewing skills encourages critical thinking and effective communication. Students also study grammar, spelling and vocabulary according to a grade level scope and sequence. The specific data points that middle school principals will consider for placement into seventh grade reading and English courses are as follows: teacher recommendation, historical and current PSSA performance in reading and writing, and sixth grade reading and English report card grades. Principals may also consider additional data points that may be available for individual students.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The seventh grade American History class includes review of the geographical regions of the United States. In this review, the physical, climatic and economic characteristics of each region, as well as, the interaction of the people with their environment, will be examined. The exploration and development of the Americas in early American history through the development of the Constitution are also included in this course of study.

MATHEMATICS

Students will have the opportunity to take either Math 7 or Algebra 1.

Mathematics 7

Abstract thinking is embedded throughout the Mathematics 7 course to support the concrete representation of numbers. In this course, students continue the progression to understanding the abstract elements of math while reinforcing numeracy skills.

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 requires abstract thinking and higher-order problem solving. The content includes algebraic properties, linear equations and functions,

inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents, exponential functions, quadratic equations and functions, polynomials and factoring, rational equations and functions, radicals and data and probability.

SCIENCE

The seventh grade science curriculum is based on the Pennsylvania State Science Standards and Assessment Anchors. The scientific method is integrated as an extension of sixth grade science and a connection to future scientific discovery. Basic principles of chemistry and physics are taught using a hands-on, guided inquiry approach to learning. Topics include chemical interactions, motion, force, energy, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, and astronomy. Students continue to develop science and literacy skills as they engage in the process of science.

WORLD LANGUAGE

SPANISH 1

Students develop the skills of listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing Spanish at a beginner's level. The course includes vocabulary building, development of basic structural patterns, listening comprehension exercises, instructional games, role playing, and exploration of Spanish culture. Listening and speaking skills are combined with written work for evaluation.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our Cyber Health & Physical Education (HPE) course is designed to motivate and encourage the development of life skills for optimal mental, physical, and social health. A main goal of the program is for students to apply the knowledge gained to make healthy lifestyle decisions. Students will be exposed to a variety of physical activities including team sports and personal fitness.

7TH GRADE UNIFIED ARTS COURSES

All 7th Grade students will take the following four unified arts courses, each for one marking period of the school year.

ARTS & MUSIC

Student will pick EITHER music or art.

Classroom Music*

All Classroom Music students study a variety of topics, including music theory, music history, instrumentation, composition, musical careers, recording, and the music industry. The Classroom Music course is designed to develop and expand upon the students' knowledge of history and culture through the medium of music. The course focuses on various instruments of the symphonic orchestra, world instruments, the voice, melody, rhythm, harmony, form and musical theatre productions.

*Students interested in participating in one of our performing music ensembles, please refer to pg. 5 of this guide for further information and guidance.

Visual Art

The various styles and time periods or "isms" of art are the focus of the seventh grade art program. Students use a variety of media to produce creative and personal projects that demonstrate understanding of stylistic differences in art. Elements and principles of design are incorporated into aesthetic and critical analysis of art. Whenever possible, interdisciplinary connections are incorporated. Each unit is modified, when appropriate, for differentiated instruction.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The 7th Grade Computer Science curriculum consists of an exploration of digital products using a variety of software tools to address topics such as hardware, binary numbers, emerging technologies and technology careers. Digital citizenship topics include Internet safety as well as legal and ethical issues such as copyright and fair use. Students will be exploring computer programming using a variety of software applications and enhance their skills in digital literacy, information communication technology, and web design principles.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

The seventh grade Family and Consumer Science program includes two courses listed below taken back-to-back during one marking period. Each course meets every day for half a marking period.

FOOD SCIENCE

Based on the Chester County Food Bank Raised Bed Garden curriculum and "Farm to Table" concepts, curriculum content includes: food safety and prevention of food borne illness, accuracy in measurement, leavening agents and chemical changes in food preparation, nutritional analysis and food labeling, raised bed garden care, vegetable harvest, and lab experiments using vegetables and other healthy food choices. Students apply knowledge learned as they complete lab experiences and critique their performance as members of a team.

CHILD CARE AND PERSONAL FINANCE

Students explore child growth and development and examine decision-making and problem-solving skills related to the care of children. Toy safety and children's literature are highlighted to enhance activities for children. Students create a business plan using information related to spending and saving, credit, income, expenses and decision-making, and explore consumer rights and responsibilities as well as advertising.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

Students study communication technology along with energy and power engineering, and design. Students are engaged in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities and concepts in energy, power and communication technologies. Students explore electrical generation, use and conservation of energy, as well as 21st century communication, technology, and product design.

8TH GRADE CORE COURSES

LANGUAGE ARTS - ENGLISH

All English classes include the study of a variety of texts: novels, poetry, short stories, drama, and nonfiction, which includes speeches, biographies, autobiographies and editorials. Integrating reading, speaking, listening, writing, and viewing skills encourages critical thinking and effective communication. Students also study grammar, spelling and vocabulary according to a grade level scope and sequence.

MATHEMATICS

GEOMETRY 8

This course explores Geometry in great depth. Content includes a rigorous study of reasoning and proof, perpendicular and parallel lines, congruent triangles, properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, transformations, similarity, right triangles and trigonometry, circles, area, surface area, and volume.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1.

ALGEBRA 1 - GRADE 8

Algebra 1 requires abstract thinking for the study of higher-order problem solving. The content includes algebraic properties, linear equations and functions, inequalities, systems of equations and inequalities, exponents, exponential functions, quadratic equations and functions, polynomials and factoring, rational equations and functions, radicals, measurement and data and probability.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Mathematics 7.

