

1) CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES

GRADE 5	GRADE 6	GRADE 7
<p>ELA 5: Aligned with the NYS standards, 5th grade ELA provides students with the tools to develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. In this course, using the workshop model, students will explore a variety of genres in both reading and writing. <i>Students receive 2 periods of ELA instruction daily.</i></p>	<p>ELA 6: The Sixth Grade Reading and Writing Curriculum encompasses fiction and nonfiction units that address the New York State Next Generation Learning Standards. Classroom activities support reading comprehension and require critical thinking, and effective writing. Our comprehensive program’s ultimate goal is to enable all children to think critically, read, and write proficiently. <i>Students receive 2 periods of ELA instruction daily.</i></p>	<p>ELA 7: Grade 7 continues to build on the reading, writing, and language skills learned in prior years. As students move from elementary to secondary education, they are challenged to further develop their critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Using a balanced literacy approach, students learn from a variety of literary genres and engage in different styles of writing. <i>Students receive 1 period of ELA instruction daily.</i></p>
<p>Social Studies 5: In this course students will examine the Western Hemisphere with an emphasis on geography, history, economics and government. Students will engage in independent and group learning opportunities aligned with the NYS standards.</p>	<p>Social Studies 6: Students will study the geography and history of the Eastern Hemisphere, including the development of cultures, civilizations and empires; interactions between societies; and the comparison of trends in government and economics. In this course historical topics examined include early humans and where they settled, the river valley civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt & China, comparative world religions, the classical civilizations of Greece and Rome, and the Middle Ages.</p>	<p>Social Studies 7: Students will focus on primarily chronological study of history and geography in the United States and New York as well as economic, social, and political trends. The course content first concentrates on tracing the human experience in the United States from pre-Columbus up to the end of the American Civil War. The specific themes include the expansion and interaction of economic systems, the role of technology and global connections. Emphasis is placed, not just on a comprehensive study understanding of America’s historical turning points but also on the development</p>

		<p>of academic skills such as the writing process, analysis of historical evidence, the ability to make informed claims, and evaluations of historical actions and time periods.</p>
<p>Math 5: In this course we focus on base ten place value, computation with decimals and fractions, area and volume, and graphing on a coordinate plane. Students will continue to develop number sense and mathematical reasoning throughout this course.</p>	<p>Math 6: This course follows the New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards. Math 6 includes but is not limited to the following topics: number theory, fraction computation, ratios and proportional relationships, percentages, rational numbers, expressions and equations, area, surface area, and volume, probability and statistics.</p> <p>Math 6 Honors: This course follows the New York State Next Generation Mathematics Learning Standards for grades 6 and 7. This course will be a rigorous one, presenting opportunities for student directed learning and challenging applications. It is expected that students have a strong work ethic, are self motivated and have a real commitment to the study of mathematics. Topics include but are not limited to the following: number theory, integer and rational number computation, ratios and proportional relationships, percentages, expressions and equations, area, surface area, and volume, probability and statistics.</p>	<p>Math 7: This course follows the Common Core Curriculum Next Generation Standards provided by NYS. Math 7 includes but is not limited to the following topics: Integers, Operations with Rational Numbers, Polynomials, Equations, Inequalities, Proportionality, Percent, Probability and Statistics</p> <p>Pre Algebra: This course incorporates Next Generation Standards for 7th and 8th grades provided by NYS. The course includes but is not limited to the following topics: Integers, Number Systems, Rational /Irrational Numbers, Variables and Expressions, Equations, Exponents and Scientific Notation, Proportionality, Percent Applications, Polynomials, Inequalities, Graphing Linear Equations, Pythagorean Theorem</p> <p>Pre Algebra Honors: This course incorporates Next Generation Standards for 7th and 8th grades provided by NYS. The course includes but is not limited to the following topics: Operations with Rational Numbers, Polynomials, Rules of Exponents,</p>

		Negative Exponents, Scientific Notation, Equations, Proportionality, Percent, Inequalities, Graphing Linear Equations, Solving Systems of Linear Equations, Probability. <i>Prerequisite:</i> Math 6RG
<p>Science 5: Students will learn fundamental science core ideas, science and engineering practices, and crosscutting concepts that will enhance their understanding of the natural and designed worlds. Topics include Space Systems, Structure and Properties of Matter, Earth's Systems, and Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems.</p>	<p>Science 6: Students study the world of atoms, our unique planet and human impacts. Students will explore simple chemical reactions, the history of Earth's changing surface and analyze problems and solutions that could reduce the impact of humans on our environment.</p>	<p>Science 7: This course covers 3 blocks of the New York State Science 5-8 recommended curriculum. These blocks are: Structure, Function, and Information Processing, Natural Selection and Adaptations, and Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms. This course introduces major topics that will be covered in depth during the Living Environment Regents Class. Students will perform a number of laboratory experiments.</p>
<p>English as a New Language (ENL)</p> <p>Students whose native language is not English are, on the basis of individual needs, scheduled for an ENL class to help gain mastery of the English language.</p>		

