

NTSD | 2024-2025

# PROGRAM OF STUDIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE | GRADES 7-8



## ADMINISTRATION AND COUNSELORS

Dr. Terence P. Meehan  
*Superintendent*

Mr. Justin DiMuccio  
*Business Manager*

Mrs. Jenny Flannery  
*Director of Educational Services*

Mrs. Staci Norris  
*Director of Special Education*

Mrs. Alicia Measel  
*Junior High School Principal*

Mr. Luca Passarelli  
*Senior High School Principal*

Mr. Adam Held  
*Junior High Guidance Counselor*

Mrs. Brenda DeVincentis  
*Senior High Guidance Counselor*

## Our Mission

*Neshannock Township School District is committed to providing every student the opportunity to develop and utilize their academic and social skills through an exemplary, rigorous educational experience in a safe and caring environment.*



## BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

Mr. PJ Copple, President  
Mrs. Kelly Corey, Vice-President  
Mrs. Karen Houk, Treasurer

Mr. David Antuono  
Mr. Mark Hasson  
Mrs. Karen Houk  
Mr. Michael Kalpich  
Mr. John Lambo  
Mrs. Joy Measel  
Mrs. Dawn Mozzocio



## Belief Statement

*All students can learn.*

*We prepare our students to be life-long learners.*

*Students learn in different ways and at different rates.*

*The key aspect of education is developing well-rounded students who think creatively and critically to make informed decisions and solve problems.*

*Education enables the individual to be a responsible, self-disciplined member of a community.*

*Education and cultural diversity enriches the educational experience for students.*

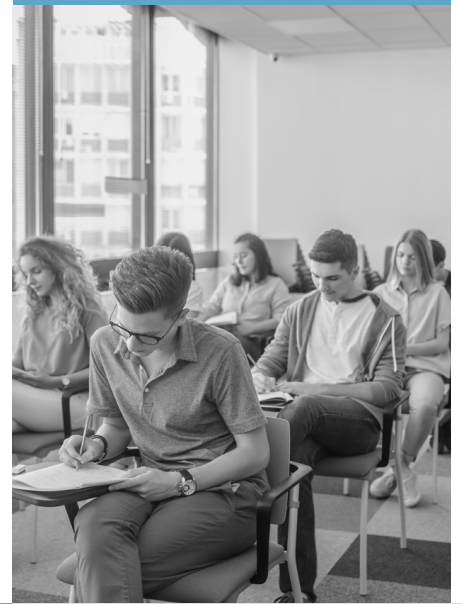
*Students and staff will be proactive in creating a safe and caring environment.*

*Education is a cooperative effort of the Board of Education, staff, students, parents, and the community.*

*The School District fosters an environment that encourages all staff to exercise their unique skills to enhance education.*

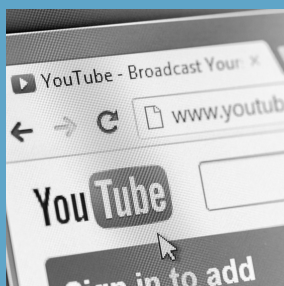
## Vision Statement

THE DISTRICT WILL FOSTER SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS IN ORDER TO DELIVER A RIGOROUS CURRICULUM THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF ALL STUDENTS. THESE PARTNERSHIPS WILL INSPIRE STUDENTS AND STAFF TO ACHIEVE ALL ASPECTS OF THE DISTRICT'S MISSION AND GOALS.



## Neshannock Township School District

*Our Online Presence | Stay Connected with NTSD*



## NTSD.ORG

**SCHOOLGY**  
ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM


**INSTAGRAM**  
@NESHANNOCK.LANCERS

**FACEBOOK**  
@NESHTSD

**YOUTUBE**  
YOUTUBE.COM/NESHANNOCK  
VIDEOPRODUCTIONS

**SCHOOL MESSENGER**  
CALL AND TEXT ALERTS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



<b>4</b>	<b><i>Scheduling Timeline</i></b>
<b>5</b>	<b><i>Definition of Terms</i></b>
<b>7</b>	<b><i>Course Offerings - Grade 7</i></b>
<b>8</b>	<b><i>Course Descriptions - Grade 7</i></b>
<b>11</b>	<b><i>Course Offerings - Grade 8</i></b>
<b>12</b>	<b><i>Course Descriptions - Grade 8</i></b>
<b>17</b>	<b><i>Special Education</i></b>
<b>19</b>	<b><i>Activities and Athletics</i></b>

NTSD | 2024-2025

# SCHEDULING TIMELINE



Rising seventh and eighth grade students will be scheduled for required courses by the guidance counselors.

Students will have the option of selecting band, choir, or study hall as elective courses.

Schedules, including homeroom assignments, are distributed to students prior to the start of the school year.

## Guidance Counselors

Questions regarding the scheduling process should be directed to the following:

**Mr. Adam Held, Grades 7 - 9**

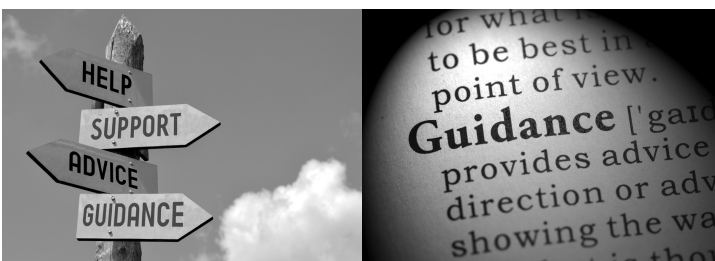
[aheld@ntsd.org](mailto:aheld@ntsd.org)

724-658-5513, ext. 5122

**Mrs. Brenda DeVincentis, Grades 10 - 12**

[bdevincentis@ntsd.org](mailto:bdevincentis@ntsd.org)

724-658-5513, ext. 5115



Visit Our Website for More Information and Helpful Links:

[NTSD.ORG/GUIDANCE](https://www.ntsdschools.org/GUIDANCE)

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

### Nondiscrimination Policy

Neshannock Township School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title IV, Title IX, and Section 504.

