

K- 8 Course Catalog

PA Learners *Online*

Pennsylvania Learners Online Regional Cyber Charter School is a public school accredited by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. We pride ourselves in maintaining high academic goals, and our curriculum correlates with the Pennsylvania Standards.

Helping you achieve your educational goals

Administration

Dr. David Martin-----Principal
Dr. Edward Mandell-----Assistant Principal (9-12)
Dr. Kelly Sherbondy--- -----Assistant Principal (K-8)
Mr. Paul Cindric.....Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Coordinator



Log on to Learn



KINDERGARTEN:

SPELLING AND VOCABULARY

In this course, students focus on identifying word beginnings and endings, a controlled vocabulary of short vowel words, and key words.

WRITING/ COMPOSITION

This course is designed to develop students' fine motor control with the option of printing letters, words, and simple sentences.

GRAMMAR

In this course, students enhance their oral expression through guided discussion lessons. They construct asking/telling sentences and begin to recognize punctuation symbols.

MATHEMATICS

This course covers number ideas from 1–31 which includes ordering, adding, and subtracting numbers. In addition, students explore shapes, problem solving, and the concept of fractions.

SCIENCE

This course introduces topics such as seasons, weather, growth and change, energy conservation, and space through simple demonstrations and discussions.

POETRY/MUSIC

This course enhances students' repertoire of traditional songs, poetry, finger plays, rhymes, patriotic, marching, and holiday music. Students are engaged through activities and memorization.

HISTORY

This course fosters an interest in history through discussions of the lives of famous people and historical events.

GEOGRAPHY

Students begin to learn about the five themes of geography by discussing where people live, families, communities, transportation, and animal habitats.

ART

This course helps students develop fine motor skills through drawing, painting, pasting, cutting, and modeling with clay. Self-expression is encouraged through art projects using various media.

TECHNOLOGY

Application lessons, activities, and an online interactive learning tool cover keyboard and mouse basics. This is an introduction to word processing and beginning graphics skills.

READING

Students in kindergarten will be introduced to auditory discrimination of letters, sounds, syllables and words; phonemic awareness, phonics knowledge, spelling development, vocabulary, and comprehension. Work in phonological awareness will center on rhyming and blending and students will learn how individual letters sound when they are pronounced. Vocabulary and sight words will be introduced and reinforced throughout the school year. Stories in text will consist of a variety of different genres where comprehension will be introduced.

FIRST GRADE:

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

The goal of Reading/Language Arts in first grade is to develop skills needed to become a confident, fluent reader. The students participate in live classrooms where they work with the teacher in small groups using various reading strategies such as letter/sound relationships, word building, fluency, comprehension and vocabulary. The textbook used in this course is Harcourt (2007) Storytown. Along with this text, the students use Academy of Reading, Raz-Kids, Reading A-Z and Odyssey; online programs used to reinforce and build on reading skills.

MATHEMATICS

The goal of Math in first grade is to develop the foundation of problem solving skills needed for all students to experience success in mathematics. The students will attend live classrooms and work in small groups with the teacher to demonstrate an understanding of basic addition/subtraction skills, simple fractions, money, measurement, graphing and solid and plane shapes. The course uses Harcourt (2007) Math textbook along with Academy of Math and Odyssey; online programs designed to reinforce and build on their math skills.

SCIENCE

The grade 1 science course covers life science, earth science and physical science by incorporating the following concepts: living and nonliving things, how plants and animals live together, the Earth and its resources, weather, seasons and the sky, an introduction to matter and exposure to energy. While exploring these concepts the students will use inquiry skills and many others including those of comparing and contrasting, drawing conclusions, recognizing main ideas and details and summarizing information. The textbook will be supplemented with online movies, fiction and nonfiction books and websites.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

This course covers such content as the rules and laws of our nation and communities, how people use the land and resources to live, exposure to symbols, heroes and holidays of our country, an introduction of how our country has changed over time, a brief encounter with the first Americans and an introduction to economics where the students will have an opportunity to explore goods and services. Throughout the year, the students will use the content to learn and enhance skills including but not limited to recalling and retelling, comparing and contrasting, sequencing of events, recognizing main ideas and details, categorizing and classifying and identifying cause and effect. The textbook will be supplemented with online movies, fiction and nonfiction books, and websites.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through this online elementary Physical Education course students will be exposed to many diverse activities and will learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that they will be able to use in their everyday lives. Students will learn locomotor and non-locomotor movement's used in games and activities. Students will develop a sense of self-esteem and accomplishment through completion of fitness tests, learning about recreation safety and understanding how good nutrition can make their bodies healthy. After completion of this course students will have the knowledge to stay fit and stay active.