<p>Grade 7: World Languages</p> <p>French: Through listening, speaking, reading, and writing, students will learn basic vocabulary and grammar to help them be successful in real-life situations that they would encounter at their age level in a French-speaking country. Some topics include personal identification, expressing preferences and opinions, family, food, and leisure activities. Students will develop skills to communicate with people who speak French and will gain an appreciation for Francophone cultures.</p> <p>Italian: In 7th grade, students complete the first half of the level 1 Italian language course. Students in Italian 1A develop basic communication skills in Italian and cover fundamental vocabulary and grammar. Activities include all four modalities of communication: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students discuss their lives and interests, exchange basic information and</p>

explore Italian culture through music, stories, and traditions. Topics include: greetings, Italian pronunciation and phonetics, seasons and weather, school life, family and home life, free time, food, professions and Italian cities.

Latin: In this class, students begin to learn how to communicate in Latin, using a variety of instructional techniques. Students are also introduced to ancient Roman history and culture, and start to examine the ways cultures change and interact with other cultures.

Spanish: Students will begin with basic conversational Spanish and learn basic grammar, vocabulary, and the structure of the language. There is a focus on teaching the culture and history of Spanish speaking countries as well. Students will be expected to develop writing, reading, listening, and speaking skills in the target language.

2) Unified Arts Classes(UA)

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<p>General Music 5: A continuation of the Elementary General Music curriculum, reviewing basic music vocabulary and concepts. There is a focus on traditional American folk music. Students apply music concepts by playing the recorder. Half year course.</p>	<p>General Music 6: Introduction to the Symphony Orchestra. Application of listening techniques. Applying music reading to playing percussion instruments and the keyboard. Half year course</p>	<p>General Music 7: An examination of music and society from prehistoric times to modern age. Students listen to various music examples from each period. Half year course</p>
<p>Band 5: A performance based course which teaches the basics of playing a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument and music reading. There are weekly small group lessons (based on a rotating pull-out schedule) and large ensemble rehearsals. There is mandatory participation in the Winter Informance and Spring Concert.</p>	<p>Band 6: A performance based course which further develops woodwind, brass, and percussion technique and advanced music reading. There are weekly small group lessons (based on a rotating pull-out schedule) and large ensemble rehearsals. There is mandatory participation in the Winter and Spring Concert. Students have the opportunity to participate in NYSSMA</p>	<p>Band 7: A performance based course which further develops woodwind, brass, and percussion technique, listening skills, and advanced music reading. There are weekly small group lessons (based on a rotating pull-out schedule) and large ensemble rehearsals. There is mandatory participation in the Winter and Spring Concert. Students have the opportunity to</p>

