



Program of Studies 2023-2024

Grades 7-8



Springdale Junior-Senior High School
Allegheny Valley School District
501 Butler Road
Springdale, Pennsylvania 15144
724.274.8100 Phone
724.274.2106 Fax

Allegheny Valley School District
www.avsdweb.org

ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Patrick M. Graczyk, Ed.D.	Superintendent
Hamsini Rajgopal, Ed.D.	Business Manager
Jennifer Vecchio, M.Ed.	Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator
Melissa B. Holler, Ph.D.	Supervisor of Pupil Services
Andrew Leviski, M.Ed.	Springdale Jr-Sr High School Principal
Gregory J. Heavner, M.Ed.	Elementary Principal
Melissa Gibbon, M.Ed.	Springdale Jr-Sr High School Assistant Principal
Matt Maine	Supervisor of Technology

SPRINGDALE JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

Phone: 724-274-2122

Rebecca Dyer, M.Ed.	Grades 10-12
Andrea Sadowski, M.Ed.	Grades 7-9

The mission of the Allegheny Valley School District, a group of small traditional communities, is to educate all students to achieve their maximum potential. A dedicated staff, in partnership with school, home, and community, will empower students to become responsible and contributing citizens able to meet challenges in an international society.

The Allegheny Valley School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, and handicap in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title IV, Title IX, and Section 504. For more information, contact: Dr. Hamsini Rajgopal at 724-274-5300.

INTRODUCTION

This Program of Studies Guide is published to provide students and their parents/guardians with a description of the high school academic program. Students and their parents/guardians are urged to become familiar with this guide so that they will be prepared to choose a suitable educational program. The administrative staff, guidance staff, and all teachers are available to assist the student and his/her parents/guardians in this planning.

The counseling staff provides personal guidance for each student in the junior-senior high school aiming at the development of the "whole" individual. To help mold each person's intellectual growth, the counselors identify individual capacities through a standardized testing program. The test results are used in guiding the individual to make the best use of mental, physical, and manual abilities. The school program includes offerings to help meet the needs of all students.

The guidance program is devoted to helping each student select the courses and programs best suited to his or her own strengths. As a result of the proper coordination of high school courses and activities, the student can then make appropriate selections for post high school training. Vocational counseling is approached with the students' abilities and limitations and interests in mind as well as information on current occupational trends.

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CLASS STANDING

The established policy regarding student promotion from one grade level to the next during high school as follows:

- Any student, grade 7 or 8, who fails three major subjects for the year may be retained and repeat all classes.
- Major subjects are Reading, Writing, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Science.

****Summer school is recommended for students that have failed required courses in grades 7 through 12**

GRADING

Grades will be reported at the close of each nine-week period. The following interpretations of the grading system used in Springdale High School indicate the degree of achievement. All courses may not be offered on an annual basis.

Grade equivalents:

- | | | |
|---------|---|---|
| 90-100% | A | Excellent or superior work |
| 80-89% | B | Good or above average work |
| 70-79% | C | Fair or average work |
| 60-69% | D | Poor, but passing work. This is the lowest quality of work for which credit is given but carries no recommendation for achievement for college entrance credit. This grade may not permit a student to do second year work in certain sequential subjects. |
| 0-59% | F | Failure - no credit |
| I | | Denotes that the pupil's work is not complete due to conditions beyond the student's control. Unless this work is completed in accordance with the District's time limits and regulations of the teacher issuing the grade, the grade will be recorded as an "F". |
| W | | Withdrawal from course – A “W”, along with the student's grade at the time of withdrawal (WA, WB, WC, WD, WF) will appear on the transcript. No credit is awarded for dropped course. |

SCHEDULE CHANGES

All schedule changes must be made during designated summer hours. **Schedule changes cannot be made after school begins unless the following exceptions apply.**

Exceptions:

1. If a student's schedule is incorrect as a result of a clerical error.
2. If a student has significantly changed his/her future plans and other classes are required - suggested by the college of his/her choice.
3. If, based on the student's performance during the final quarter or summer school, the student should move to the advanced academic course selection.

