Pewamo-Westphalia Community Schools

5101 S Clintonia Road, Westphalia, MI 48894
Phone: (989) 587-5100 - Fax: (989) 587-5120
www.pwschools.org

PWMHS - Course Offerings & Options for 6-8th Grade Students

6th Grade

Core Classes: Mathematics 6, English - Language Arts 6, Social Studies 6, and Science 6

Intervention Class Options: Math Lab and Reading Lab

Mandated Elective: Music Education / Band 6, Physical Education 6

Optional Electives:, Stage Arts 6-8 and Science Olympiad 6

7th Grade

Core Classes: Mathematics 7, English - Language Arts 7, World History 7, and Science 7, Culture and Geography

Intervention Class Options: Math Lab and Reading Lab

Optional Electives: Band 7-8, Physical Education 7, Computers 7, Stage Arts 6-8, Cultural Studies 7, and Leadership 7

8th Grade

Core Classes: Pre-Algebra / Algebra 1, English - Language Arts 8, US History 8, and Science 8

Intervention Class Options: Math Lab and Reading Lab

Mandated Elective: Health 8, STMBotix 8, Business Entrepreneurship

Optional Electives: Spanish 1, Band 7-8, Physical Education 8, Stage Arts 6-8

#WeArePW #ONWARD!

Course Descriptions and Links for 6th Grade Students

Mathematics 6 Syllabus State Standards

In this course, students will learn numerous topics including numerical expressions and factors, fractions, decimals, algebraic expressions and properties, ratios, rates, integers, equations and inequalities. Students will also learn to solve areas of polygons, surface areas, volume, statistical measures and data displays. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge through homework, quizzes, and tests.

English - Language Arts 6 Syllabus State Standards

The goal of this course is to examine literature through the study of various novels, short stories, *The Giver*, *Freak the Mighty* and poetry. We will focus on strengthening reading comprehension, as well as improving writing skills through free writes, essays, and formal writing projects. There will be an emphasis on vocabulary, spelling, and grammar. Students will be expected to independently read a book and complete an accompanying project to demonstrate their knowledge each quarter.

Science 6 Syllabus State Standards

The goal of this course is to explore the four units of science… Life Science, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physical Science. We will explore phenomena that will drive our questioning as we discover how our world works. IQWST is designed to explore through readings, hands on activities, and answering questions using CER (claim, evidence, reasoning)

Social Studies 6 Syllabus State Standards

The goal of this course is to examine the topics of World Geography… the world in special terms, population and migration, culture, human-environment interaction, global trade, and politics. We will also learn the geography of many prominent countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, and Central America. We will improve our knowledge of global diversity through collaboration, projects, presentations, and discussions.

Band 6 Syllabus State Standards

Students will learn the foundations of playing a wind band instrument. Students may start on flute, clarinet, trumpet or trombone. Other options may be offered throughout the year. Students will perform at least two concerts outside the normal school day. The concerts usually occur in December and May. Our 6th Grade Band focuses on individual player development and musical literacy with a shift to ensemble skills as the year progresses.

Physical Education 6 Syllabus State Standards

This comprehensive program offers students a balanced mix of skill development, team sports, and physical fitness. Through instruction in sport-specific rules and strategies, alongside structured conditioning in the weight room, students build a foundation for physical health. The curriculum also emphasizes individual sports to encourage lifelong physical activity. Guided by the philosophy, every student is encouraged to work at an intensity level tailored to their personal fitness goals for maximum benefit.

Stage Arts 6-8 Syllabus State Standards

Our PWMHS Theater and Stage Arts programming has been around for decades – putting on amazing large ensemble performances throughout the years such as *Oklahoma* (1992-93), *Grease* (2001-02), *High School Musical* (2014-15), and *Shrek* (2024-25). With both middle school and high school components, this platform offers students the opportunity to take classes that teach acting, singing, and dancing, put on a full-length musical each year, show off their artistic side within our stage crew (set / prop design and construction), and learn how to operate advanced equipment as a member of the tech team. This course includes at least two required evening productions per year.