<p>Students have the opportunity to participate in the NYSSMA solo festival.</p>	<p>and RCMEA All-County Festivals.</p>	<p>participate in NYSSMA and RCMEA All-County Festivals.</p>
<p>Chorus 5: A performance based course which teaches the basics of singing, sight reading, performance etiquette, and music history. There is a mandatory participation in the Winter Informance and Spring Concert. Full year course.</p>	<p>Chorus 6: A performance based course which teaches the basics of singing, sight reading, performance etiquette, and music history. Students will be evaluated on FlipGrid assignments and active participation. There is mandatory participation in the Winter and Spring Concert. Students have the opportunity to participate in NYSSMA and RCMEA All-County Festivals. Full year course.</p>	<p>Chorus 7: A performance based course which teaches the basics of singing, sight reading, performance etiquette, vocal anatomy, and music history. Students will be evaluated on FlipGrid assignments and active participation. There is mandatory participation in the Winter and Spring Concert. Students have the opportunity to participate in NYSSMA and RCMEA All-County Festivals.</p>
<p>Orchestra 5: A performance based course which teaches the basics of playing a string instrument and music reading. There are weekly small group lessons (based on a rotating pull-out schedule) and large ensemble rehearsals. There is mandatory participation in the Winter Informance and Spring Concert.</p>	<p>Orchestra 6: A performance based course which further develops string technique and advanced music reading. There are weekly small group lessons (based on a rotating pull-out schedule) and large ensemble rehearsals. There is mandatory participation in the Winter and Spring Concert. Students have the opportunity to participate in NYSSMA and RCMEA All-County Festivals.</p>	<p>Orchestra 7: A performance based course which further develops string technique, listening skills, and advanced music reading. There are weekly small group lessons (based on a rotating pull-out schedule) and large ensemble rehearsals. There is mandatory participation in the Winter and Spring Concert. Students have the opportunity to participate in NYSSMA and RCMEA All-County Festivals.</p>
<p>Physical Education: Students will learn the importance of a healthy and active lifestyle through a variety of physical activities. Students will learn to work within the framework of team, individual, small and large group activities and sports. Full year course.</p>		
<p>Health 5: Students will learn concepts and skills in the following topics: Personal Safety, Accident Prevention, Pedestrian Safety,</p>	<p>Health 6: Students will learn about The Health Triangle and the three dimensions of health (Physical Health, Mental/Emotional</p>	<p>Health 7-1: Student will learn about Communicable & Non-Communicable Diseases and Safe Medicine Use/Drug Abuse</p>

<p>Bicycle Safety, Online Safety, Food And Nutrition. We have 2 major projects: The Accident Chain Project and the Cereal Invention Project. Quarter year course.</p>	<p>Health, Social Health), developing a positive self-esteem, developing a positive self concept, goal setting skills and the decision making process, family structures and heredity, conflict resolution, healthy communication skills. Finally, students will learn about the process of puberty & adolescence. Students will have 2 major projects, The Goal Setting Project & a Family Tree Project. Quarter year course.</p>	<p>As for Communicable Disease education, we will teach about the 4 major germs, functions of the Immune System and the Immune system lines of defense. Our Non-Communicable disease unit focuses on Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Allergies & Asthma.</p> <p>Medicine, Drug & Alcohol Unit Our drug unit focuses on safe medicine use, Alcohol abuse, prescription drug abuse and illegal drug abuse.</p> <p>Major Project: Non-Communicable Disease Awareness Project. Quarter Year Course</p> <p>Health 7-2: Students will understand the importance of physical activity and exercise on their physical, mental, emotional and social health. Students will learn how their bodies use calories for energy, and how excess calories are stored by their body when they are not used. They will also learn how to calculate resting, maximum and target heart rate. Quarter year course</p>
	<p>Introduction to World Languages 6: This is an exploratory course that introduces students to the four languages offered in the Pearl River School District's World Language Program. Through games, songs, and participation, students will learn basic greetings and phrases in Spanish, French, Italian, and Latin. The</p>	

	<p>primary goal is to give students a "taste" of the languages so they can make an informed choice for their 7th grade World Language course. Quarter year course.</p>	
<p>Art: This ten week course provides experiences for students in drawing, painting, three-dimensional form and design. Students will develop their art skills through general introduction to The Elements of Art, Principles of Design through a variety of art materials, the study of different artists, projects and processes will be explored. Each student will take both Art 1 and Art 2. These courses build upon the same skills with different instructors, (Instructor 1 and Instructor 2) and are not sequential.</p>		
<p>Technology: The Pearl River Middle School Technology 1 program is a progressive series of three Introduction to Problem Solving, Design and Manufacturing classes. In this course, students will learn how to use the Engineering Design Loop for Product Development and continuous improvement. Students will learn the concepts of designing and building quality products using basic engineering and materials processing techniques to design and build a series of projects related to Structures, Forces, Energy, and Systems. Students will have access to resources which will support creating their own new, unique design solutions by building, testing, re-designing, re-building, re-testing, etc. Quarter year course.</p>		
<p>Tech 2: Tech 2 is an interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science. Students will learn how to use the problem solving process to address a series of puzzles, challenges, and real world scenarios. Students will learn how computers input, output, store, and process information to help humans solve problems. Students will learn how to create and share content on their own web pages using HTML and CSS. Students will practice valuable programming skills such as debugging, using resources, and teamwork. Quarter year course.</p>		

3) Personalized Education Period (PEP)

PEP Classes are designed to be exploratory and allow students to develop a deeper learning and passion in each of the subject areas. PEP Period also allows students to receive the academic support they need to experience success in the classroom, without missing a core academic class or Unified Arts class. Exploratory PEP classes are offered every other day for 2 quarters. Academic Support classes are offered for the entire school year. A student's PEP schedule during a semester may be **one** of the following: 2 exploratory PEP classes; or 1 Exploratory PEP class and 1 Academic Support class; or 2 Academic Support classes, depending on the need of the student.

