



# West Chester Area School District 2021-22 MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

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



**WC Cyber Program Virtual Open House - Wednesday, January 27**

**Middle School 101 Virtual Meeting - Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

**5th Grade Parent Meetings - Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

**Fugett Middle School**  
Office: 484-266-2900

**Peirce Middle School**  
Office: 484-266-2500

**Stetson Middle School**  
Office: 484-266-2700

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION TIMELINE

DATE	CURRENT 6 <sup>TH</sup> & 7 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE (These students will be in 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade in 2021-22)
February 1 through February 11	Teacher recommendation window
February 14 through February 25	Student and parent course selection week
February 16	Middle School 101 Parent Information Night
March 8 through March 19	Recommendations may be viewed on the Parent Portal. All requests to change course selections and/or recommendations must be submitted to the student's counselor during this window.
March 24	Course change deadline - Course level waiver recommendations require administrative approval beyond this date.
May 5, 2021	5th grade course selection night
Mid August	5th Grade Parent Orientation Nights

### 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.

### PLACEMENT DECISIONS:

Placement of students into appropriate courses is an important factor that contributes to student success. To make appropriate decisions, middle school principals will consider multiple data points in the decision-making process. These data points will include student performance in class as evidenced by their report card grades, student performance on PSSA assessments, and their current teacher's recommendation. In addition, local assessment data may be considered should any be available for individual students.

### LEVEL RECOMMENDATION GUIDELINES:

#### ACCELERATED HONORS:

Accelerated Honors courses are designed for students who can learn advanced content at an

accelerated pace. These courses provide students with a rigorous curriculum that extends beyond grade level standards. These courses promote collaborative and self-directed learning through a variety of instructional activities and assessments.

#### HONORS:

Honors courses are designed for students who can learn enriched content at a challenging pace. These courses provide students with a rigorous, grade level curriculum. These courses promote collaborative, guided, and self-directed learning through a variety of instructional activities and assessments.

#### GRADE LEVEL:

Grade level courses are designed for students who can learn at a continuous pace. These courses provide students with essential skills and content knowledge aligned to grade level standards. These courses promote collaborative and guided learning through a variety of instructional activities and assessments.

**CHANGES AFTER THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS:**

Students may consider level changes after September 17th. Level changes will be honored provided they are in the best interest of the student and seats are available as a result of a level change.

Course changes into or out of a performing music after September 17th will only be processed after the completion of the marking period in which the request was made. These changes can be processed if there are available seats in the newly requested course(s).

**HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT IN MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

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 2023, Chapter 4 Rules and Regulations for the state of Pennsylvania require that 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:**

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
F = below 70		

**GUIDANCE COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS:**

Counselor assignments for the 2021-22 school year are listed below and on the back cover of this course guide.

**FUGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

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

**PEIRCE MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

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

**STETSON MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

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





# WEST CHESTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2021-22 MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

### BY GRADE

#### 6TH GRADE ACADEMIC COURSES

##### LANGUAGE ARTS - ENGLISH (6TH GRADE)

All sixth grade 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.

The specific data points that middle school principals will consider for placement into sixth grade reading and English courses are as follows: teacher recommendation, historical and current PSSA performance in reading and writing, and fifth grade reading and writing report card grades. Principals may also consider additional data points that may be available for individual students.

##### ENGLISH 6 ACCELERATED HONORS

This course is recommended for avid readers, advanced writers, critical thinkers and those who have a passion for Language Arts. This class teaches students to analyze, explain, and evaluate elements of literature and write at an accelerated pace.

##### ENGLISH 6 HONORS

This class teaches students to analyze, explain, and evaluate elements of literature and writing at a challenging pace.

##### ENGLISH 6 GRADE LEVEL

This class teaches students to explain, evaluate, and analyze elements of literature and writing at a continuous pace.

##### LANGUAGE ARTS - READING (6TH GRADE)

###### READING THROUGH TIME 6 HONORS

This course is for self-directed students who apply advanced reading strategies independently across all content areas.

###### READING THROUGH TIME 6 GRADE LEVEL

This course is for students who need additional instruction and practice in developing reading skills and strategies in all content areas.