PRE-ALGEBRA 8

Pre-Algebra requires a focus on abstract thinking as an introduction to algebraic concepts. The content includes exponents, scientific notation, linear equations and systems of equations, functions, Pythagorean theorem, geometric transformations, congruence & similarity, and statistics & probability.

SCIENCE

The eighth grade science curriculum emphasizes earth and environmental sciences and is based

on the Pennsylvania State Science Standards and Assessment Anchors. Topics covered in this course include water, weather, climate and ecology. The eighth grade curriculum provides a vertical articulation with middle level and high school science and is designed to prepare students for the science PSSA standardized test given in the spring.

SOCIAL STUDIES

U.S. HISTORY (1787-1914)

Students study the American Nation from the first administration of George Washington through the beginning of the First World War (1787-1914). Included in this study are the United States Constitution, Growth of America, Civil War and Reconstruction, Industrial Revolution, and the Progressive Era. Students are expected to be active learners who creatively engage with our nation's history to become more thoughtful citizens. Students are also expected to participate, analyze and draw conclusions from primary source documents. This course is reading and writing intensive.

WORLD LANGUAGE

SPANISH 2

Students continue their study of listening, understanding, speaking, reading, and writing, and explore aspects of Spanish culture. The course includes vocabulary building through dialogues, readings and role playing, extension of grammatical structures, and cultural materials. Oral skills are emphasized and evaluated.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 1.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Our Cyber Health & Physical Education (HPE) course is designed to motivate and encourage the development of life skills for optimal mental, physical, and social health. A main goal of the program is for students to apply the knowledge gained to make healthy lifestyle decisions. Students will be exposed to a variety of physical activities including team sports and personal fitness

8TH GRADE UNIFIED ARTS COURSES

In 8th Grade, all students will pick four electives - two Humanities courses (pg. 11) and two STEM courses (pg. 12).

ART & MUSIC ELECTIVES

ART IN THREE DIMENSIONS

Students explore a variety of media to both create and learn about three-dimensional art. Architecture, sculpture and other dimensional forms have height, width and depth. Students use design considerations in the art production process. Varied materials such as clay, textiles, plaster, cardboard, wood and found objects are used to develop three-dimensional projects.

POPULAR MUSIC*

It provides an overview of the musical roots and trends which have influenced today's popular music styles. Critical listening and group activities help students explore many popular music styles, including hip hop, rap, jazz, blues, reggae, musical theatre, punk, funk, heavy metal, and much more. The use of technology in music is also a topic of study. Students achieve a greater understanding of music fundamentals and stylistic influences that make up the music they enjoy.

*Students interested in participating in one of our performing music ensembles, please refer to pg. 5 of this guide for further information and guidance.

FAMILY & CONSUMER ELECTIVES

FAMILY, FOOD, FINANCE

This course is designed to explore family, nutrition, and community through real life situations. With an emphasis on practical reasoning and problem solving, students will engage in activities related to the development and needs of children, budget conscious meal planning and preparation, as well as nutritional requirements throughout life.

CULTURE, CUISINE, CONNECTIONS

A comprehensive foods course with a focus on the factors that affect dietary choices including multi-cultural cuisine, food trends, food science, and individual health & wellness. Within a cooperative learning environment students will engage in a variety of interactive activities, including meal planning, food preparation, and recipe evaluation.

In 8th Grade, all students will pick four electives - two Humanities courses (pg. 11) and two STEM courses (pg. 12).

COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVES

INNOVATIVE CODING

In this course, students will utilize coding to build and design games, animations, and other digital media. Students will be utilizing a variety of coding languages to create their games and digital media. During this process, students will be able to tailor their digital designs to reflect their own unique and personal interests.

JUNIOR ENTREPRENEUR

Students will engage in an experience similar to Shark Tank where they will design and promote a product. This includes creating a brand name, interactive website, social media account and video commercial to highlight their product. The course will conclude with a presentation of their product where students will have the chance to promote their product and entice investors.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION ELECTIVES

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

A comprehensive course engaging students in collaborative problem solving through engineering and design. This course challenges students to create sustainable solutions to real world problems and analyze the impacts on the environment, economics, and society. Students engage in activities directly related to the selection of sustainable materials and practices for reducing their carbon footprint.

TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING AND DESIGN

This is a hands-on course that emphasizes innovation and engineering skills using the engineering design process. Students enrolled in this course are engaged in researching, designing and creating working models of various transportation devices. Students explore the physics of propulsion and aerodynamics. The connections between science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), are used throughout the course.

SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS (6 - 8 GRADE)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER PROGRAM

The English Language Learner Program provides course work for English Language Learners (ELLs). The program offers a continuum of courses that help ELLs become both competent in English and academically proficient in core content areas. Placement along the continuum is based on standardized assessments, local assessments, classroom content work, teacher input, parental input, and other factors. The goal of the program is for ELLs to become proficient in English, with emphasis on the academic, social, and cultural settings.

GIFTED PROGRAM

The WCASD Middle School Gifted Education Enrichment Program supports individualized instructional programs tailored to fit the needs of each identified gifted student. Students can select from a range of courses and topics based on their interests. The variety of course offerings range from Model UN to Language Forensics and Science investigations. In addition to the course offerings, the Middle School Gifted Program also engages students in seminars, field trips, regional competitions, independent study, and guest speaker events.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education services are provided at the middle school for those students who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Services include a variety of supports as determined appropriate for each individual child by the IEP team.

**The mission of the West Chester Area School District is
"to educate and inspire our students to achieve their personal best."**



West Chester Area School District
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484-266-1000 ~ www.wcasd.net

*This booklet was produced by the
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