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course Number: **7100** Title: **Reading 7**

Course Number: **7103** Title: **Writing 7**

Reading 7 and Writing 7 provide students with opportunities to develop communication skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, thinking, and researching. Instruction will include guided reading, self-selected reading, robust vocabulary, grammar, spelling and writing during a daily 90-minute block schedule. Students will actively engage in the reading and writing processes by working independently as well as collaboratively with peers. Flexible groupings will be built into the units of study along with additional strategies in order to meet the needs of all students. Emphasis is placed on responding to literature and literary analysis between two or more pieces of literature. Students will complete the following units of study: poetry, short stories, novels, drama, nonfiction and legends, folktales and myths. In addition, students will produce a co-curricular research paper using the MLA format. Reading and Writing are taught as a two-period class. Students will receive individual grades in Reading and Writing.

Course Number: **7218** Title: **Math 7**

Math 7 instruction is directly aligned to the Grade 7 Pennsylvania Core Standards for Mathematics. Instructional time will focus on four critical standards areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Course Number: **7211A** Title: **Accelerated Pre-Algebra**

This course is aligned to the grade 7 PA Core Standards for Mathematics along with an introduction to Algebraic concepts. It provides students with an introduction to the concepts of Algebra and Geometry, while at the same time solidifies their grasp of the basic arithmetic skills using whole numbers, decimals, positive and negative integers, and fractions. There is an emphasis on meaningful problem solving and data analysis.

Prerequisite: Placement is dependent upon demonstrated student ability, proficiency on standardized assessments, proficient/advanced PSSA scores, final grade in Grade 6 Math, and teacher recommendation.

Course Number: **7212A** Title: **Accelerated Algebra I**

This course is directly aligned with the grade 8 and Algebra I PA Core Standards for Mathematics. Algebra I begins the study of symbols as used in higher mathematics. These symbols, or unknowns, replace numbers and must be determined by solving equations. In addition, the following topics are taught: working with signed numbers, factoring, rational expressions, and linear equations and systems.

Of 90% or higher in Grade 6 Math and teacher recommendation.

Prerequisite: Advanced scores on standardized assessments, advanced score on Grade 6 PSSA test, final grade of 90% or higher in Grade 6 Math and teacher recommendation.

Course Number: **7320** Title: **Ancient Civilizations I**

Ancient Civilizations I is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the development of mankind from its beginning through the fall of the Roman Empire. The course will allow for the exploration of the cultures and contributions of early civilizations and how they impact the world today.

Course Number: **7400** Title: **Integrated Science 7**

This course explores topics in the areas of life science, physical science, and Earth science. The course is aligned with PA Core standards and prepares students for a variety of paths of study at the high school level.

Course Number: **7540** Title: **S.T.E.M. 7**

One Semester; Elective

This hands-on course is intended to introduce seventh grade students to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) activities. Some hands-on topics will include laser fabrication, robotics, graphic design, computer aided drafting (CAD), 3D printing and design challenges. The course is designed to encourage interest in S.T.E.M. subjects and prepare students for further study throughout their high school career. Enrollment may be limited due to class size restrictions.

Course Number: **7560** Title: **Multimedia 7**

One Semester; Elective

Multimedia 7 is divided into four segments. Students work through still imagery/Photoshop, audio, video, and web design. Enrollment may be limited due to class size restrictions.

Course Number: **7650** Title: **Choir 7-8**

One Semester OR Full Year; Elective

Jr. High Chorus is a building program for the Sr. High Choir. Students are taught to develop their voices, choral skills, general musicianship, performance, character, and citizenship. The chorus sings at the winter and Spring Concerts, as well as other invitational activities. After-school practices and performances are a vital and integral part of this course. *NOTE: Students may elect to take this course for a semester or for a full year. This course may be taken in conjunction with Band 7-8.*

Course Number: **7660** Title: **Band 7-8** **One Semester OR Full Year; Elective**

This course offers instruction on a band instrument to develop strong skills in musicianship, reading music notation, rhythm, and ensemble techniques through daily rehearsal and performance. The main activities of the Jr. High Band are the winter and Spring Concerts. Attendance at these performances is mandatory for students in the ensemble. Students in this program are also encouraged to participate in the Marching Band and may participate in any additional ensembles offered.

NOTE: Students may elect to take this course for a semester or for a full year. This course may be taken in conjunction with Choir 7-8.