For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Dr. Terence P. Meehan. For Title IX questions or concerns contact Mr. Luca Passarelli; and for Section 504 questions or concerns, contact Mrs. Staci A. Norris, Director of Special Education at 3834 Mitchell Road, New Castle, PA 16105 (724-658-4793).

For information regarding services, activities, and facilities that are accessible to and usable by handicapped persons, please contact the Director of Special Education as well at (724-658-4793, ext. 5106).

### Handicapped Students Policy

A protected handicapped student is a student who is school age with a physical or mental disability, which substantially limits or prohibits participation in or access to any aspect of the school program.

In compliance with State and Federal Law, the School District will provide to each protected handicapped student, without discrimination or cost to the student or family, those related aides, services, or accommodations which are needed to provide equal opportunity to participate in and obtain the benefits of the school program and extracurricular activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the student's abilities. These services and protections for "protected handicapped students" are distinct from those applicable to all eligible or exceptional students enrolled (or seeking enrollment) in special education programs.

For further information on the evaluation procedures and provisions of services to protected handicapped students, contact the Special Education Office, Neshannock Township School District (724-658-4793, ext. 5106).

### Schedule Changes

Students will not be permitted to change schedule requests after May 20. Any student who withdraws from a class after the first full week of school will be issued a withdrawal fail in the class and no credit will be awarded.

### Report Cards and Progress Reports

Students in the junior high receive report cards every nine weeks. Progress reports are mailed in the middle of each grading period. Parents are encouraged to contact the subject teacher first and then Mr. Held in the guidance office if they have questions about the progress of their child.

### Final Grade Calculation

Final grades will be an average of the percentage of each of the four nine week grading periods.

### Promotion and Retention

Students failing one or two subjects must attend summer school to qualify for advancement to the next grade level. Students failing three or more subjects will be retained at the same grade level.

### Neshannock Online Campus

The Neshannock Online Campus serves students in grades 7 through 12 and is powered by Schoology. Our online campus offers Neshannock Township School District students both the academic strengths of the traditional classroom and the flexibility of an online learning platform. The Neshannock Online Campus curriculum offers full access to district resources and facilities, including guidance counseling, libraries, and athletic facilities at no cost to district families. Your child may join extracurricular music and theater groups, special interest clubs, and sports teams. The online campus offers students something unique to cyber education -- a Neshannock Township School District diploma and the ability to graduate with classmates. All NHS Online Campus courses scheduled will meet graduation or grade level requirements that are in line with the Neshannock Township School District. Due to the nature of an online learning platform, certain courses may have an alternative course description, and, in some cases, may only be available in the brick and mortar/in-person setting. See course descriptions for details.

All students enrolled in the online campus must adhere to the policies and procedures outlined in our student handbook. Visit [www.NTSD.org/online-learning/neshannockonlinecampus](http://www.NTSD.org/online-learning/neshannockonlinecampus) for more information on Neshannock Online Campus.

### Full-Virtual Day

In the event of a temporary building closure, for any reason, student learning and instruction will remain uninterrupted. Students in Grades 7-12 will remotely report to school through the use of our Schoology online learning platform.

### Keystone Exams

The Keystone Exams are end-of-course assessments designed to assess proficiency in various subjects. During the 2024-2025 school year the following Keystone Exams will be available: Algebra I. In future years additional Keystone Exams will be administered. The Keystone Exams are one component of Pennsylvania's system of high school graduation requirements. Keystone Exams will help school districts guide students toward meeting state standards. Students are eligible to attempt to pass the Keystone Exams three (3) times.

Student scores and performance levels will be recorded on student transcripts.

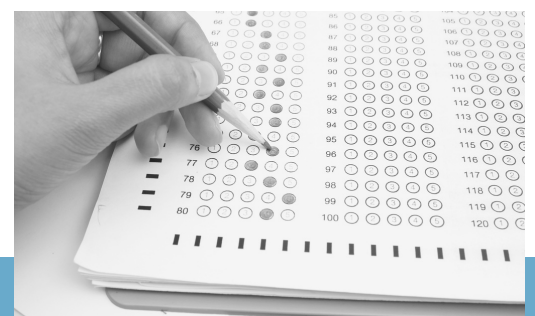
The Keystone Exam is administered three times throughout the year (winter, spring and summer).

