

Pembroke Pines Charter West Middle

A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



Curriculum Guide

2016-2017

Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School West Campus



Home of the Jaguars

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Community, Character, and a Challenging Curriculum

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Governing Body

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Carl Schecter, Vice Mayor

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Jay Schwartz, Commissioner

Iris. A. Siple, Commissioner

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Vision & Mission

Vision

All children will achieve educational excellence and become productive citizens in a diverse and ever-changing society.

Mission

Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School is committed to providing a high quality education in a safe and supportive environment that fosters lifelong learners. In partnership with parents and community, the school promotes a culture of achievement that maximizes the potential of all children empowering them to become positive contributors to society.

Core Beliefs

We believe that:

- Each student should have the opportunity to reach his/her fullest potential.
- The charter school should actively promote the development of the whole child.
- All charter school students should be educated in an environment that is safe, orderly, and drug free.
- All children possess the ability to become critical thinkers and apply problem-solving skills in real world situations.
- All charter school students have the right to be treated in a respectful manner.
- The entire school community should learn and work in an environment with high academic standards.
- All charter students should be educated by highly qualified professionals.
- All charter school students and staff should be provided with the necessary resources to achieve.
- Education is the joint responsibility of family, school, and students; community partnerships and volunteerism are vital to our mission.



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Principal's Message

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 school year. We are honored to have you join our school family, where we maintain a collective belief that all children will achieve educational excellence and become productive citizens in a diverse and ever-changing society. It is our belief that the purpose of education is to provide the opportunity for each child to grow to his/her full potential. With that in mind, the curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School's diverse student population.

This curriculum guide outlines available course selections and placement requirements for the upcoming school year. All 6th grade students are required to take Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Reading. Placement in classes that have pre-requisites is based on a variety of considerations, including input from faculty, performance in previous classes, and standardized test scores.

Various clubs and organizations are provided to supplement the instructional program, reinforce leadership skills, and teach students the importance of service to the community. In addition, major sports are available to students.

Thank you for taking the time to thoroughly review this curriculum guide. Should you have questions, please do not hesitate to call our office. We look forward to even bigger and better accomplishments with you as our partners in education.

Best wishes for a successful school year.



Michael Castellano
Principal



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Course Selection Notes

- ◆ Check the grade level prerequisites for each course selected.
- ◆ Course selection is done electronically through Virtual Counselor.
- ◆ Teachers make recommendations for the next course and level.
- ◆ Parents must sign the course selection card.
- ◆ The student must sign the course selection card.
- ◆ Course selections are final.

Administrative Procedural Guidelines

By following daily organized procedures, students at Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School West Campus will be provided an education in an optimum academic environment that is conducive to learning. Please adhere to the following:

- Students may bring lunch from home or purchase it through the school's lunch program. Students may **not** bring food into the cafeteria from outside vendors such as McDonald's, Burger King, Pizza Hut, etc.
- Students will be permitted to use the school phones if they are ill or before and after school for transportation purposes. Students are not permitted to use the school phones to call home due to forgotten lunch money, homework, PE clothing, class projects, etc. Classes will not be interrupted if parents deliver forgotten items to the administrative offices.
- Students arriving to school after 8:45 must sign in at the front desk, and will be marked tardy.
- Early request for dismissal will only be granted prior to 2:45 pm (even on rainy days).
- Students are permitted to ride only their assigned bus. Students requesting to ride a bus other than the one assigned must bring a note from their parent the day prior to the effective date.
- Students are expected to follow the dress code at all times while on campus.
- Students are responsible for keeping up with their personal property (i.e., P.E. clothing, electronic devices, musical instruments, or projects). These items cannot be maintained in the office.

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Guidance Department

The Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School West Campus Guidance Department works with students, parents and the community to provide students with a positive and supportive learning environment. Our doors are open to all students and their parents to deal with issues of personal safety, career choices, academic and enrichment programs. In an effort to meet the needs of all of our students, our guidance counselor provides expert assistance to our students and school community in the following areas:

- personal and emotional issues
- individual and group counseling
- scheduling issues
- conflict resolution
- setting appropriate education goals
- progress reports and grade concerns
- tutorial needs
- transitioning from grade levels
- consultation and collaboration with school staff, parents, and guardians and community agencies
- all standardized and state-wide testing

The Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Department is able to service students receiving special education. We proudly provide ESE services through academic support facilitators, licensed speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, school psychologists, and gifted-certified teachers.