###### READING PLUS 6

Reading Plus is designed to provide intense, formal reading intervention by a reading specialist. Students who are required to take this course will be selected based on need as determined by multiple criteria. This course replaces World Cultures and Geography.

##### MATHEMATICS (6TH GRADE)

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.

The specific data points that middle school principals will consider for placement into sixth grade math courses are as follows: teacher recommendation, historical and current PSSA performance in math, and fifth grade math grades. Furthermore, all students will take the Orleans Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test in the spring of their fifth grade

year. Student scores on the Orleans Hanna Algebra Prognosis Test will not include points for self-reported grades in math, science, English or social studies. These results will serve as an additional data point for placement in 6th grade. Principals may also consider additional data points that may be available for individual students.

Students who are non-proficient on the PSSA may receive math support through an additional math class or support within their regular math class.

### **MATHEMATICS 6 ACCELERATED HONORS** ☉

This course is designed for students who have demonstrated the prerequisite skills needed to study math at a high level and a rigorous pace. The curriculum is aligned to provide extensions and enrichment to focus on abstract and complex problem solving.

### **MATHEMATICS 6 HONORS** ☉

This course provides students with experiences to further build the foundational concepts necessary for the higher study of math. It is intended for students who are continuing the development of their abstract reasoning. Exposure to higher-order problem solving is prevalent within the challenging pace of this course.

### **MATHEMATICS 6 GRADE LEVEL** ☉

This course focuses on abstract thinking and provides an introduction through concrete and numeric examples. The transition to abstract problem solving occurs at a continuous pace with a focus on supporting a strong foundation of math knowledge.

### **MATH PLUS 6** ☉

This course replaces a 2 day Unified Arts class

Math Plus is designed to provide intense, formal math remediation. Students who are recommended to participate will be selected based on need as determined by multiple data. Math Plus is in addition to a student's core math class.

## **SCIENCE (6TH GRADE)** ☉

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 (6TH GRADE)**

### **WORLD CULTURES AND GEOGRAPHY** ☉

In accordance with Pennsylvania State Standards, the sixth grade World Cultures/Geography classes focus 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.

## **UNIFIED ARTS COURSES (6TH GRADE)**

### **ART** ☉

This class meets 4 days per 6-day cycle for a semester

The primary focus of this curriculum is to incorporate the elements and principles of art through global study. Emphasizing techniques, tool use, care and safety in the art room, 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. Ideas learned at the elementary level are reviewed and built upon in the sixth grade.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE (6TH GRADE)**

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE FUNDAMENTALS**

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

Computer Science Fundamentals is the first in

a series of computer science courses offered for middle school students. This sixth grade course introduces the concepts of computer science 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.

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE APPLICATIONS**

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

Computer Science Applications is the second course for 6th grade students. Students build on skills from the first course and are introduced to basic concepts of computer programming through flowcharts, algorithms and applications of the coordinate plane.

### **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (6TH GRADE)**

#### **FOOD SCIENCE**

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

This course introduces students to wellness and healthy food choices as outlined by the principles of the USDA's My Plate guidelines. Students explore the following content: laboratory and equipment safety, the science of food safety and food borne illness, accurate measuring techniques, chemical changes that occur during food preparation, healthy meal planning and lab procedure guidelines. Students participate in food experiments by applying these concepts. They critique their performance as members of a team.

#### **CONSUMER STUDIES**

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

Comprised of two interrelated units, students examine income and expenses in relation to their needs versus wants and use a decision-making model to manage resources. Through the examination of physical, emotional and social needs of the family, the young adolescent learns to distinguish needs and goals across the lifespan. They explore a variety of housing options to suit family structures. Using computer technology, students create a "dream room" involving a budget and purchasing strategies.

### **HEALTH (6TH GRADE)**

This class meets 6 days per 6-day cycle for a semester

The Health Education Program is designed to motivate and encourage active student participation in developing life skills for optimal emotional, mental, physical, and social health. The curriculum is aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Health, Safety & Physical Education and is delivered in a variety of teaching styles to optimize and accommodate student learning. A main goal of the program is for students to apply the knowledge gained to make healthy lifestyle decisions.

### **MUSIC (6TH GRADE)**

Band, Chorus, and String Orchestra all meet 2 days per 6-day cycle for the entire school year.