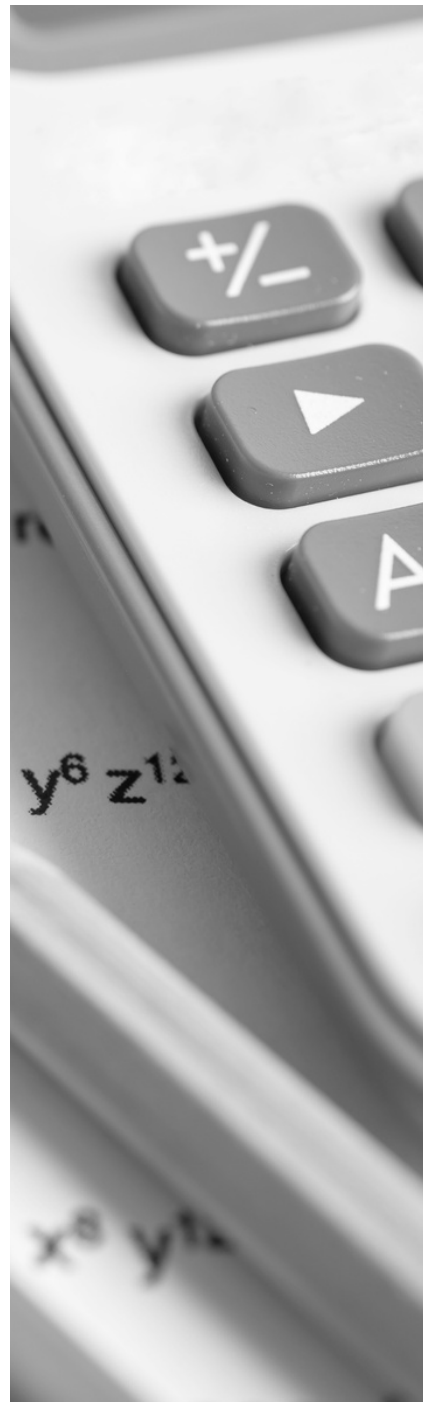
### PSSA

The annual Pennsylvania System School Assessment is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment which provides students, parents, educators and citizens with an understanding of student and school performance related to the attainment of proficiency of the academic standards. These standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and Technology identify what a student should know and be able to do at varying grade levels. School districts possess the freedom to design curriculum and instruction to ensure that students meet or exceed the standards' expectations.

Every Pennsylvania student in grades 3 through 8 is assessed in English Language Arts and Math. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 4 and 8 is assessed in science.

Individual student scores, provided only to their respective schools, can be used to assist teachers in identifying students who may be in need of additional educational opportunities, and school scores provide information to schools and districts for curriculum and instruction improvement discussions and planning.





NTSD | 2024-2025

# PROGRAM OF STUDIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE | GRADES 7-8



## COURSES OFFERED

Reading 7

English 7

Math 7

Pre-Algebra

Algebra I

World Geography 7

Earth-Space Science 7

Physical Education/Health 7

Junior High Band

Junior High Choir

Makerspace 7

Exploratory Spanish 7

Exploratory French 7

S.O.S. 7

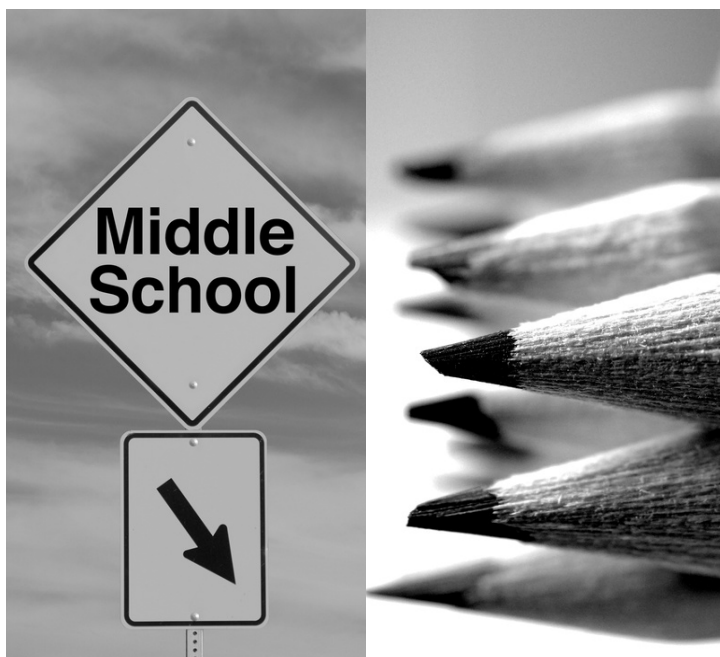
Digital Citizenship 7

Life Skills 7

Career Readiness 7

Math Extensions 7

## GRADE 7



## GRADE 7 - COURSES OFFERED

### Reading 7

Required

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

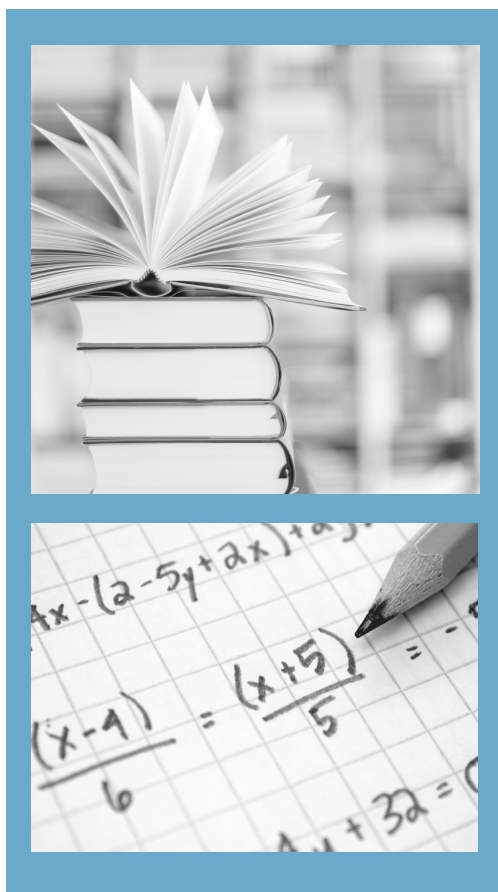
While working in conjunction with English 7, Reading 7 is designed to encourage, develop, and refine readers to meet the expectations of school and real life reading situations, so they can become lifelong readers. Through research-based instruction, students acquire critical reading and listening skills in both fiction and nonfiction literature based on the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards (Assessment Anchors A and B). Reading works closely with other academic subjects to help students use their critical reading skills in all content areas. Reading 7 focuses on literal and inferential comprehension, literary elements, synthesizing ideas, determining important ideas, critical thinking and problem solving skills, class discussion, and communication. This course will have an added element of Library skills that will provide students with research and study tools.

### English 7

Required

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

In close conjunction with Reading 7, this course is designed to provide instruction in grade-appropriate English literature, grammar, usage, conventions, writing, reading, and speaking based on the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards (Assessment Anchors D and E). Significant focus will be given to the writing process, and students will apply grammatical concepts while practicing analytical thinking through both short and extended text-dependent writing assignments. Literature-based vocabulary acquisition and application will augment grammatical understanding as students learn how to adjust for audience, purpose, style, and tone in both writing and speaking assignments. Working independently and collaboratively, students will be encouraged to utilize critical thinking to develop their writing, speaking, reading, and thinking skills for success at the secondary level.