Prerequisite: At least one year of participation in the elementary music program or acceptance based upon an audition with the Band Director.

SEVENTH GRADE ROTATION

The rotation of the following courses over the four nine-week grading periods will expose the student to a variety of classes in the junior high setting. Successful completion of these subjects prepares the junior high student for course advancement throughout their academic career at Springdale Junior-Senior High School.

Course Number: **7502** Title: **Google Suite and Career Exploration** **Nine Weeks**

This course introduces the student to basic Google tools and focuses on collaboration, communication, and productivity through the completion of real world, student-centered activities and projects. Students will use Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms in various small projects. In addition, students will explore various career options by researching and analyzing their interests.

Course Number: **7570** Title: **Family and Consumer Science 7** **Nine Weeks**

The co-educational Family and Consumer Science program offers exploratory learning experiences in foods, nutrition, time management skills, and childcare. Mini units covering these areas will be used to provide students with the opportunity to develop basic skills. When applicable, hands-on activities in the completion of simple projects will be included in this course. The basic skills developed in this course will be applicable in higher-level Family and Consumer Science courses, which are available to students in 9th through 12th grade.

Course Number: **7801** Title: **Physical Education 7** **Nine Weeks**

Physical Education at the junior high level is designed to maintain or improve the student's overall health and wellness as well as develop a personally fulfilling lifelong appreciation for physical activity. This goal is achieved through addressing various aspects of learning with emphasis placed on lifetime activities and development of basic skills. In addition, an emphasis is placed on learning how to personally develop and

assess the components of health-related fitness. Finally, it is the goal of the physical education department to expose students to as many different types of physical activities as possible.

Course Number: **7811** Title: **Health 7** **Nine Weeks**

Health education aims at providing a better understanding of one's self and development of proper attitudes towards healthful living. This is made possible through the study of personal wellness, nutrition, physical activity, body system physiology, drugs, alcohol, and tobacco prevention strategies, human sexuality, disease and illness prevention, and environmental health issues. This course is designed to help each student learn and apply concepts to help improve or maintain a desirable quality of life far beyond adolescence.

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course Number: **7110** Title: **Reading 8**

Course Number: **7113** Title: **Writing 8**

A research-based approach of local and systematic reading and writing skills is used in the Reading 8/Writing 8 course. The student's language skills progress from simple to complex as reading instruction is tailored to students' needs. The writing process instruction develops through concept modeling working toward a mastery of grammar skills. This process facilitates the development of students into effective readers, writers, speakers, and thinkers. Reading 8 and Writing 8 are taught as a two-period class. Students will receive individual grades in Reading and Writing.

Course Number: **7111** Title: **Reading 8 Accelerated**

Course Number: **7114** Title: **Writing 8 Accelerated**

Reading 8/Writing 8 Accelerated provides opportunities for students to develop a deepened understanding and application of communication skills in word study, reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students read in-depth and analyze fiction and non-fiction. Students will study grammar, usage, mechanics, and vocabulary in the writing process as well as apply various modes of writing. Accelerated Reading and Writing are taught as a two-period class. Students will receive individual grades in Reading and Writing. **Prerequisite:** Grade 8 students who score mid-proficient or advanced range on Reading PSSA Grade 6 and 7 congruent with an 85% or higher on Grade 7 Reading/Writing cumulative grade.

Course Number: **7210** Title: **Pre-Algebra**

This course is aligned to the grade 8 PA Core Standards for Mathematics. It provides students with an introduction to the concepts of Algebra and Geometry, while at the same time solidifies their grasp of the basic arithmetic skills using whole numbers, decimals, positive and negative integers, and fractions. There is an emphasis on meaningful problem solving and data analysis.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 7.

Course Number: **7212** Title: **Accelerated Algebra I**

This course is directly aligned with the grade 8 and Algebra I PA Core Standards for Mathematics. Algebra I begins the study of symbols as used in higher mathematics. These symbols, or unknowns, replace numbers and must be determined by solving equations. In addition, the following topics are taught: working with signed numbers, factoring, rational expressions, and linear equations and systems.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Accelerated Pre-Algebra.