Science Olympiad 6 Syllabus State Sci Olympiad Site

Science Olympiad is a national, team-based competition for middle and high school students focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Students compete in various science-related events - demonstrating their knowledge and skills in diverse fields like Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science. Students work in teams to prepare for and compete in events such as “Disease Detectives”, “Air Trajectory”, “Tower”, “Crime Busters”, “Mission Possible”, etc. Although events may change year to year, many are run annually.

Course Descriptions and Links for 7th Grade Students

Mathematics 7 Syllabus State Standards

In this course, students will learn numerous topics including integers, rational numbers, expressions, equations, inequalities, ratios and proportions, and percents. Students will also learn to construct angles and scale drawings, find area of circles, surface area, volume and probability and statistics. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge through homework, quizzes, tests and semester exams.

English - Language Arts 7 Syllabus State Standards

English 7 continues to build on the sequential review and development of grammar and communication skills in writing. An evaluation of literature develops analytical skills using examples of short stories, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963* and *The Westing Game,* poetry, and drama selected from a variety of periods and authors. A research paper using appropriate MLA style, format, and research methods will be written. Students will be expected to

independently read a book and complete an accompanying project to demonstrate their knowledge each quarter.

Science 7 Syllabus State Standards

The middle school science curriculum utilizes IQWST, which is a science curriculum designed around the Next Generation Science standards. The curriculum employs a three-dimensional approach to learning, combining core scientific ideas, crosscutting concepts, and scientific and engineering practices. Through hands-on activities, collaborative discussions, and interactive investigations, students will develop a sophisticated understanding of key scientific concepts across multiple disciplines. Key topics covered in 7th grade include: an introduction to chemistry, chemical reactions, conservation of matter, transformation and conservation of energy, atmospheric processes, weather and climate, body systems and cellular processes.

World History 7 Syllabus State Standards

World History 7 focuses on the beginnings of human society, early civilizations, and the development of empires and classical societies. This course will have elements of geography, government, and economics incorporated throughout. The course will help to develop the skills necessary to be successful in school and in life. Our goal is for students to be able to connect with the past and to see the importance and relevance of past events in modern times.

Band 7-8 Syllabus State Standards

Students continue individual development and musical literacy with an equal focus on ensemble skills. Our band usually performs at a concert at least once a quarter, has opportunities for solo / ensemble work, occasionally will have an opportunity to play alongside our high school band, and may also participate in our (before-school extracurricular) Jazz Band Club.

Physical Education 7 Syllabus State Standards

This course focuses on total fitness and working as a team through a dynamic weekly schedule. Two days per week, students will be in the weight room developing strength and athleticism. The other two days are spent in the field house focusing on sports and team-building challenges. On Mondays, students have the option to opt out of PE to attend a once-weekly religion class; students who do not take religion will participate in an additional day of sports-based physical education. By introducing students to these different training styles, we help them build the confidence and habits needed for a lifetime of activity.

Computers 7 Syllabus State Standards

Computers 7 draws from the Computer Science Discoveries curriculum. CS Discoveries is an introductory computer science course that empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Topics include html / web design, javascript / game design, app design, data in society, and physical computing.

Stage Arts 6-8 Syllabus State Standards

Our PWMHS Theater and Stage Arts programming has been around for decades – putting on amazing large ensemble performances throughout the years such as *Oklahoma* (1992-93), *Grease*

(2001-02), *High School Musical* (2014-15), and *Shrek* (2024-25). With both middle school and high school components, this platform offers students the opportunity to take classes that teach acting, singing, and dancing, put on a full-length musical each year, show off their artistic side within our stage crew (set / prop design and construction), and learn how to operate advanced equipment as a member of the tech team. This course includes at least two required evening productions per year.

Science Olympiad 7 **Syllabus** **State Sci Olympiad Site**

Science Olympiad is a national, team-based competition for middle and high school students focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Students compete in various science-related events - demonstrating their knowledge and skills in diverse fields like Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science. Students work in teams to prepare for and compete in events such as "Disease Detectives", "Air Trajectory", "Tower", "Crime Busters", "Mission Possible", etc. Although events may change year to year, many are run annually.