### Math 7

Required for all seventh grade students who did not complete Pre-Algebra in sixth grade.

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

In this course, students will develop a foundation of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for them to succeed in algebra. A wide range of topics will be covered; however, students will focus on operations with real numbers, simplifying numerical and variable expressions, solving linear equations and inequalities, understanding ratios and proportional relationships, basic concepts of geometric figures and angle relationships, as well as calculating probability and analyzing data. This course is intended to prepare students to take the PA Common Core Grade 7 Math Exam.

Students are expected to complete homework on a daily basis. Also, students should be familiar with a scientific calculator.

### Pre-Algebra

Required for students who are neither taking Math 7 nor Algebra 1. Please see criteria for selection.

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

Pre-Algebra is an introductory course to Algebra I. The students will cover topics that include but are not limited to: solving equations and inequalities using rational numbers, graphing linear equations and inequalities, applying probability and statistics to real-life problems, understanding proportional relationships, percent applications, and basic concepts of factors, fractions and exponents. Students will be asked to deepen their learning through practical/real world applications. Also, the students will explain their understanding of mathematical relationships by writing using the appropriate mathematics vocabulary.

Criteria for Selection: An initial screening for selection will include a pre-algebra readiness exam, Iowa scores and average math grade for terms 1, 2 and 3. Please note that when 6th grade PSSA results are received, students scoring below proficient will be removed from pre-algebra and placed in Math 7.

### Algebra I

Required for all seventh grade students who completed a full year of Pre-Algebra in sixth grade.

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

In this course, students will develop a foundation of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for them to succeed in advanced courses. A wide range of topics will be covered; however, students will focus on operations with real numbers, simplifying expressions using exponents and roots, solving linear equations and inequalities, comparing and graphing relations and functions, factoring polynomials, exponent rules as well as calculating probability and analyzing data. This course is intended to prepare students to take the PA Common Core Grade 7 Math Exam and the Keystone Algebra 1 Exam.

Students are expected to complete homework on a daily basis. Also, students should be familiar with a scientific calculator and/or a graphing calculator.



## GRADE 7 - COURSES OFFERED



### World Geography 7

Required

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

World Geography studies the countries and people of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Students will learn how to read maps so they can chart geographical data. Pupils will also examine the culture of various regions to learn about cultural diffusion and current living conditions. They will utilize Type 1 and Type 2 Collins writing techniques to express their ideas freely about our world. Students will also be able to use technology while in class so they can experience the most updated research that exists in the world today.

### Earth-Space Science 7

Required

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

Classes meet 5 periods per week all year. This course is designed to explore the different areas of earth science including geology, oceanography, meteorology, astronomy, and environmental science. Students perform many hands-on lab activities and use technology to meet learning objectives in an engaging manner. Other important goals of this course are to practice skills in lab safety, use of the scientific method, critical thinking, and scientific writing. Upon completion of this course, students should have a greater appreciation for our dynamic Earth and its place in the Universe.

### Physical Education/Health 7

Required.

This course meets every other day for the entire school year.

This course is designed to give the students an opportunity to experience various physical activities in a non-threatening environment. The program emphasizes physical fitness, team/lifetime physical activities and exploration of health topics. Students will participate in individual, team sports, and fitness oriented activities. These activities will foster lifetime knowledge for a well-rounded active young adult.

Health class is a sum of experiences, which favorably influences health choices, habits, attitudes and knowledge relating to individual and community living. Emphasis is placed on physical, mental, emotional and social health. Students will look at a broad spectrum of behaviors and will be provided with strategies they can use in today's society. Activities in classes will reinforce these skills. Topics include: physical, mental-emotional, social health, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, relationships, nutrition, and bully prevention.

### Junior High Band

Elective

This course meets every other day for the entire school year.

Junior High Band consists of students in grades 7 and 8. The goal of Junior High Band is to develop ensemble and individual playing skills through a rehearsal setting. Students will experience music representing a variety of styles, genres, languages and time periods. The band will perform at two concerts (winter and spring concerts) and other school events. Students have opportunities for solo performances, small ensemble performances, honors band festivals, and group field trip performances.

Criteria for Selection: Previous instrumental instruction or audition with director

### Junior High Choir

Elective

This course meets every other day for the entire school year.

Junior High Choir consists of students in grades 7 and 8. Students will sing music representing a variety of styles, genres, languages and time periods. The class will use vocal techniques to assist with the changing adolescent voice and explore the use of harmony. Members are taught on an individual as well as group basis. The choir will perform a variety of music during the holiday season and in the spring with formal concerts. The choir may also do exchange or community concerts.

Criteria for Selection: Previous choir experience or audition with director.

### Makerspace 7

Required.

Full-year, cross-curricular practical arts project - 5 day rotation

This project will be a combined effort between Art, Business Ed, Music, Math, & Technology Ed and will be carried through the entire school year. Project presentations are expected to take place during late spring.

Students will utilize course instruction throughout the year in a variety of practical arts rotation courses to complete a project from the basic idea to a finished, working, 3-D product. Students will design and create their very own board game, record music video jingle and advertisement, discuss marketing strategies and promotion of the product, and present their final board games to an audience of peers, teachers, parents, and/or community members. Neshannock Online Campus course requirements may differ slightly from the above description.



## GRADE 7 - COURSES OFFERED

### Exploratory Spanish 7

Required

This course meets 5 days a week for 7 weeks.

This course will focus on acquiring language skills through reading, writing, and speaking in the target language. Students will study the necessary vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, customs, and traditions to flourish in a multilingual world. Students will learn a variety of vocabulary terms, greetings, basic grammar topics, numbers, telling time, saying dates, nouns (masculine and feminine), and various culture topics.