ART

The Elements and Principles of Design are the building blocks of art and will be introduced in First Grade as students learn about a variety of artists, cultures, and styles and explore and experience a variety of materials and techniques. Each student will experience, clay, sculpture, painting, printmaking and drawing and also some computer generated art every year.

First Graders will use basic shapes to improve drawing skills and be able to combine shapes to make designs, patterns and more complicated shapes. Students will improve cutting and gluing skills and also experience painting and mixing colors.

ART (continued)

It is the goal of the art course to show students that although techniques and materials have changed since the time of the cave dwellers, we still experience the same emotions and struggles and still have a need to express those emotions visually. Studying Art History, Aesthetics, and Criticism help us to better produce our own art and see the meanings and struggles in the art of others.

MUSIC

In this course students will be introduced to the world of music. Through active participation in singing, movement, and rhythm, students will begin to build a foundation of musical skills. These skills will build on one another in a sequential fashion so that the student is moving from the known to the unknown.

Goals for this course:

- Clap and speak rhythms containing quarter notes and eighth notes.
- Identify the difference between high and low pitches.
- Identify the difference between loud and soft sounds.
- Identify the difference between long and short sounds.

SECOND GRADE:

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Reading/Language Arts- The goal of Reading/Language Arts in second grade is to continually reinforce concepts learned in first grade. The students participate in live classrooms working in small groups using various reading strategies such as blending, segmentation, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension and summarizing. Harcourt Storytown (2007) is the textbook used along with online programs such as Academy of Reading, Odyssey, Reading A-Z and Raz-Kids. These online programs are implemented to reinforce reading skills.

MATHEMATICS

The goal of Math in second grade is to provide a wide variety of strategies and activities to build knowledge in adding and subtracting 2-3 digit numbers, measurement, problem-solving, fractions, telling time, money and geometric figures. Multiplication and division are introduced in this year. The students attend live classes to receive instructions and demonstrate an understanding of the material. This course uses Harcourt (2007) Math textbook along with Academy of Math and Odyssey; online programs designed to reinforce and build on their math skills.

SCIENCE

This course is designed to be an extension of the grade one science course. It provides a more in-depth look at many similar themes such as a world of living and nonliving things, our Earth and its natural resources, weather and the solar system, matter and energy in motion. The students will use inquiry skills and many others including those of comparing and contrasting, drawing conclusions, recognizing main ideas and details and summarizing information while exploring the above concepts. The textbook will be supplemented with online movies, fiction and nonfiction books and websites.

SOCIAL STUDIES

This course includes original read-aloud narratives, such as biographies of Old World figures, explorers, inventors, and leaders in American life, and accounts of famous events. Students investigate the five themes of geography and extend their understanding of the fundamentals of American civics and government (cooperation, accountability, conflict resolution, patriotism). Students examine the economic concepts of goods and services, income, scarcity of resources, markets, and banking. Activities are included in this course.

ART

Students gain experience with various drawing techniques and study famous paintings using color art reproductions, which are included in the course.

TECHNOLOGY

Application lessons, activities, and an online interactive learning tool introduce touch typing and keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheets, using e-mail and the Internet, visual mapping, and database skills.

SOCIAL STUDIES

This course is designed to be an extension of the grade one social studies course. It covers many of the same themes: how our government works, the bigger world around us, how we use our many natural resources, how our country began and how it has become widely diversified to include many cultures. Many skills will be intertwined with the above content. These skills include chart and graph skills, citizenship skills, critical thinking skills map and globe skills as well as those listed in grade one social studies. The Harcourt textbook will be supplemented with online books, websites and movies.

MUSIC 2

In this course students will build on skills learned in Music 1. Students will continue to explore their voice through songs and further develop musical skills through movement and rhythm. At this level students will compose a simple rhythm on staff paper. Students will also learn how to read the treble clef staff in preparation for third grade recorders.