Course Number: **7221** Title: **Accelerated Geometry**

This course is designed to teach students the geometric skills necessary to be successful in trigonometry and Algebra II course work. Emphasis will be placed on logical reasoning and proofs, congruent and right triangles, parallel lines and their properties, similar polygons, circles, area, perimeter and volume, transformations, elementary trigonometry, Pythagorean Theorem, slope and y-intercept, and different types of angles and their unique properties. Students will work independently, in pairs, and in cooperative learning groups.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Accelerated Algebra I

Course Number: **7321** Title: **Ancient Civilizations II**

Ancient Civilizations II is designed to provide the student with an understanding of the development of mankind from the fall of the Roman Empire to European colonization of the New World. The course will allow for the exploration of the cultures and contributions of early civilizations and how they impact the world today.

Course Number: **7401** Title: **Integrated Science 8**

This course explores topics in the areas of life science, physical science, and Earth science. The course is aligned with PA Core standards and prepares students for a variety of paths of study at the high school level.

Course Number: **7541** Title: **S.T.E.M. 8** **One Semester; Elective**

This project-based Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics class is designed to explore interrelationships between each of the four disciplines. Some hands-on topics will include laser fabrication, robotics, graphic design, computer aided drafting (CAD), 3D printing, and design challenges. The course is designed to encourage interest in S.T.E.M subjects and prepare students for further study throughout their high school career. Enrollment may be limited due to class size restrictions.

Course Number: **7560** Title: **Multimedia 8** **One Semester; Elective**

Multimedia 8 is divided into four segments. Students work through broadcasting, introduction to video editing, advanced video editing, and end the course by producing a documentary on a person or occupation in a science or technology field. Enrollment may be limited due to class size restrictions.

Course Number: **7650** Title: **Choir 7-8** **One Semester OR Full Year; Elective**

Jr. High Chorus is a building program for the Sr. High Choir. Students are taught to develop their voices, choral skills, general musicianship, performance, character, and citizenship. The chorus sings at the winter and Spring Concerts, as well as other invitational activities. After-school practices and performances are a vital and integral part of this course.

NOTE: Students may elect to take this course for a semester or for a full year. This course may be taken in conjunction with Band 7-8.

Course Number: **7660** Title: **Band 7-8** **One Semester OR Full Year; Elective**

This course offers instruction on a band instrument to develop strong skills in musicianship, reading music notation, rhythm, and ensemble techniques through daily rehearsal and performance. The main activities of the Jr. High Band are the winter and Spring Concerts. Attendance at these performances is mandatory for students in the ensemble. Students in this program are also encouraged to participate in the Marching Band and may participate in any additional ensembles offered.

NOTE: Students may elect to take this course for a semester or for a full year. This course may be taken in conjunction with Choir 7-8.

Prerequisite: At least one year of participation in the elementary music program or acceptance based upon an audition with the Band Director.

EIGHTH GRADE ROTATION

To provide eighth grade students exposure to several elective courses, a rotation of the following courses is offered over the four nine-week grading periods.

Course Number: **7503** Title: **Financial, Career, and Digital Literacy** **Nine Weeks**

In this course, students will explore three main topics: careers, finance, and digital literacy. Students will explore various career options by researching and analyzing their likes/dislikes. In the financial literacy component, students will learn the fundamentals of such topics as credit, debt, credit card usage and auto financing. Lastly, the digital literacy portion of the course educates students with skills to protect themselves in the Digital Age. Topics will include: scams and schemes, my digital life and up and coming social medias.

Course Number: **7600** Title: **Art 8** **Nine Weeks**

Art 8 is a confidence builder. Through the learning of various processes and techniques and the use of many media, the student will gain better control and more self-esteem. They will also appreciate others' artwork more fully. The skills learned at this level are necessary for any further study of art in high school.

Course Number: **7802**

Title: **Physical Education 8**

One Semester

Physical Education at the junior-high level is designed to maintain or improve a student's overall health and wellness as well as develop a personally fulfilling lifelong appreciation for physical activity. This goal is achieved through addressing the various aspects of learning with an emphasis being placed on lifetime activities and development of the basic skills to be successful in these activities. In addition, an emphasis is placed on learning how to personally develop and assess the components of health related fitness. Finally, it is the goal of the physical education department to expose students to as many different types of physical activities as possible.