Middle school students may register for ONE performing ensemble class (band, chorus, orchestra) OR they will be enrolled in Classroom Music.

#### **BAND**

Students who play band instruments are given the opportunity to perform many styles of literature from classical to contemporary. The development of technical skills, musical knowledge and self discipline, as well as learning to work together as a unified organization, are important elements of the band program. Group lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis during the school day. Home practice is essential. Extracurricular activities such as Jazz Band, Pep Band, and small ensembles may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated students. Pennsylvania Music Educators association District 12 band festivals for fifth and sixth grades and other small ensembles, may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated students.

**Prerequisites:** Essential technical skills on a band instrument as prescribed in the district band curriculum and approval by the band director.

#### **CHORUS**

Each grade level practices and performs varied selections of choral literature while working toward developing tone, intonation, diction, blend, balance, and breathing techniques. Furthermore, students will continue to improve their music literacy,

ear-training/audiation skills, and sight-reading abilities. Chorus is designed for students who have a high level of interest in singing and improving their vocal skills. Extracurricular ensembles such as Stetson Singers, Peirce Vocal Ensemble, Fugett Chorale, PMEA Chorusfest, and District Honors Chorus may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated students.

### STRING ORCHESTRA

Students who play string instruments are given the opportunity to perform many styles of string ensemble/orchestral literature ranging from baroque to jazz. Students develop their technique and their knowledge of scales and rhythms as well as their sensitivity to style and character of the music. As a community of people, members of the string orchestra learn to work together with self discipline toward a common goal: excellence in performance. Group lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis during the school day. Home practice is essential, and private lessons are encouraged. Extracurricular activities such as Select Strings, Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 12 string festivals for fifth and sixth grades, and other small ensembles may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated string students.

Prerequisites: (1) essential technical skills on a violin, viola, cello or double bass and (2) approval by the elementary and middle school string directors.

### 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. They actively participate in musical performance while learning about the basic elements of music through our keyboard lab and various musical technologies.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION (6TH GRADE)

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for the entire school year

The Physical Education Program provides cognitive, affective and psychomotor learning opportunities aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Health, Safety & Physical Education in order to gain a better appreciation, working knowledge and understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. Students

engage in a wide variety of activities including team sports, cooperative games, personal fitness, lifetime pursuits, team building and indoor rock climbing. Classes are differentiated to meet all levels of ability and students are encouraged to optimize their participation by being prepared with a required uniform.

### TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (6TH GRADE)

#### INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY

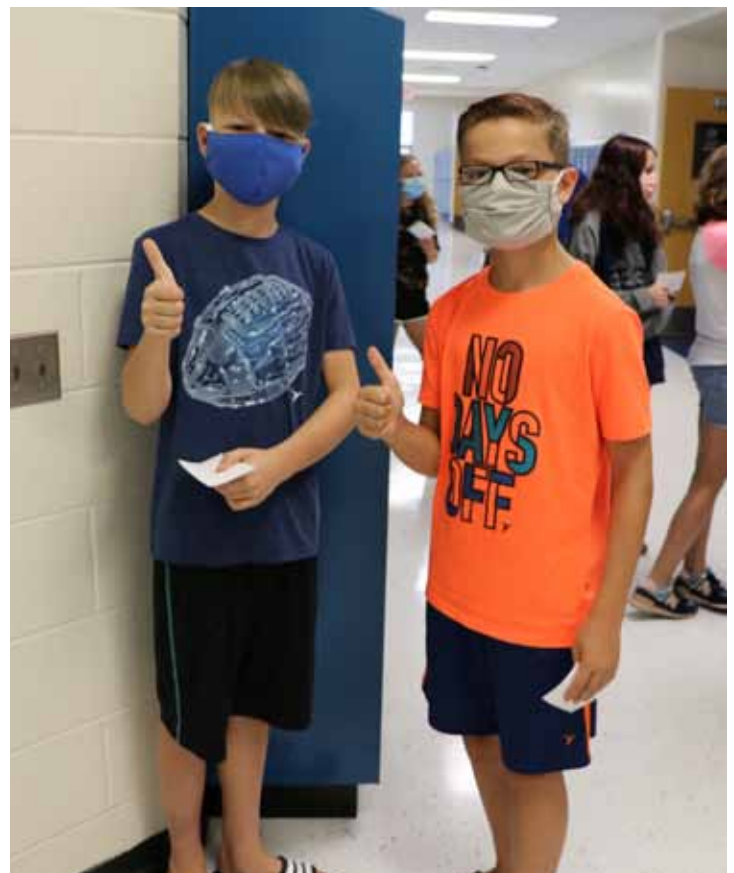
This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