Progress Monitoring Plan

There are certain skills that students must learn at each grade level to be promoted at the end of the school year. If a student is not working on grade level, a Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP) will be developed in consultation with the parent. The PMP is intended to help students master the skills and concepts expected at their grade level.

A student who has been given a PMP in reading, writing and/or mathematics may have his/her regular curriculum suspended in areas other than reading, writing, and mathematics in order to provide intensive academic instruction.

A set of criteria is in place at each grade level and subject area for a Progress Monitoring Plan. For further information and an explanation of criteria for the PMP, please contact your child's classroom teacher or the curriculum specialist at the school.

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Good Cause Criteria

Students will be given multiple opportunities to show that they have mastered the skills they need to in order to be promoted. Identified students who are English Language Learners (ELL) may be able to be promoted if they meet certain requirements. For more specific information about good cause options for promotion, please contact the school counselor

Middle School Promotion Criteria

Grading Scale	Passing Grades																		
A = 90-100 B+ = 87-89 B = 80-86 C+ = 77-79 C = 70-76 D+ = 67-69 D = 60-66 F = 0-59	<p>Students must pass the four core courses (*Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies*) with a minimum of D average earned for the year. See two examples below.</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Example</th><th>1st Quarter</th><th>2nd Quarter</th><th>3rd Quarter</th><th>4th Quarter</th><th></th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Student A</td><td>Math B</td><td>Math F</td><td>Math C</td><td>Math D</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Student B</td><td>Sci D</td><td>Sci F</td><td>Sci F</td><td>Sci C</td><td>Fail</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>*Civics, Algebra and Geometry students must also pass End-of-Course exam to meet promotion criteria. This criteria is subject to change based on FDOE Legislative Reform. Results of the EOC count as 30% of students' year long grade.</p>	Example	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter		Student A	Math B	Math F	Math C	Math D	Pass	Student B	Sci D	Sci F	Sci F	Sci C	Fail
Example	1 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th Quarter															
Student A	Math B	Math F	Math C	Math D	Pass														
Student B	Sci D	Sci F	Sci F	Sci C	Fail														

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Florida Standards

The Florida Standards (FS), are a result of a national effort to establish clear world-class educational standards that are robust and relevant to the real world. The Florida Standards represent a coherent progression of learning expectations designed to prepare K–12 students for college and career success. The standards define the knowledge and skills students should have in their K–12 education, emphasize learning goals, describe end-of-year expectations, and focus on results.

The Pembroke Pines Charter West Middle School, like all of Broward County schools, began full implementation of the FS during the 2014-2015 school year. Students will be assessed on these standards at the end of the school year in Writing, Reading and Mathematics.

http://www.flstandards.org/resources/parents_families.aspx

Cambridge International Secondary 1

The Cambridge Secondary 1 Program is an academic program sponsored by the Cambridge University in England. Students are exposed in a rigorous curriculum which prepares them for the demands and expectations of specialized, advanced academic programs in high school.

Cambridge AICE offers an international pre-university curriculum and examination system, which emphasizes the value of broad and balanced study for academically advanced students. The Secondary 1 Curriculum will encompass a variety of international learning standards in preparation for Cambridge Checkpoint assessments that will be administered to evaluate students' progress towards the Cambridge Standards. Pembroke Pines Charter Middle Schools will supplement the Florida Standards with the Cambridge Secondary Curriculum. All students, regardless of enrollment in Cambridge classes may be eligible to participate in Cambridge Club, a program that will introduce global perspectives via enriching fieldtrips, guest speakers and special presentations

- **The program at the West Middle School Campus will offer Cambridge Secondary courses in 6th, 7th and 8th grade Language Arts and Science.**

Homeroom Mentoring Program

Homeroom meets every day for 30 minutes. With the support of their teacher advocate, students will have a new understanding and appreciation of their place as individuals within school, community, nation and the world, and will be able to apply cooperative, writing, listening and speaking skills in all areas of the curriculum. Students engage in group discussions, collaborative work, data chats, progress self-monitoring, and sustained silent reading as part of Accelerated Reader program.

DAILY BELL SCHEDULE

2016-2017

Monday & Wednesday: Periods 1, 3, 5

Tuesday & Thursday: Periods 2, 4, 6

Block	Time	Duration
1	8:45-10:30	105 minutes
Homeroom	10:34-11:04	30 minutes
2	11:08-1:28 (includes lunches)	106 minutes
3	1:32-3:15	103 minutes

Students have 4 minutes to transition between classes.