### Exploratory French 7

Required

This course meets 5 days a week for 7 weeks.

During this course students learn to read, write, speak, and comprehend introductory French. Topics include greetings, numbers, definite and indefinite articles, common nouns, telling time, subject pronouns, and conjugating regular -er verbs. There is an emphasis on communicating in complete sentences. Students also study culture and history.

### Digital Citizenship 7

Required

This course meets 5 days a week for 7 weeks.

In this course, students will receive instruction on how to be a responsible online learner. These skills are directly addressed in lessons on cyberbullying, staying safe online, and learning how to be a digital leader. Students will learn to use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively. Students will demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology. Students will learn about human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology as they practice legal and ethical behaviors.

### S.O.S.

#### Study and Organizational Skills

Required

This course meets 5 days a week for 7 weeks.

Students will learn and implement strategies necessary to be successful at the middle and high school levels. Skills including creating a Google calendar to manage academic and extracurricular activities, maintaining organized folders and lockers, study skills, test-taking strategies, and problem solving. Study strategies learned during the rotation can be applied to all content areas. This course will help students ease into the transition from elementary to junior high.

### Life Skills 7

Required

This course meets 5 days a week for 7 weeks.

Life Skills training is a comprehensive, dynamic, and developmentally designed program to promote positive youth development. This class helps children to resist drug, alcohol, and tobacco use. The Life Skills program also effectively supports the reduction of violence and other high-risk behaviors. The program uses a combination of coaching with peer-interaction and student-led activities to promote overt and covert classroom activities. These activities and varied instructional techniques will help reduce substance abuse. This is a highly interactive program that will strengthen students' resistant skills in the following areas: Personal Self-Management Skills, General Social Skills, and Drug Resistance Skills.

### Career Readiness 7

Required

This course meets 5 days a week for 7 weeks.

In this course, students will explore the topic of careers in the 21st century. Students will participate by identifying career interests and skills through the Kuder Navigator program. Students complete a variety of assignments including researching various national clusters, pathways, and individual occupations, completing an Individualized Education Plan that becomes the foundation of their career exploration at Neshannock Jr/Sr High School, writing a Career Plan Exploration Essay, and completing a speech and Google Slideshow presentation about a chosen career. The goal of this course is to give students a better idea of the career clusters and the pathways to various jobs, as well as their potential earnings, career outlook, how to accurately budget money, and ways to prepare for their future today.

### Math Extensions 7

Required

This course meets every other day for 7 weeks.

In this course, students will develop a foundation of calculating probability and analyzing data. Students will describe probabilities, calculate theoretical and experimental probabilities, and make predictions using probabilities. This course is intended to prepare students to take the PA Common Core Grade 7 Math Exam. Students should be familiar with a scientific calculator.



NTSD | 2024-2025

# PROGRAM OF STUDIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE | GRADES 7-8



## COURSES OFFERED

Reading 8

English 8

Math 8

Algebra I

Algebra II

U.S. History 8

Life Science 8

Physical Education/Health 8

Junior High Band

Junior High Choir

Makerspace 8

Exploratory Spanish 8

Exploratory French 8

Home Economics 8

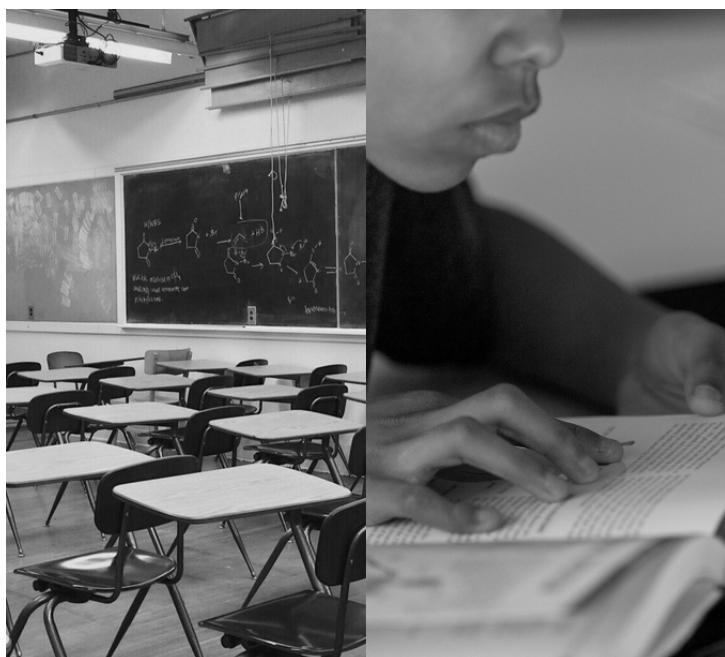
Financial Literacy 8

Life Skills 8

Math Extensions 8

Digital Citizenship 8

## GRADE 8



## GRADE 8 - COURSES OFFERED

### Reading 8

Required

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

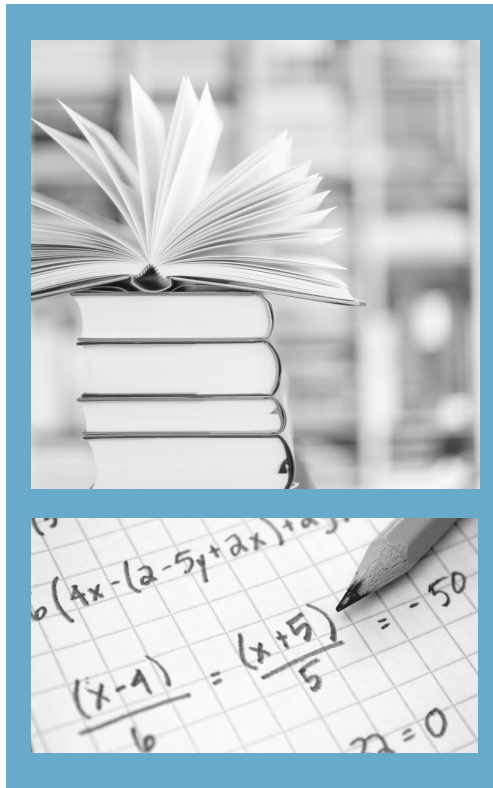
This class will build upon and reinforce the skills taught in seventh grade reading, as well as library skills. Essential reading skills and elements of literature taught in seventh grade will be utilized and built upon in order for students to successfully answer higher level thinking questions involving analyzing and evaluating numerous texts. Emphasis is placed on providing textual evidence to support explicit and implied answers. The class focuses on equipping students with the skills and strategies necessary to build independent reading, vocabulary, text dependent writing techniques, and comprehension of multiple genres and text structures. Students read and analyze a wide variety of texts, including novels, short stories, dramas, Greek myths, informational texts, and poems from a variety of cultures. Assessment is based on the Pennsylvania Eighth Grade ELA Common Core Standards.