Students are introduced to the engineering design process. Students learn how technologies are created, modified, and how they impact every day life.

#### ROBOTICS

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

Students engage in the engineering design process while solving problems that relate to real world situations utilizing 21st century manufacturing and robotic principles. Students explore many facets of technology to gain an understanding of the technological world around them.





## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ACADEMIC COURSES

### LANGUAGE ARTS - ENGLISH (7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

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.

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.

#### ENGLISH 7 ACCELERATED HONORS

This course is recommended for avid readers, advanced writers, critical thinkers and those who have a passion for Language Arts. This class teaches students to analyze, explain, and evaluate elements of literature and write at an accelerated pace.

#### ENGLISH 7 HONORS

This class teaches students to analyze, explain, and evaluate elements of literature and writing at a challenging pace.

#### ENGLISH 7 GRADE LEVEL

This course teaches students to explain, evaluate and analyze elements of literature and writing at a continuous pace.

### LANGUAGE ARTS - READING (7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

#### READING THROUGH TIME 7 HONORS

This course is for self-directed students who apply advanced reading strategies independently across all content areas.

If a student qualifies and chooses to take a world language, that student will not take reading in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

#### READING THROUGH TIME 7 GRADE LEVEL

This course provides additional instruction and practice in developing reading skills and strategies in all content areas.

#### READING PLUS 7

This course replaces World Language and/or Reading Through Time.

Reading Plus is designed to provide intense, formal reading intervention by a reading specialist. Students who are required to take this course will be selected based on need as determined by multiple criteria.

### MATHEMATICS (7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE)

All Math classes include the following content as outlined by state standards: rational numbers, algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, ratios and proportions, angle properties, geometric construction, volume & surface area, and statistics & probability.

The specific data points that middle school principals will consider for placement into seventh grade mathematics courses are as follows: teacher recommendation, historical and current PSSA performance in math, and sixth grade math grades. Furthermore, principals may consider additional data points that may be available for individual students.

Students who are non-proficient on the PSSA may receive math support through an additional math class or support within their regular math class.

#### ALGEBRA 1 ACCELERATED HONORS

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.

#### MATHEMATICS 7 - HONORS

Mathematics 7 Honors requires a focus on abstract



thinking with an exposure to higher-order problems. The course provides students with a foundation of skills and abstract reasoning and incorporates a challenging pace and level of rigor in preparation for taking Algebra 1 the following year.

### **MATHEMATICS 7 - GRADE LEVEL** ☉

Abstract thinking is embedded throughout the Mathematics 7 Grade Level 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.

### **MATH PLUS 7** ☉

This course replaces a 2 day Unified Arts class

Math Plus is designed to provide intense, formal math remediation. Students who are recommended to participate will be selected based on need as determined by multiple data. Math Plus is in addition to a student's core math class.

## **SCIENCE (7TH GRADE)** ☉

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.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES (7TH GRADE)**

### **AMERICAN HISTORY TO 1787** ☉

In accordance with Pennsylvania State Standards, students will explore the regions of America, indigenous cultural groups, European colonization, and the formation of the United States of America.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE (7TH GRADE)**

Middle schools will recommend reading or world language for students based on multiple criteria including, but not limited to, standardized

assessments and grades. Students enrolled in Direct Instruction Reading or Reading Plus are not eligible for world language.

### **FRENCH 1** ☉

Students develop the skills of listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing French 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 French culture. Listening and speaking skills are combined with written work for evaluation.

### **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.

## **UNIFIED ARTS COURSES (7TH GRADE)**

### **ART** ☉

This class meets 6 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

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.