6th Grade Lunch 11:08-11:38

7th Grade Lunch 12:04—12:34

8th Grade Lunch 12:58-1:28

Friday: Periods 1-6

Period	Time	Duration
1	8:45-9:36	51 minutes
Homeroom	9:40-10:08	28 minutes
2	10:12-11:03	51minutes
3	11:07-12:31 (includes lunches)	51 minutes
4	12:35-1:26	51 minutes
5	1:30-2:21	51 minutes
6	2:25-3:15	51 minutes

Early Release Schedule 8:45-12:45 PM

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School Discipline Plan

The Pembroke Pines Charter Schools have a mandatory uniform dress code policy. We believe that students have the right to attend a safe and secure school where the focus is on academic achievement.

Students must:

- dress appropriately for school by following the approved uniform dress code, wearing an ID badge visibly and in good condition. This makes it easy to identify visitors, which helps to keep our school safe.
- arrive to class on time. Instruction begins promptly when the bell rings. Be prepared with class materials.
- walk in the corridors. Running and horseplay create potential for injuries and disruption.
- keep hands, body and objects (H-B-O) to oneself. Doing so prevents injury and disruption.
- be courteous. Be respectful toward staff and peers.
- leave candy and gum at home. Gum and candy are prohibited on campus because they may cause damage to school property.
- follow the Pembroke Pines Charter School Acceptable Technology Usage Guidelines
- follow rules in the **Broward County Code of Conduct**. Unacceptable behaviors outlined in the Code of Conduct will be subject to disciplinary actions.

These rules are designed to reinforce the mission of the Pembroke Pines Charter Schools and the Broward County Code of Student Conduct.

Dress Code Policy

It is the intent of the school program that students be dressed and groomed in an appropriate manner that will not interfere with, or distract from, the school environment or disrupt the educational process. Clothing should follow the dress code established for the Charter Schools. All students must wear ID badges.

The dress code policy is a condition of admission into the Pembroke Pines Charter Schools. Uniforms must be purchased through our vendor Planet T and must contain the approved Pembroke Pines Charter School logo. Uniforms, including pants, may not be altered.

School Lunch Service

Students can bring their own lunch or purchase lunch from the cafeteria for \$2.65 dollars. The cafeteria also provides a full breakfast for \$1.20 dollars every morning from 8:00 - 8:45am. Each lunch period lasts 30 minutes. Students must sit with their 3rd or 4th period class and remain seated until dismissal by an administrator. (Please note that these prices are subject to change as determined by Food Services.). Students who qualify can receive either free or reduced breakfast for \$0.30 cents and lunch for \$0.40 cents.

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Course Descriptions

Language Arts

Language Arts 6-8: An integrated educational experiences in the language arts strands of reading, writing, speaking and listening. The curriculum focuses on literary analysis, writing evidence-based arguments, summarizing and responding to literature with textual evidence, while integrating vocabulary building, and grammar enrichment. Students will be exposed to all genres of literature, including fiction and nonfiction. Students will read self-selected literature and take quizzes to assess comprehension and reach a point goal each quarter. Students will use print and online resources to conduct research.

Cambridge Secondary 1 Language Arts 6-8 Grade: Language arts instruction is provided at all three grade levels and students must meet specific criteria to qualify for the class. The advanced track focuses on increased rigor aimed at encouraging the skills of independent research and investigation, the use of initiative and creativity, and the application of skills and knowledge. The course is centered on instruction at an accelerated pace; it is compacted and highly integrated with a strong emphasis on literary-based critical thinking, reading, and writing. Students are expected to be able to read independently and complete themed-based projects as assigned.

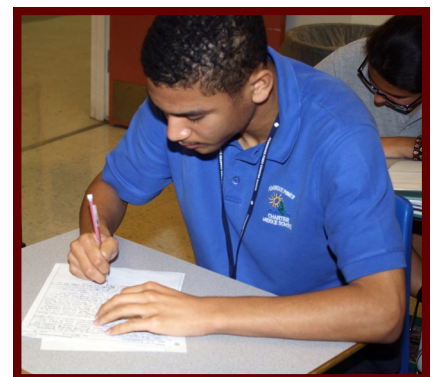
Critical Thinking Through Reading

Grades 6-8: Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School implements a critical thinking program that combines the Florida Standards and our charter school objectives of meeting both the specific and diverse needs of our student body. This means implementing a curricular program that addresses the school-wide goals while paying particular attention to individual students' needs.