### English 8

Required

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

The 8th grade English Language Arts course builds upon the 7th grade curriculum, continuing to focus on integrated instruction in reading and writing based on the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards. The focus of this course is literature and writing, with students reading various genres and types of literature including short stories, non-fiction, poetry, drama, informational texts, and novels. The writing component of the course includes argumentative, informative/explanatory, narrative, and text dependent essays. Students will also write in response to literature. Grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and usage skills are taught through the analysis of literature and the expansion of the writing process.



### Math 8

Required for all students who earned placement at the conclusion of Math 7. Please note that when 7th grade PSSA results are received, students scoring below proficient will be removed from Algebra 1 and placed in Math 8.

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

In this course, students will develop a foundation of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for them to succeed in future courses. A wide range of topics will be covered, however students will focus on operations with real numbers, simplifying expressions using exponents and roots, solving linear equations and inequalities, comparing and graphing relations and functions, as well as calculating probability and analyzing data. Students will be preparing to take the 8th grade PSSA Assessment. This course is also intended to start preparing students to take the Keystone Algebra 1 Exam.

Students are expected to complete homework on a daily basis. Also, students should be familiar with a scientific calculator and/or a graphing calculator.

### Algebra I

Required for all students who earned placement at the conclusion of Math 7.

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

In this course, students will develop a foundation of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for them to succeed in advanced courses. A wide range of topics will be covered, however students will focus on operations with real numbers, simplifying expressions using exponents and roots, solving linear equations and inequalities, comparing and graphing relations and functions, factoring polynomials, exponent rules as well as calculating probability and analyzing data. This course is intended to prepare students to take the 8th grade PSSA Assessment and the Keystone Algebra 1 Exam. Students are expected to complete homework on a daily basis. Also, students should be familiar with a scientific calculator and/or a graphing calculator.



## GRADE 8 - COURSES OFFERED



### Algebra II

Required

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

Criteria for Selection: Completion of Algebra I in 7th grade.

The instruction and assessments in Algebra II have been aligned to the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards and Assessment Anchors.

This course is the continuation of the study of algebra. Instruction and assessments are aligned to the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards. Students will be completing problems with and without calculators. For those students who plan to take Honors Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus and/or Physics a TI-83, TI-84 plus or TI-89 graphing calculator is highly recommended.

Algebra II topics include:

- Review of Algebra concepts that include linear equations, linear inequalities, and systems of equations
- Transformations and parent functions
- Graphing and solving quadratic functions with and without complex number answers,
- Polynomial operations, graphs, and finding real roots
- Exponential and logarithmic functions

### U.S. History 8

Required.

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

8th Grade United States History builds upon the historical foundations developed in the elementary United States History curriculum and the seventh-grade Geography curriculum. This course begins with a brief review of the establishment of the thirteen British colonies. From there, students will study the causes of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the creation of the U.S. Constitution. Other topics of study include the presidencies of George Washington through Andrew Johnson, the War of 1812, western expansion, the sectionalism leading to the Civil War, and the Civil War. The course ends with a brief study of the effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Reading, writing, and research is incorporated into the curriculum and course assignments, as well as various forms of technology.

### Life Science 8

Required.

This course meets 5 periods per week all year.

Life Science 8 is designed to provide students with a solid foundation as they continue their science education in biology and other science courses. In this course, all aspects of life will be considered: characteristics, needs, and kinds. Students will participate in a variety of learning opportunities including classroom demonstrations, hands-on activities in the lab setting, and other classroom activities including the integration of technology. The main topics include cell structure and function, genetics, ecology, classification of organisms, and human anatomy and physiology. With the completion of this course, students will have a comprehensive understanding of life on earth.

### Physical Education/Health 8

Required

This course meets every other day for the entire school year.

This course is designed to give the students an opportunity to experience various physical activities in a non-threatening environment. The program emphasizes physical fitness, team/lifetime physical activities and exploration of health topics. Students will participate in individual, team sports, and fitness oriented activities. This class meets every other day for the entire year with nineteen classes dedicated to health. These activities will foster lifetime knowledge for a well-rounded active young adult.

Health class is a sum of experiences, which favorably influences health choices, habits, attitudes and knowledge relating to individual and community living. Emphasis is placed on physical, mental, emotional and social health. Students will look at a broad spectrum of behaviors and will be provided with strategies they can use in today's society. Activities in classes will reinforce these skills. Topics include: physical, mental-emotional, social health, alcohol, tobacco, drugs, relationships, nutrition, and bully prevention.



## GRADE 8 - COURSES OFFERED

### Junior High Band

Elective

This course meets every other day for the entire school year.

Junior High Band consists of students in grades 7 and 8. The goal of Junior High Band is to develop ensemble and individual playing skills through a rehearsal setting. Students will experience music representing a variety of styles, genres, languages and time periods. The band will perform at two concerts (winter and spring concerts) and other school events. Students have opportunities for solo performances, small ensemble performances, honors band festivals, and group field trip performances.