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE 7** ☉

This class meets 6 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

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 (7TH GRADE)**

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.

## **HEALTH (7TH GRADE)**

This course meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for the entire year

The middle school Health Education Program is designed to motivate and encourage active student participation in developing life skills for optimal emotional, mental, physical, and social health. The curriculum is aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Health, Safety & Physical Education and is delivered in a variety of teaching styles to optimize and accommodate student learning. A main goal of the program is for students to apply the knowledge gained to make healthy lifestyle decisions.

## **MUSIC (7TH GRADE)**

Band, Chorus, and String Orchestra all meet 2 days per 6-day cycle for the entire school year.

Middle school students may register for ONE performing ensemble class (band, chorus, orchestra) OR they will be enrolled in Classroom Music.

### **BAND**

Students who play band instruments are given the opportunity to perform many styles of literature from classical to contemporary. The development of technical skills, musical knowledge, and self discipline, as well as learning to work together as a unified organization, are important elements of the band program. Group lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis during the school day. Home practice is essential. Extracurricular activities such as Jazz Band, District Honors Band, Pep Band, and small ensembles may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated students.

**Prerequisites:** (1) essential technical skills on a band instrument as prescribed in the district band curriculum; and (2) approval by the band director.

### **CHORUS**

Each grade level practices and performs varied selections of choral literature while working toward developing tone, intonation, diction, blend, balance, and breathing techniques. Furthermore, students will continue to improve their music literacy, ear-training/audiation skills, and sight-reading abilities. Chorus is designed for students who have a high level of interest in singing and improving their vocal skills. Extracurricular ensembles such as Stetson Singers, Peirce Vocal Ensemble, Fugett Chorale, PMEA Chorusfest, and District Honors Chorus may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated students.

## STRING ORCHESTRA

Students who play string instruments are given the opportunity to perform many styles of string ensemble/orchestral literature ranging from baroque to jazz. Students develop their technique and knowledge of scales and rhythms as well as their sensitivity to style and character of the music. As a community of people, members of the string orchestra learn to work together with self discipline toward a common goal: excellence in performance. Group lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis during the school day. Home practice is essential, and private lessons are encouraged. Extracurricular activities such as Select Strings, Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 12 string festivals for seventh and eighth grades, and other small ensembles may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated string students.

**Prerequisites:** (1) essential technical skills on a violin, viola, cello or double bass and (2) approval by the middle school string directors.

## CLASSROOM MUSIC

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for year

Classroom Music students study a variety of topics, including music theory, music history, instrumentation, composition, musical careers, recording, and the music industry. Building upon the skills and technologies learned in 6th grade classroom music, students will explore how to integrate their knowledge and skills to produce a variety of musical pieces, reflective of different styles, cultures, and time periods.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (7TH GRADE)

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for the entire school year

The middle school Physical Education Program provides cognitive, affective and psychomotor learning opportunities aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Health, Safety & Physical Education in order to gain a better appreciation, working knowledge and understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. Students engage in a wide variety of activities including team sports, cooperative games, personal fitness, lifetime pursuits, team building and indoor rock climbing.

Classes are differentiated to meet all levels of ability and students are encouraged to optimize their participation by being prepared with a required uniform.

## TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (7TH GRADE)

This class meets 6 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

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 ACADEMIC COURSES

### LANGUAGE ARTS - ENGLISH (8TH GRADE)

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.

The specific data points that middle school principals will consider for placement into eighth grade reading and English courses are as follows: teacher recommendation, historical and current PSSA performance in reading and writing, and seventh grade reading and English report card grades. Principals may also consider additional data points that may be available for individual students.

#### ENGLISH 8 ACCELERATED HONORS

This course is recommended for avid readers, advanced writers, critical thinkers and those who have a passion for Language Arts. This class teaches students to analyze, explain and evaluate elements of literature and write at an accelerated pace.

#### ENGLISH 8 HONORS

This class teaches students to analyze, explain, and evaluate elements of literature and writing at a challenging pace.

#### ENGLISH 8 GRADE LEVEL

This class teaches students to explain, evaluate, and analyze elements of literature and writing at a continuous pace.