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<p>Geography 5: Students will enrich their geographic knowledge and map skills through independent and collaborative project based assignments. Students will be encouraged to explore both local and global regions. Half year course.</p>	<p>Mythology 6: This course will focus on mythology from a variety of ancient civilizations. As part of the 6th grade curriculum, students explore the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, ancient China, ancient Greece and ancient Rome. This course will provide students the opportunity to deepen and enrich their understanding of ancient Mythology by exploring the mythology of ancient Egypt, Greece, China, Mesopotamia, India and the North Germanic people. Students will read myths and use the elements from ancient mythology to create their own mythological world. Half year course.</p>	<p>Historical Fiction 7: Students read novels that connect to the 7th grade Social Studies curriculum. Students complete a variety of activities to support skills learned in ELA class.</p>
<p>Science PEP 5: For this class students will be challenged to think like scientists. The goal is to promote problem solving</p>	<p>Science PEP 6: The goal is to enrich the science curriculum through investigative activities incorporating Science,</p>	<p>STEM PEP 7: Students research, design, and build a prototype of a product.</p>

<p>and creating thinking skills in a unique fun way. Some of the things we will be working on are creating a presentation on a Science topic of interest, STEM activities, Science Current Events, and a Science Fair Project. Half year course.</p>	<p>Technology, Engineering and Math, STEM! Students will design and construct a Rube Goldberg contraption. Students will learn about consumer product testing. Students will learn to use Makey Makey as part of their contraption</p>	
<p>Home and Careers PEP 5: Students learn basic life skills such as Consumerism, Clothing Management, Hand Sewing, and Laundry.</p>	<p>Home and Careers PEP 6: This class focuses on topics that deal with relationships and the development of a person over time. These three main topics are Human Development, Family and Parenting, Interpersonal Relationships.</p>	<p>Home and Careers PEP 7: Students learn skills such as decision making, smart shopping and gain an understanding of sources of income and career decision making.</p>
<p>Creative Writing 5: Students will explore different genres of writing including poetry, picture books, and informational text. Students will research topics of interest and write different forms of poetry, narrative picture books and/or nonfiction picture books, and create an informative field guide.</p>	<p>Genius Hour 6: Students will explore various student-centered projects that incorporate <i>21st Century</i> skills. We are encouraging student-centered projects that include a driving question, research, and a shared experience to an authentic audience. Although topics and projects are self-selected, we will guide each child through a process that involves critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and creativity.</p>	<p>Skills for Success 7: Students will develop skills necessary to get ahead in high school, college, and beyond. They will learn about creating good habits, setting goals, organization and study skills, and explore the Naviance program in preparation for their transition to high school.</p>

Grade 5, 6, 7: Academic Support Classes

Academic Support Classes are designed to provide instructional support to any student as determined by the standardized testing, state exams, and/or teacher recommendations. Classes include English Language Arts (ELA) support and Math/Science (STEM)

support. Identified students are scheduled for these courses during the PEP period, and are carefully monitored by a staff member. Enrollment in an academic support class is fluid, as students master skills and content they may transition out of academic support and into an exploratory PEP Class.

ELA support class provides support for students with identified needs in reading and writing. The course begins by assessing each student's individual skill levels and tailoring an action plan around their strengths and weaknesses. The teacher uses multiple resources and supplementary material that matches the student's interest and reading level in order to teach, practice, and master the identified areas in reading and writing that are in need of improvement. The teacher employs continuous assessment to identify newly mastered skills and skills that still need to be enhanced.

Math/Science (STEM) support class is designed to provide instructional support for Math and Science classes. The class begins by assessing each student's individual skill levels and tailoring an action plan around their strengths and weaknesses. The teacher uses multiple resources and supplementary material in order to teach, practice, and master the identified areas that are in need of improvement. In this class, the teacher re-teaches lessons in math and/or science to support students' acquisition of new skills and concepts. Instruction includes previewing and reinforcing vocabulary, use of study tools, additional practice for skill/concept reinforcements, spiral math skills/concepts, and quiz/test Review. The teacher employs continuous assessment to identify newly mastered skills and skills that still need to be enhanced.

Please see a description of our [Digital programs](#) that are used in middle school classes to support student learning.