Cultural Studies and Geography 7 **Syllabus** **State Standards**

Our Cultural Studies semester-long elective course is one that takes students on a journey through multiple cultures and ways of life around the globe. Students work through countries such as Russia, Japan, Argentina, Spain, England, Australia, China, Cuba, etc., learning about each country's government, history, geography, landmarks, economy, pop culture, sports, architecture, music, and much more! Using tools like YouTube, Google Earth, National Geographic, and the Travel Channel (etc), students explore the world around them.

Leadership 7 **Syllabus** State Standards

7th Grade Leadership is a semester-long course where students discover how to lead themselves before leading others. Designed around hands-on, project-based learning, this course empowers students to explore their personal values, strengthen public speaking skills, and master the art of team collaboration. Students will design team challenges, record leadership interviews, and pitch real solution proposals to school leaders. Students will actively practice active listening, conflict resolution, and community problem-solving every day. Your student will walk away with greater confidence, a deeper understanding of their personal strengths, and practical tools to make a positive impact in their school and community.

Course Descriptions and Links for 8th Grade Students

Pre-Algebra Syllabus State Standards

In this course, students will learn numerous topics including solving equations, graphing and writing linear equations and linear systems, functions, inequalities, square roots, pythagorean theorem, exponents and scientific notation. Students will also learn to find angles and similarity, use data analysis and displays, percents and probability. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge through homework, quizzes, tests and semester exams.

Algebra 1 Syllabus State Standards

In this course, students will learn numerous topics including recognizing and developing patterns using tables, graphs, and equations as well exploring operations on algebraic expressions and applying mathematical properties to algebraic equations. Students will also solve problems using equations, graphs and tables to investigate linear and non-linear relationships. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge through homework, quizzes, tests, and semester exams.

English - Language Arts 8 Syllabus State Standards

English 8 builds and expands upon skills focused on in English 7, including reading/comprehension, vocabulary, written communication, and knowledge of grammatical concepts. Through reading and analyzing three to five novels and/or plays, as well as several short stories and poems, students will be exposed to a wide variety of texts to prepare them for high school. Students will compose at least two long-form essays, and continue to develop skills that they will build upon in their high school education.

Science 8 Syllabus State Standards

The middle school science curriculum utilizes IQWST, which is a science curriculum designed around the Next Generation Science standards. The curriculum employs a three-dimensional approach to learning, combining core scientific ideas, crosscutting concepts, and scientific and engineering practices. Through hands-on activities, collaborative discussions, and interactive investigations, students will develop a sophisticated understanding of key scientific concepts across multiple disciplines. Key topics covered in 8th grade include: geological processes, plate tectonics, heredity and natural selection, force and motion and chemical reactions in living things.

United States History 8 Syllabus State Standards

United States History 8 will begin with a review of the material previously covered and then move into the development of our nation from the American Revolutionary War through the Civil War and Reconstruction. The course will help to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills as well as to prepare students for high school. Our goal is for students to be able to connect with the past and see the importance and relevance of past events in modern times.

Health 8 Syllabus State Standards

The goal of Health education is to help establish patterns of behavior that will assist a person in achieving complete health. This is done by following the *Michigan Model* education standards along with updated current facts and events going on around us. This is a mandated course

needed for general graduation from middle school. Complete health is accomplished by having a balance of physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being. This course is designed to offer students within the 8th Grade the opportunity to acquire knowledge, incorporate processing and life skills, and develop positive attitudes about life. Building a solid foundation of good decision-making skills can contribute to a variety of healthy choices for themselves and others. Studies will include personal and community health; mental, emotional, and social health; injury prevention and safety; nutrition and physical activity; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and reproductive health.

Spanish 1 Syllabus State Standards

Students will become familiar with the language, culture and social norms of the Spanish language. They will become proficient in several tenses including: present, present progressive, near future, near past, imperfect and imperfect progressive. Students will be able to articulate their thoughts both orally and in written form. They will be actively working on improving their pronunciation and imitating the natural pacing of Spanish in order to sound more fluid in their speech. They will learn about the different aspects of culture and its effect on the Spanish language as well as being exposed to culturally-relevant and authentic speech.