Criteria for Selection: Previous instrumental instruction or audition with director



### Junior High Choir

Elective

This course meets every other day for the entire school year.

Junior High Choir consists of students in grades 7 and 8. Students will sing music representing a variety of styles, genres, languages and time periods. The class will use vocal techniques to assist with the changing adolescent voice and explore the use of harmony. Members are taught on an individual as well as group basis. The choir will perform a variety of music during the holiday season and in the spring with formal concerts. The choir may also do exchange or community concerts.

Criteria for Selection: Previous choir experience or audition with director.

### Makerspace 8

Required

Full Year, Cross-curricular Practical Arts Project – 5 day rotation

This project will be a combined effort between Art, Business Ed, Music, Math, & Technology Ed and will be carried through the entire school year. Project presentations are expected to take place during late spring.

Students will utilize course instruction throughout the year in a variety of practical arts rotation courses to complete a project from the basic idea to a finished, working, collaborative & individual 3-D products. Students will design and create the product, record an original ring-tone, learn how to write a business letter, discuss marketing strategies and promotion of their product, and showcase their individual and collaborative pieces at a MakerSpace community event: Innovation and Entrepreneurship Night. Neshannock Online Campus course requirements may differ slightly from the above description.

### Exploratory Spanish 8

Required

This course meets 5 days a week for 7 weeks.

Spanish Language Exploration 8th Grade is a novice level study of the Spanish language. The course will focus on acquiring language skills through reading, writing, and speaking in the target language. The goal of the class is to prepare students to take a foreign language elective starting in 9th grade. Students will study the necessary vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, customs, and traditions to flourish in a multilingual world. Students will review topics from 7th grade. Students will learn a variety of vocabulary terms, grammar topics with adjectives and conjugating verbs, and various culture topics.

### Exploratory French 8

Required

This course meets 5 days a week for 7 weeks.

In this course students review and expand upon topics covered in 7th grade French. Areas of study include writing present tense sentences with -er verbs, the weather, numbers, greetings, clothing, colors, and shopping. Students continue to study French culture, and each student researches a French region. Students continue to work on their pronunciation.

### Home Economics 8

Required

This course meets 5 days a week for 7 weeks.

This course is designed to provide students the core knowledge and skills needed to manage their lives. Students will have opportunities to utilize higher order thinking, communicate and make connections between text and outside experience and knowledge. Throughout the seven weeks, students will learn how to reach their full potential, build strong families, health and nutrition, and how to work in the kitchen. The four areas of Family and Consumer Sciences that will be covered will be growing and changing, food and nutrition, child development, and food preparation.

### Financial Literacy 8

Required

This course meets for 18 days for 7 weeks. (Day 1; Day 2)

During this course, students will be exposed to topics involving money management. Some topics that will be covered include "Don't Blow Your Dough!", "Budgeting Basics", "Financial Literacy" and "Saving and Investing." Students will be given opportunities to examine ways to manage their money.

## GRADE 8 - COURSES OFFERED

### Life Skills 8

Required

This course meets for 18 days for 7 weeks.  
(Day 1; Day 2)

This course continues and extends the Life-Skills curriculum, began in sixth grade, to examine common stressors, pressures and choices that influence teens in their everyday lives. The overarching concept of mindfulness--bringing attention into the current moment--helps to anchor this course. Students will examine their responses and work on solutions to create better personal outcomes.

### Math Extensions 8

Required

This course meets for 18 days for 7 weeks.  
(Day 1; Day 2)

During this course, students will be focusing on geometry transformation grade 8 standards (8.61-8.64). They will be performing translations, rotations, reflections, and dilations on points, lines, and shapes in a coordinate plane. This class is intended to prepare students to take the 8th grade PSSA exam by covering concepts not covered in Math 8, Algebra I, or Algebra II.

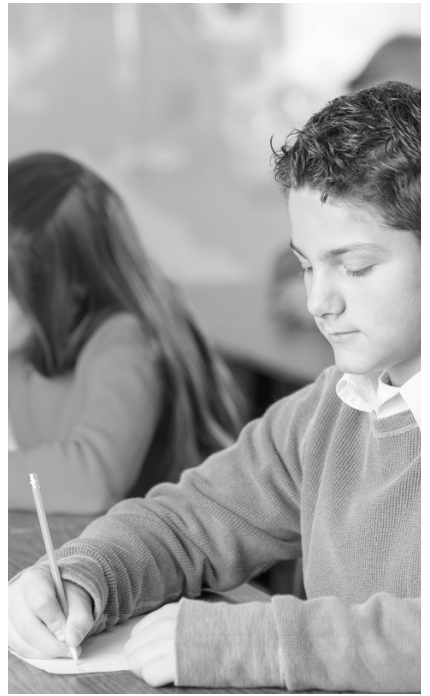
### Digital Citizenship 8

Required

This course meets for 18 days for 7 weeks.  
(Day 1; Day 2)