All 6th grade students, and 7th and 8th grade students who scored at **Level 3 on the FCAT 2.0**, are required to take Critical Thinking. Through the use of complex texts from across the curriculum, students develop analytic skills for success in all areas of the curriculum. In addition, students will enhance their own reading interests through continuous use of the library. Materials are provided at a variety of reading levels to accommodate student needs and an accelerated curriculum is used for qualifying students in 6th grade.

Intensive Reading: Students who scored **at the lowest quartile as determined by the FLDOE** are required to attend Intensive Reading classes which focus specifically on improving their performance in the following areas:

- ⇒ Phonics
- ⇒ Fluency
- ⇒ Vocabulary
- ⇒ Comprehension
- ⇒ Phonemic Awareness



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Mathematics

Math 6-7: This course continues development of mathematical concepts that can be used to solve a variety of real-world and mathematical problems. The course will emphasize obtaining fluency of grade level specific Florida Standards.

Math 6-7 Advanced: This course continues development of mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve a variety of real-world and mathematical problems. There is emphasis on obtaining fluency of grade level specific Florida Standards as well as continuing on to the Florida standards of the succeeding year. Sixth grades students will cover all of 6th grade FS standards and 1/2 of the 7th grade standards; 7th grade students cover the remainder half of the 7th grade standards and all of the 8th grade standards; 8th graders cover the Pre-Algebra standards, but at a faster and more rigorous pace. Students who meet expectations could qualify for Algebra I in 8th grade.

GEM 6 (Pre-Algebra): GEM 6 is available for students who have met established criteria. The course is designed to prepare the student for Algebra I Honors. Students will cover the Florida Standards of 6th grade as well as those in 7th and 8th grade. There will be emphasis on strengthening and developing skills and concepts needed for success in Algebra I Honors. Students MUST maintain an A/B average to continue on to Algebra I Honors. A student may be exited from this course/program if he or she does not demonstrate success within the first five weeks of the school year.

Math 8 (Pre-Algebra): The course is designed to prepare the student for Algebra I in high school. Students will cover the 8th grade Florida Standards. There will be emphasis on strengthening and developing skills and concepts needed for success in Algebra I.

Algebra I Honors Grades 7 and 8: Algebra I Honors is a high school credit course designed to give rigorous in-depth study of algebraic concepts and the processes that can be used to solve a variety of mathematical and real word problems. Students will also be engaged in obtaining fluency in the Florida Standards for both 7th and 8th grade. The students will be administered the Broward County Midterm and final exams as well as the State End-of-Course Algebra which students must pass to continue on to Geometry Honors. In addition, this class is a requirement for high school graduation. A student may be exited from this course/program if he or she does not demonstrate success within the first five weeks of the school year.

Geometry Honors Grade 8 only: Geometry Honors is a high school credit course designed to give an in-depth study of the mathematical properties of measurement and the relationships of geometric concepts. During this course the students will also continue to develop and gain fluency in the 8th grade Florida Standards. The Broward County midterm and final exam will be administered at the end of the 1st and 2nd semesters as well as the State End-Of-Course Geometry exam. Geometry is a course required for High School graduation. Prerequisites for this course include an A or B average in Algebra I Honors, passing of the Algebra I EOC exam and teacher recommendation.

Special Note: The grades earned in both Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors will be listed on the student's High School transcript and calculated into his/her overall high school GPA. For students who earn C, D, or F grades, the forgiveness policy allows the replacement of the first grade with a grade of C or higher.

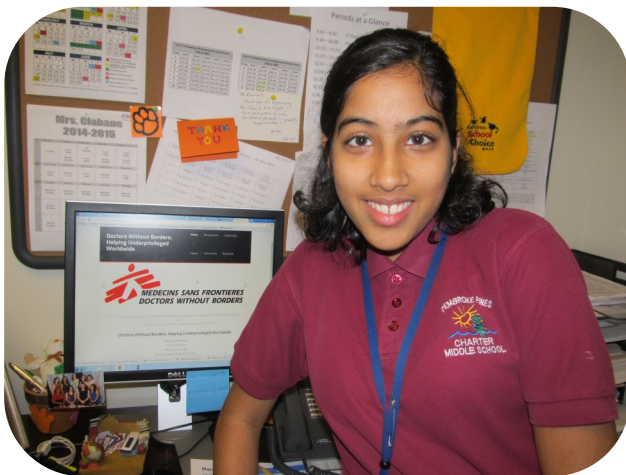
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Social Studies

World History Grade 6: World History begins with an in-depth, chronological study of the development of the ancient civilizations including Rome, Greece, Egypt, China and India. Using a multidisciplinary approach, students will focus on critical reading, writing and thinking skills.