### LANGUAGE ARTS - READING (8TH GRADE)

#### READING AND WRITING FOR LIFE GRADE LEVEL

This course is an elective designed for students who wish to explore reading and writing in the areas of short stories, non-fiction, journalism, living on your own, the law, and script writing.

### READING PLUS

This course replaces World Language and Reading and Writing for Life.

Reading Plus is designed to provide intense, formal reading intervention by a reading specialist. Students who are required to take this course will be selected based on need as determined by multiple criteria.

### MATHEMATICS (8TH GRADE)

The specific data points that middle school principals will consider for placement into eighth grade mathematics courses are as follows: teacher recommendation, historical and current PSSA performance in math, and seventh grade math grades. Principals may also consider additional data points that may be available for individual students.

Students who are non-proficient on the PSSA may receive math support through an additional math class or support within their regular math class.

#### 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.

### **MATH PLUS - 8** ☉

This course replaces a 2 day Unified Arts class

Math Plus is designed to provide intense, formal math remediation. Students who are recommended to participate will be selected based on need as determined by multiple data. Math Plus is in addition to a student's core math class.

## **SCIENCE (8TH GRADE)**

### **SCIENCE 8 HONORS** ☉

This 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.

### **SCIENCE 8 GRADE LEVEL** ☉

This course emphasizes reading strategies along with study and organizational skills and is based on the Pennsylvania State Science Standards and Assessment Anchors. The course emphasizes earth and environmental sciences. Topics covered 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 (8TH GRADE)**

### **U.S. HISTORY (1787-1914) HONORS** ☉

In accordance with Pennsylvania State Standards, 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. Students should be reading and writing above grade level.

### **U.S. HISTORY (1787-1914) GRADE LEVEL** ☉

In accordance with Pennsylvania State Standards, 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.

## **WORLD LANGUAGE (8TH GRADE)**

Middle schools will recommend reading or world language for students based on multiple criteria including, but not limited to, standardized assessments and grades. Students enrolled in Direct Instruction Reading or Reading Plus are not eligible for world language.

### **FRENCH 1** ☉

Students develop the skills of listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing French 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 French culture. Listening and speaking skills are combined with written work for evaluation.

### **FRENCH 2** ☉

Students continue their study of listening, understanding, speaking, reading, and writing, and explore certain aspects of French 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 French 1.

**GERMAN 1**

Students develop the skills of listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing German 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 German culture. Listening and speaking skills are combined with written work for evaluation.

**ITALIAN 1**

Students develop the skills of listening, understanding, speaking, reading and writing Italian 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 Italian culture. Listening and speaking skills are combined with written work for evaluation.

**LATIN 1**

Students read about a first century A.D. prosperous Roman family and learn basic Latin grammatical forms, syntax and vocabulary. The course heightens the student's awareness of the effect of Latin on our own English language and civilization.

**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.

**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.

**UNIFIED ARTS COURSES (8TH GRADE)**

**Students are required to select two Arts and Humanities (AH) classes**

**ART IN TWO DIMENSIONS (AH ELECTIVE)**

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

Students explore the creative and imaginative world of two-dimensional design using a variety of materials for personal expression. This elective builds on students' prior art knowledge and develops new techniques using computer applications and other media. Emphasis is on individual skill development. The vocabulary and critiquing techniques demonstrated by students are used to evaluate their work. This class should be considered a studio class for the developing art student.

**ART IN THREE DIMENSIONS (AH ELECTIVE)** 

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

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.

**FAMILY, FOOD, FINANCE (AH ELECTIVE)** 

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

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.

**GUITAR (AH ELECTIVE)**

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

This is an introductory class intended for students of all musical backgrounds. Students in the WCASD will have the opportunity to explore their love of music through guitar. Objectives include exploring the fundamentals of guitar performance, reading traditional notation, tablature and chord



charts, playing individually as well as in groups, understanding the musical concepts of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form and to develop a deeper appreciation for all styles of music.

Students without a performing music (band, chorus or orchestra) will take this course.

### **POPULAR MUSIC (AH ELECTIVE)** 🔄

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

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 are required to select two Technology (T) courses.**

### **CULTURE, CUISINE, CONNECTIONS (T ELECTIVE)** 🔄

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

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.