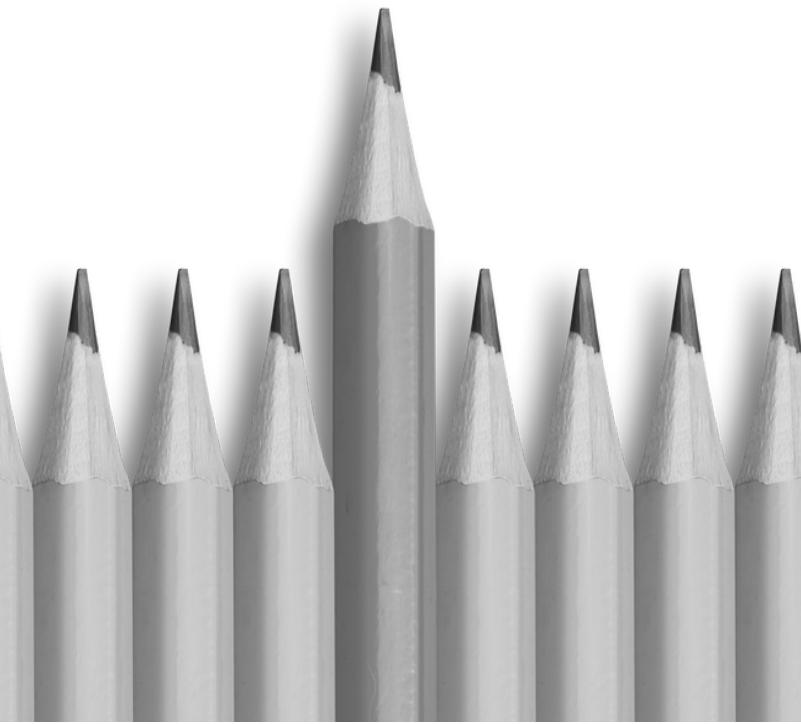
The use of technology and social networks has redefined the way students interact with each other and the world around them. In this course, students will discuss how to use these tools in an appropriate, effective, and safe way. Topics include cyber community and citizenship, cyber security, usernames and passwords, personal safety, cyber bullying, and the impact of social media on teens.







# PROGRAM OF STUDIES



## SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH INDIVIDUAL EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS

*In the State of Pennsylvania, Chapter 14 of the Department of Education School Code identifies the following support services provided in public schools for exceptional learners: Learning, Emotional, Speech & Language, Blind or Visually Impaired, Hearing, Autism, Multi-Disabilities, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy.*

*In an effort to meet the individual needs of students manifesting one or more of the exceptionalities listed in Chapter 14, the NTSD has adopted a plan for locating and identifying students that are thought to be exceptional and in need of specially designed instruction. After a student has completed the screening and evaluation processes, the NTSD Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Team will then meet to determine the student's individual needs through the development of an IEP.*

*First and foremost, the development of the IEP reviews all areas of support that are deemed necessary for an identified child to be successful in the mainstream of the regular curriculum. The IEP team will develop and maintain a plan that moves on a continuum from the least restrictive intervention to the most restrictive intervention, based on the needs of the child.*

*It is the responsibility of each public agency to ensure that to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities, including those in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are non-disabled. Special classes, alternative school locations, or decisions to place students with disabilities outside the regular education environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in the regular classroom, cannot be achieved satisfactorily; even with the use of supplementary aids and services.*

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

Those students who have Individual Education Programs may visit the resource room during study halls or as determined by the teacher of record during class. Students will receive support on assignments and/or participate in test preparation.



# NTSD | 2024-2025

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

### Itinerant Support

Special Education supports provided by special education personnel for **20% or less** of the school day

### Supplemental Support

Special Education supports and services provided by special education personnel for **more than 20% of the day but less than 80%** of the school day.

### Full-Time Support

Special Education supports and services provided by special education personnel for **80% or more** of the school day.

### Special Education Programs

The following Special Education programs and services offered by Neshannock Junior/Senior High School:

- Autistic Support
- Blind or Visually Impaired Support
- Deaf and Hearing Impaired Support
- Emotional Support
- Gifted Support
- Learning Support
- Speech and Language Support
- Multiple Disabilities Support

### Related Services

The following Related Services offered by Neshannock Jr/Sr High School:

- Occupational Therapy Support
- Physical Therapy Support
- Adaptive Physical Education



### Gifted Programming

As defined by Chapter 16 in the PDE school code, the NTSD has adopted a plan for locating and identifying students that are thought to be gifted and in need of specially designed instruction. After a student has completed the screening and evaluation processes, the NTSD Gifted IEP Team will then meet to determine that a student's individual needs are met through the development of a Gifted IEP (GIEP).

The development of the GIEP will consider enrichment, acceleration, and dual enrollment options for the identified student.

### Enrichment Strategies

Enrichment strategies may include, but are not limited to, opportunities such as:

- Participation in local academic games and competitions. These games may be locally, regionally, and/or nationally sponsored.
- Activities that permit the student to extend content mastered within his/her general curriculum.
- Specific opportunities might include discussion groups, book clubs, hard (traditional library) or soft (electronic) research and/or investigation.
- Participation in alternative forms of assessment such as a speech, performance demonstration, independent project, etc.

### Acceleration Strategies

Acceleration strategies will be considered on an individual basis. When considering acceleration options, students must successfully meet the defined prerequisite criteria/courses. Gifted students should discuss acceleration options with his/her counselor, principal, and GIEP team.

### Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment involves participation in a plan that facilitates the gifted student meeting high school graduation requirements at Neshannock while also completing college classes at a local institution. Participation in a dual enrollment plan requires thorough planning with the student's counselor, principal, GIEP team, and parent/guardian.

### Gifted Services and Support Services

For additional information on Gifted Services and/or Support Services available through the Neshannock Township School District, please contact the Special Education Office.

724-658-4793,  
ext. 5107

NTSD.org/  
special-education



# STUDENT ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Adventurer's Club  
Band  
Bible Club  
Choir  
Forensics  
Front Office Runner  
Gathering Group  
Guidance Runner  
Journalism Photo Corps  
Junior High Student Council  
Ski Club  
Technology Student Association  
Video Game Club

*Please contact Mrs. Measel with questions regarding student activities.*

## ATHLETICS

Junior High Football  
Volleyball  
Cross Country (Coed)  
Cheerleading  
Boys' Basketball  
Girls' Basketball  
Bowling\*  
Softball  
Boys' Track  
Girls' Track

### ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

Bob Burkes  
[bburkes@ntsd.org](mailto:bburkes@ntsd.org)

Ed Frye  
[efrye@ntsd.org](mailto:efrye@ntsd.org)

*\*These are not actual sponsored teams at Neshannock but are coordinated by individuals who compete in these sports with other schools and the WPIAL/PIAA.*