Civics Grade 7: Civics is a study of the principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens; and methods of active participation in our political system. This course also involves a strong geography and economic component to support the civic instruction. Students will take a state end-of-course exam required for promotion to high school, which counts for 30% of the students' yearly grade.

American History Grade 8: American History is a chronological study of the beginning of our country through the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will acquire the ability to view history from multiple perspectives. This course will cultivate an understanding of the impact of ideas, people, and events that have influenced the development of the United States. Students will complete a career exploration unit that includes an individual portfolio component. Students will also participate in the Broward County History Fair.



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Science

Science 6-8: Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School offers a science curriculum that aligns to the Florida Department of Education's Next Generation Sunshine State Standards and Reading Standards for Literacy in Science. It is the objective of our school to provide all students with an education that meets their diverse learning needs. Students are provided with hands-on learning opportunities through lab activities and virtually by conducting experimental inquiry requiring the evaluation of empirical evidence. The curriculum is composed of Earth Science, Life Science, and Physical Science in grades 6-8 respectively. The 8th grade students are required to take the FSSA. Students will produce a science fair project using the Scientific Method and STEM strategies.

Cambridge Secondary Science 6-8:

These courses will provide increased rigor requiring students to recognize that science involves creativity, and objectivity not just in designing scientific experiments, but also in developing explanations that support the evidence. Hands-on learning and virtual labs are incorporated into instruction to meet the diverse needs of all the learners. Students will discover how science affects their lives. Therefore, students will be provided with a rigorous curriculum to challenge their academic abilities. Students gain awareness of scientific and environmental issues that affect the entire planet.

6th Grade: Earth Science is an introduction to the study of Earth while providing increased rigor. The focus is to expand learning for high-achieving students by challenging their intellectual abilities. It requires students to cite specific textual evidence to support science analysis. The major topics addressed are the solar system, natural phenomena, weathering, erosion, tectonic plate movement, rocks, and Earth's history. Hands-on learning and virtual labs are incorporated into instruction to meet the diverse needs of all the learners.

7th Grade: This course introduces students to the study of Life while providing increased rigor. The focus is to expand learning for high-achieving students by challenging their intellectual abilities. Students are required to cite specific textual evidence to support science analysis. The major topics addressed are the cell, cell processes, classification, ecology, natural resources, fossil evidence, heredity, and the human body systems. Hands-on learning and virtual labs are incorporated into instruction to meet the diverse needs of all the learners. Students participate in the Broward County Science Fair.

8th Grade: The purpose of this course is to provide students with the opportunity to make real-life connections through scientific inquiry. Instruction will give students an in-depth analysis of physical science. Students will examine the nature of matter, laws of energy, energy transformations, matter, waves, motion, and forces.



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Electives

Technology

Grades 6-8: This quarter long course focuses on learning coding and programming which helps students to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively.

Starting in 6th grade students will learn the fundamentals of programming, such as variables, loops, and conditional statements, though the use of code.org. Students will then practice these skills using programs such as Scratch, a programming language and online community developed by MIT where students can create their own interactive stories, games, and animations. In **8th grade**, students will review the programming basics (which will also serve as an introduction for any student who did not previously take this class), then move into learning HTML/CSS and JavaScript. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to work with a variety of robots (6th and 8th grade) and create objects using the 3D printer (8th grade).



Speech & Debate

Debate 1 (6th)

This course explores a range of public speaking skills, including the *foundational* extemporaneous speaking. Additionally, students are introduced to basic researching, argumentation, questioning, refutation and rebuttal skills through the debate disciplines. The skill focus includes the development of techniques in diction, articulation, enunciation, floor management, body language eye contact and projection. Students will create and deliver orations, write arguments and evaluate peer performances. Overall, students learn to value having a safe environment and platform from which they can become better public speakers.

Debate 2 (7th)

This course builds upon the foundations of extemporaneous speaking and further explores a variety of public speaking opportunities, including: Impromptu, Interpretations, Storytelling and Radio speaking. Additionally, through debate, students are introduced to basic and intermediate researching, argumentation, questioning, refutation and rebuttal skills through the debate disciplines. The skill focus includes the development of techniques in diction, articulation, enunciation, floor management, body language and projection. Students will also analyze pieces of literature, create and deliver orations, write arguments and evaluate peer performances. Overall, students learn and value having a safe environment and platform from which to share their voices in addition to becoming better public speakers

Debate 3 (8th)

This course reviews the delivery skills learned in extemporaneous speaking and applies those skills to a wide range of public speaking, including: Oratories, Interpretations, Declamations, Spoken Word and Poetry and Commentary. Additionally, students cement their argumentation skills of argumentation, questioning, refutation and rebuttal through Public Forum debates. The skill focus maintains the techniques in diction, articulation, enunciation, floor management, body language, eye contact and projection. Students will also analyze pieces of literature, create and deliver orations, write arguments and evaluate peer performances. Overall, students learn and value having a safe environment and platform from which to share their voices in addition to increasing their public speaking skills.