### **INNOVATIVE CODING (T ELECTIVE)**

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

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 (T ELECTIVE)** 🔄

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

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.

### **SUSTAINABLE DESIGN (T ELECTIVE)**

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

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 (T ELECTIVE)** 🔄

This class meets every day for 1 quarter

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.

### **HEALTH (8TH GRADE)** 🔄

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for the entire school year

The middle school Health Education Program is designed to motivate and encourage active student participation in developing life skills for optimal emotional, mental, physical, and social health. The curriculum is aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Health, Safety & Physical Education and is delivered in a variety of teaching styles to optimize and accommodate student learning. A main goal of the program is for students to apply the knowledge gained to make healthy lifestyle decisions.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (8TH GRADE)

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for the entire school year

The middle school Physical Education Program provides cognitive, affective and psychomotor learning opportunities aligned with the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Health, Safety & Physical Education in order to gain a better appreciation, working knowledge and understanding of the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. Students engage in a variety of activities including team sports, cooperative games, personal fitness, lifetime pursuits, team building and indoor rock climbing. Classes are differentiated to meet all levels of ability and students are encouraged to optimize their participation by being prepared with a required uniform.

## MUSIC (8TH GRADE)

Band, Chorus, and String Orchestra all meet 2 days per 6-day cycle for the entire school year.

Middle school students may register for ONE performing ensemble class (band, chorus, orchestra).

### BAND

Students who play band instruments are provided the opportunity to perform many styles of literature from classical to contemporary. The development of technical skills, musical knowledge and self discipline, as well as learning to work together as a unified organization, are important elements of the band program. Group lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis during the school day. Home practice is essential. Extracurricular activities such as Jazz Band, Honors Band, Pep Band, and small ensembles may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated students.

Prerequisites: (1) essential technical skills on a band instrument as prescribed in the district band curriculum; and (2) approval by the band director.

### CHORUS

Each grade level practices and performs varied selections of choral literature while working toward developing tone, intonation, diction, blend, balance, and breathing techniques. Furthermore, students will continue to improve their music literacy, ear-training/audiation skills, and sight-reading

abilities. Chorus is designed for students who have a high level of interest in singing and improving their vocal skills. Extracurricular ensembles such as Stetson Singers, Peirce Vocal Ensemble, Fugett Chorale, PMEA Chorusfest, and District Honors Chorus may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated students.

### STRING ORCHESTRA

Students who play string instruments are given the opportunity to perform many styles of string ensemble/orchestral literature, from baroque to jazz. Students develop their technique and their knowledge of scales and rhythms as well as their sensitivity to style and character of the music. As a community of people, members of the string orchestra learn to work together with self discipline toward a common goal: excellence in performance. Group lessons are scheduled on a rotating basis during the school day. Home practice is essential, and private lessons are encouraged. Extracurricular activities such as Select Strings, Eighth Grade Quartet, Pennsylvania Music Educators Association District 12 string festivals for seventh and eighth grades, and other small ensembles may be offered as enrichment opportunities for exceptionally motivated string students.

Prerequisites: essential technical skills on a violin, viola, cello or double bass middle school string directors.

**Students who do not enroll in Band, Chorus, or Orchestra will complete all of the following courses.**

### DESIGN FOR THE REAL WORLD

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

This is a general technology course that meets on two days of the six-day cycle for one marking period. Students engage in hands-on activities from various areas of technology, including communications, materials, manufacturing and design.

### DIGITAL MEDIA CREATOR

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

In this class, students will explore multiple ways of creating and sharing dynamic, engaging interactive content with an emphasis on the use of video as a means of communication. The process of digital

media design will include the planning, creating and editing of the project while utilizing various hardware and software tools to enhance a digital product.

### **INTRO TO INTERNET AND WEB DESIGN**

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

Students will explore tools that enhance the interactive nature of the internet. Students will design and build a website while also focusing on the interface and layout of a website and its various functions. Studies will also include how a network operates as well as a continued focus on digital citizenship. Student projects will highlight their selections in writing and visual components to communicate with an audience.