Band 7-8 Syllabus State Standards

Students continue individual development and musical literacy with an equal focus on ensemble skills. Our band usually performs at a concert at least once a quarter, has opportunities for solo / ensemble work, occasionally will have an opportunity to play alongside our high school band, and may also participate in our (before-school extracurricular) Jazz Band Club.

Physical Education 8 Syllabus State Standards

This course focuses on total fitness and working as a team. The weekly schedule includes two days of physical workouts, two days of sport challenges and team builders, and one day devoted to agility, speed, and health topics. By introducing students to these different training styles, we help them build the confidence and habits needed for a lifetime of activity.

Stage Arts 6-8 Syllabus State Standards

Our PWMHS Theater and Stage Arts programming has been around for decades – putting on amazing large ensemble performances throughout the years such as *Oklahoma* (1992-93), *Grease* (2001-02), *High School Musical* (2014-15), and *Shrek* (2024-25). With both middle school and high school components, this platform offers students the opportunity to take classes that teach acting, singing, and dancing, put on a full-length musical each year, show off their artistic side within our stage crew (set / prop design and construction), and learn how to operate advanced equipment as a member of the tech team. This course includes at least two required evening productions per year.

STMBotix 8 Syllabus VEX Robotics Site

The STMBotix course will provide students with an introduction to the engineering process and provide hands-on experience in applying this process. Students will use the VEX building platform to complete a variety of building tasks that apply Physics and Engineering principles. Students will work as a part of a team to design and build robots to accomplish specific tasks.

Along the way students will be learning about the concepts of speed, power, torque, leverage, gear ratios, DC motors, and computer programming. Students will learn to apply mathematical reasoning to real world scenarios. They will use the skills they gain in these areas to design and problem solve in order to build and improve their robots.

Business Entrepreneurship Syllabus State Standards

How much does life actually cost, and what does it take to run your own business? In this course, students dive into essential personal finance and entrepreneurship skills. On the personal finance side, students will learn budgeting, banking, investing, and navigating real-world costs of living. On the entrepreneurial side, students bring an original business concept or invention to life. Across both units, students gather data, design brand assets, produce audio/video commercials, craft 3D prototypes, and manage business finances. The trimester culminates in a "Shark Tank" style pitch, where students present their complete business plan to the class.

Model United Nations 8 Syllabus Red Cedar MUN Site

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to discuss, understand, and explore local, national, international, political, economic and social issues in a respectful, meaningful, and active way. Model United Nations (MUN) is an educational simulation where students take on the roles of delegates representing different countries in the United Nations. During a MUN conference, participants research global issues, write position papers, and engage in formal debates to propose solutions to real-world problems. They work together in committees, follow diplomatic procedures, and use public speaking, negotiation, and teamwork to draft and vote on resolutions. MUN gives students a chance to learn about international relations, develop leadership skills, and experience what it's like to be a global decision-maker.

Intervention Courses

Math Lab Syllabus Standards

Students who test below the 40th percentile on the NWEA and/or are recommended by their math teacher may be placed in Math Lab. Students placed in the class will receive one-on-one and small-group support to aid in the building of their math fluency and comprehension skills. Resources used in this class may include Spring Math, Xtramath, and IXL. Students will also receive extra support using Big Ideas, utilizing pre-teach and/or reteach content methods.

Reading Lab Syllabus Standards

Students who test below the 40th percentile on the NWEA and/or are recommended by their English Language Arts teacher may be placed in Reading Lab. Students placed in the class will receive one-on-one and small-group support to aid in the building of their reading fluency and comprehension skills. They will receive individualized instruction for grammar and writing conventions.

Life Skills 6-12 Syllabus and State Standards

Students with an IEP will develop the practical skills they will need outside the classroom, such as choice making, collaboration, communication, good citizenship, rights and responsibilities,

daily living, problem solving, social skills, job skills, banking, time, money, and everyday math needed for adult living. These skills will further assist them in their everyday adult lives both at home, in the workplace, and out in the community.

#WeArePW #ONWARD!