Physical Education

PE Annual-Grade 6: This is a year long physical education course offered to 6th graders that is in introduction to individual and team sports. Students will participate in various sports and lead-up games that will enhance skill development and overall physical fitness. Students will be taught the value of participation in physical activities and how sports can provide an opportunity for personal enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and social interactions. Students will reflect on the following essential questions: What role does cooperation play in physical activities/sport? How does movement affect performance? Why is physical fitness important? What characteristics define a good teammate?

PE Annual-Grade 7/8: This is a year long physical education course offered to 7th and 8th graders that is an intermediate review, demonstration, and application of the various skills related to individual and team sports. The course will focus on technique, strategy, and rules/regulations. Students will learn that positive decision-making about fitness contributes to a healthy lifestyle. Rules and etiquette in physical activities/sports can make the experience both enjoyable and successful. Students will reflect on the following essential questions: How can individual differences enhance a team's performance? Why is measuring physical fitness important? Why are rules and sportsmanship necessary in a game? How does your movement affect performance and outcome of one's performance?

6th grade Wheel: This is an introductory 9-week course offered to 6th graders. Students will be introduced to health related fitness activities. Students will learn the importance of a proper warm-up and stretching routine. Students will participate in activities that will challenge their cardiovascular system and test their muscular strength and endurance. They will engage in a physical fitness test that will test the following areas: Muscular strength and endurance-push-ups and sit-ups, Cardiovascular endurance-mile run, Flexibility-sit and reach, Agility and quickness-shuttle run, Speed-40 yard dash, Students will also be exposed to several individual and team sports.

7th grade and 8th Grade Wheel: This is an intermediate 9-week course offered to 7th and 8th graders. Students will be exposed to a variety of fitness activities and routines that will challenge their fitness levels. They will learn how to workout and pace themselves in an activity. They will create workouts that use kettlebells, medicine balls, agility ladders, and body weight exercises. Students will be tested with a physical fitness assessment that will evaluate their muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and agility levels. They will be taught several individual and team sports.



Media (Yearbook, Webdesign, Television Production)

Grades 7-8: Media encompasses TV production, web design, yearbook, media literacy and online safety. TV Production students deliver the daily news on closed-circuit television to the school, and create a video Yearbook. Yearbook Publishing is for students interested in photography and graphic design using DSLR, Adobe Photoshop and In Design software. Maintaining the school website is a part of media classes and allows students to promote school events on our website. All media classes are year long and selection in 7th grade does not guarantee placement in 8th.

Spanish

Spanish 1: This is a high school credit course. This class introduces students to the Spanish language and enables them to communicate almost immediately. This class also has a county administered midterm and final exam that make up 25% of the 2nd and 4th quarter grades respectively.

Spanish 2: This is a high school credit course for students who have successfully taken and passed Spanish 1. This class also has a county administered midterm and final exam, that make up 25% of the 2nd and 4th quarter grades respectively.

Special Note: The grades earned in Spanish 1 and Spanish 2 will be listed on the student's high school transcript and calculated into his/her overall high school GPA.

Creative Writing

Grades 7-8: This is an annual course designed for students interested in writing for publication. It will expose students to a variety of writing genres and require them to understand, analyze, imitate and then produce pieces of writing which conform to these genres. The writing process will be emphasized, as will be teacher, peer and self critique. The students will write, revise, critique, cull and publish their own creative works, including journal writing, memoir, poetry, mystery stories, fairy tales, journalism/newspaper pieces, argumentative writing and speech writing. The class will also instruction that focus on helping students become better technical writers, as well as a creative ones. Topics will include: word choice, dialogues, sensory language, figurative language, rhetorical devices, sentence structure, editing and revision. Students will create an electronic literary newspaper and participate in writing competitions.