### **TEEN IMPACT**

This class meets 2 days per 6-day cycle for 1 quarter

In this course, students will explore authentic, project-based, and service-oriented learning opportunities intended to develop 21st century skills. Students will actively engage in critical thinking and problem solving processes based on real world needs and concerns. Citizenship, communication, character building, and resource management will provide the foundation for learning opportunities and skill development.



## **SPECIALIZED PROGRAMS (6TH-8TH GRADES)**

### **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.



## SECONDARY ENGLISH COURSE SEQUENCE

**6th  
Grade**

ENGLISH  
GRADE LEVEL

ENGLISH  
HONORS

ENGLISH  
ACCELERATED HONORS

**7th  
Grade**

ENGLISH  
GRADE LEVEL

ENGLISH  
HONORS

ENGLISH  
ACCELERATED HONORS

**8th  
Grade**

ENGLISH  
GRADE LEVEL

ENGLISH  
HONORS

ENGLISH  
ACCELERATED HONORS

**9th  
Grade**

ENGLISH CAREER &  
COLLEGE PREP

ENGLISH  
HONORS

ENGLISH  
ACCELERATED HONORS

**10th  
Grade**

ENGLISH CAREER &  
COLLEGE PREP

ENGLISH  
HONORS

ENGLISH  
ACCELERATED HONORS

**11th  
Grade**

LANGUAGE CAREER &  
COLLEGE PREP

LITERATURE CAREER &  
COLLEGE PREP

ENGLISH  
HONORS

AP  
LANGUAGE & COMP.

**12th  
Grade**

LANGUAGE CAREER &  
COLLEGE PREP

LITERATURE CAREER &  
COLLEGE PREP

ENGLISH  
HONORS

AP  
LITERATURE & COMP.

**STUDENTS WHO EXCEL AT ONE LEVEL MAY PROGRESS TO A HIGHER LEVEL THE FOLLOWING YEAR.**

## SECONDARY MATHEMATICS COURSE PROGRESSION

6th Grade	MATH 6 GRADE LEVEL	MATH 6 HONORS	MATH 6 ACCELERATED HONORS	
7th Grade	MATH 7 GRADE LEVEL	MATH 7 HONORS	ALGEBRA 1 (7) ACCELERATED HONORS	
8th Grade	MATH 8 GRADE LEVEL	ALGEBRA 1 (8) HONORS	GEOMETRY 8 ACCELERATED HONORS	
9th Grade	ALGEBRA 1A	ALGEBRA	GEOMETRY	ALGEBRA 2
10th Grade	ALGEBRA 1B	GEOMETRY	ALGEBRA 2	PRE-CALCULUS
11th Grade	GEOMETRY	ALGEBRA 2	PRE-CALCULUS	CALCULUS
12th Grade Electives	ALGEBRA 2 STATISTICS CAREER & COLLEGE PREP	PRE-CALCULUS	CALCULUS	CALCULUS STATISTICS COMPUTER SCIENCE

### SECONDARY MATHEMATICS:

Course content and pacing are offered at various levels of ability to meet the needs of students. The goal of each course is to challenge, but not overwhelm, students. Students should consult with their current math teachers to help determine appropriate levels. The most rigorous course level offered is AP/ Accelerated Honors followed by Honors. Career & College Prep courses are taught at a college-prep level. Below is a listing of the levels at which each course is offered:

Algebra 1:	Honors, Career & College Prep
Geometry:	Accelerated Honors, Honors, Career & College Prep
Algebra 2:	Accelerated Honors, Honors, Career & College Prep
Pre-Calculus:	Accelerated Honors, Honors, Career & College Prep
Calculus:	AP-BC, AP-AB, Honors
Statistics:	AP, Honors

**ALL STUDENTS MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THREE MATH COURSES TO GRADUATE.**

## GUIDANCE COUNSELOR ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2021-22

### FUGETT MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Mike Cassidy, Grade 6  
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**The mission of the West Chester Area School District is  
"to educate and inspire our students to achieve their personal best."**



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The middle school administration would like to commend the efforts of the department chairs of Fugett Middle School, Peirce Middle School, and Stetson Middle School for their cooperation in making this Course Description Guide a reality. Through their collective vision, we have been able to bring West Chester Area School District's middle school model into a unified organization that will provide consistency while enlightening our students with an exciting and fulfilling educational experience.