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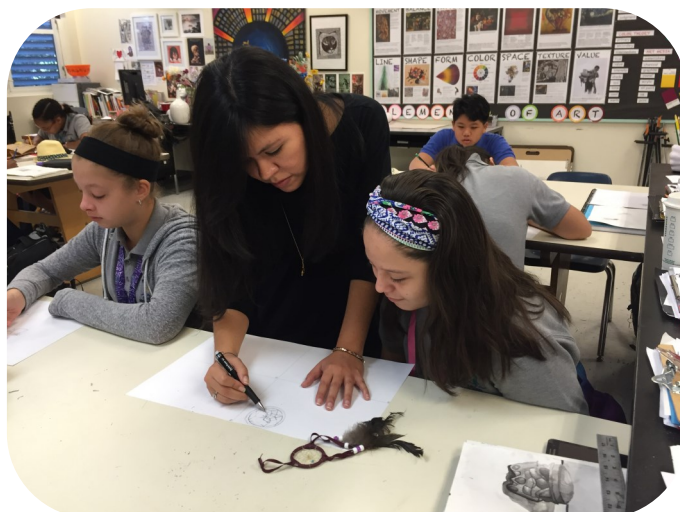
Art

Beginning Visual Art/Wheel 6: An exploration of the basic elements art is covered in nine weeks in the first year of middle school. Students are engaged in projects where they learn about line, shape, and form, value, color, space, and texture. Each project covers the basics of one or two elements while introducing students to new media for artmaking. Students will work with pens, pencils for blending and shading, paper, colored pencils, printmaking and other media in two-dimensional art.

Beginning Visual Art/Wheel 7: This quarter long course builds on what students learn during beginning art for 6th grade. Students go more in depth through projects focusing on the elements of art while also learning how to critique and establish criteria for artmaking. Students gain more experience and knowledge of certain media as well as being introduced to new media. They are exposed to artists and styles of art from realism to surrealism. Students will continue to work with pencil, colored pencils, paper, and will be introduced to charcoal, paint media, and scratchboard.

Intermediate Visual Art: This is a year-long art course offered to 7th graders that allows students to continue to explore elements and principles of design learned in their first year. Students will integrate the visual arts with other subjects, artists, as well as art for art sake. They will continue usage of the art materials introduced in 6th grade while also being exposed to many new mediums for both two and three dimensional art. Students complete projects where they practice the elements of line, shape and form, value, color, space, texture. Students will also learn the principles of design: rhythm, pattern, movement, contrast and balance, unity and emphasis. They are exposed to major works/styles of art, as well as create their own masterpieces using those elements and in turn learn how to positively express themselves and their thoughts visually.

Advanced Visual Art: This is a year-long advanced art course that allows students to continue to explore elements and principles of design. Students complete projects where they practice both the elements and principles of design learned in previous art classes in order to apply them to successful works of art. Students also explore art media more in depth and are exposed to new mediums for the 21st century. They study major works/styles of art, and learn to reflect and refocus on their work using specific criteria and, in turn, learn how to positively express themselves and their thoughts visually. There will be more focus on the artist in society, the artist as a pioneer, inventor, messenger, planner and interpreter.



Community, Character, and a Challenging Curriculum

Band

Band 1 – Beginning Band: This class is offered to 6th and 7th graders who want to learn how to play a wind (flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba) or percussion instrument. No prior music experience is required to take band. Students will learn everything about their instrument and how to read and perform music. Students are required to participate in 3-4 after school performances throughout the year. Advanced notice will be given for performance dates. Performances are mandatory. Home practice is required for participation in band.

For Band 2 – Concert Band:

Band 2 is a continuation of Beginning Band. The focus changes from learning *how* to play an instrument, to learning about music through the performance of slightly more advanced literature. There is no audition for membership in Concert Band. Band 2 students are *required* to participate in 2-3 after school performances throughout the year. Band 2 students also participate in the district concert band performance assessment when the instrumentation of the class is viable. In this case, there will be one required after school rehearsal. Band 2 students are encouraged to participate in the district solo performance assessment. Students in this ensemble will also have the opportunity to participate in the National Anthem Band and audition for the All County Band and the All State Band. **All performances are mandatory. Home practice is required.**

For Band 3 – Symphonic Band:

This advanced level band class emphasizes the development of individual and ensemble skills in preparation for concerts, and solo / full ensemble assessments. The elements of more complex music theory and interpretation are addressed and a higher level of technical playing proficiency is developed. This ensemble is comprised of 7th & 8th grade students on all of the major wind and percussion instruments. Instruction focuses on advanced technical and expressive skills in an ensemble setting. Membership in advanced band is by audition only. Students in Symphonic Band are required to participate in both Concert Band and Solo & Ensemble Music Performance Assessments. Students are also required to participate in 3-4 after school performances throughout the year as well as Veteran's Day for the City of Pembroke Pines and for our school's annual Awards Night. Students in this ensemble will also have the opportunity to participate in the National Anthem Band and to audition for the All County Band and the All State Band. **All performances are mandatory. Home practice is required.**

Clubs and Activities

Students are invited to participate in a variety of clubs and extra-curricular activities. The following clubs support our academic programs and provide students with additional enrichment.

Builders Club

The Builders Club is a service club designed to build leadership skills, community service awareness and school spirit among middle school students. The club is sponsored by the local Pembroke Pines Charter of Kiwanis International.

The Young Artists Workshop

The Young Artist Workshop is an excellent opportunity for students to enhance their knowledge of art history and visual arts. Participants explore the visual arts not only as a method of expression, but also as a potential career choice. Students participate in numerous art competitions and shows.

Drama Club

Drama Club is a wonderful way for students to express themselves through the media of the theater. This club performs theater games, do improvisations, create characters, and write and perform skits for each other. Each year, the drama club puts on a performance.

Student Government

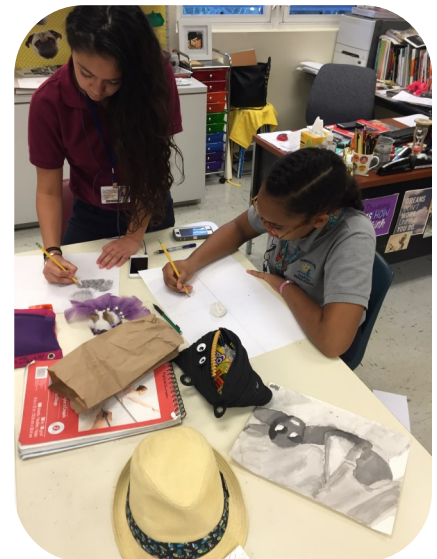
The Student Government is a student's first experience with working as a group to make decisions for the student body. Council members communicate student concerns to administration. They participate in many community and school service projects. The office of President, Vice President and Treasurer are filled by 8th graders.

Math Club

Math Club is an organization that prepares students of all levels to compete in the BCCTM County math competitions. Students are coached to tutor their peers for FSA practice and/or homework.

Chess Club

Chess Club is an opportunity to learn and practice critical and abstract thinking, logic and analysis in a fun format.



Clubs and Activities



Reading Club

The Reading Club emphasizes the importance of literacy and the value of imagination. Many readers become writers, so discussions of plot, character and conflict makes the meetings educational. Special events include breakfasts and Barnes & Nobles Night.

Relay For Life

Relay for Life is a club where students come together to celebrate those who have survived cancer, remember those we've lost, and fight back against a disease that touches too many lives. Students will raise funds throughout the year to benefit the American Cancer Society and will participate in an 18 hour walk-a-thon celebration.

Multicultural Club

The Multicultural Club is designed to foster understanding among the diverse populations of students at Pembroke Pines Charter Middle School.

National Junior Honor Society

The purpose of the National Junior Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulate a desire to render service, and promote leadership. This prestigious organization is the leader among student organizations that promote appropriate recognition for students who reflect outstanding accomplishments in the areas of academics, character and service. A 3.5 GPA is required. Students participate in service projects.

* Clubs and Organizations are subject to availability and sponsorship by a teacher



Community, Character, and a Challenging Curriculum

First Priority

First Priority is a student initiated and led faith based Christian club that meets weekly after school.

Robotics

Robotics club is an extracurricular program dedicated to inspiring and developing our young pioneers into these and other technology based education and career paths. This is our first year as a club at the school. Our Mission is to develop student interest in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematical fields. Member of the PPPCMS Robotics Club will learn to work together and solve intricate and complex challenges, through competition, in order to foster and develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Finance Club

The finance club teaches students the value of being financially responsible. Students will participate in entrepreneurial projects and activities throughout the year, culminating in a field trip to the Bright Star credit union.

T.R.O.O.P

Teens Reaching Out to Other People is a club designed to involve students in their community by helping others through outreach activities.

Debate

Speech and Debate Club is both an academic and a service-oriented organization through which students actively engage in the world around them to develop sophisticated knowledge about a wide range of current events and complex ideas. Our organization not only helps students increase their speaking, thinking and listening skills, but it also affords them the opportunity to engage in civic-minded activities. Through their participation in Speech and Debate Club, students become better prepared to articulate their ideas and concerns in today's fast-paced, global society.



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