Each week the students will sing a new song and learn about its origin, participate in rhythmic activities, and be exposed to different types of music through music listening activities.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through this online elementary Physical Education course students will be exposed to many diverse activities and will learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that they will be able to use in their everyday lives. Students will review basic fitness concepts such as locomotor and non-locomotor movements. Students will also learn a variety of movement skills such as jumping rope and balance. Students will develop a sense of self-esteem and accomplishment through completion of fitness tests, learning about recreation safety and understanding how good nutrition can make their bodies healthy. After completion of this course students will have the knowledge to stay fit and stay active

ART

Second Graders will continue to learn about the Elements and Principles as they study a variety of artists, cultures, and styles and explore and experience a variety of materials and techniques. Each student will experience, clay, sculpture, painting, printmaking and drawing and also some computer generated art every year.

Second Grade will concentrate on building and improving drawing and cutting skills as well as be able to show space in a drawing and identify and use patterns in artwork. Students will also use and mix paint colors and identify warm and cool colors.

THIRD GRADE:

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

Students in third grade will develop skills essential for moving from “learning to read” to “reading to learn”. Lessons are held in a live classroom environment and are aligned with state and national standards and work cohesively to build a continual stepping stone in the main areas of Language arts: reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar and spelling.

Students will continue with the reinforcement of phonemic awareness, phonics and decoding skills necessary for reading. With the continuation of these skills, students will read many different genres of stories while showcasing their knowledge of spelling, vocabulary and comprehension. Fluency will be worked on weekly to help students become fluent readers.

Writing instruction will focus on learning the essential parts of a sentence to further develop paragraph writing skills. Areas such as nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs will continue to be reinforced with mastery as the key goal. Editing and revising summaries of stories will be a continual focus throughout the year as students learn to communicate their thoughts, feelings and opinions into writing.

Throughout the duration of the course, students will also develop and refine their individual opinions and ideas with expression through oral speaking. Students will continue to learn how to listen effectively and restate information from listening skills.

MATHEMATICS

Each of our themes is based on national and state standards. Students use the Harcourt math text to introduce and reinforce fundamental math themes. Students in third grade study a wide variety of math concepts including number sense, place value, comparing ordering, rounding; addition and subtraction with three digit numbers with and without regrouping; counting, adding and subtracting money; estimating and problem solving with time; multiplication and division facts through twelve; data collection, analysis and graphing; mean, median, and mode; measurement of length, capacity and weight, probability; geometry lines, angles, and shapes; symmetry; patterns; fractions and decimals.

In addition, the students will use the PSSA Math Coach to enhance each of these specific math concepts and to help prepare for the PSSA Math Test. With the Math Coach series, we help students become comfortable with mathematics presented in the format of multiple choice and open-ended questions. Math instruction is provided through daily live classrooms, recorded sessions, or small group/individual help sessions. Students are provided with math manipulatives, websites, and independent work to reinforce classroom instruction. Math instruction is differentiated so that each child can experience success and growth.

SCIENCE

The third grade Science curriculum focuses on using the 2007 Harcourt Science textbook along with live classroom experiments and supplemental monthly calendars. The goal of this course is to develop strong scientific skills, an understanding of scientific inquiry, and most importantly to foster a life-long love and excitement of science, within each of our students.

Themes throughout the course will focus on living things; minerals and rocks; landforms and resources; weather and space; electricity and magnets; and work and machines.

Live classroom experiments allow students to perform investigations using common household materials, developing many levels of inquiry. Finally, students are given supplementary, science calendars each month, where the students are able to choose a weekly assignment appropriate for their instructional level. These assignments, which are based on state standards, are completed at a student's own pace and offer a creative extension of our weekly science curricula.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The third grade Social Studies curriculum is focused on the main theme of communities. Areas of discussion will provide students with knowledge and background allowing them to understand the roles and responsibilities needed to become productive members within their own community. Students will spend time in live classrooms, on individual assignments and working with a supplemental calendar assignments. The calendar assignments will provide students with an activity of choice in which they will further develop their social studies skills. Topics taught in third grade include urban, rural and suburban communities, physical and human geography; US history; citizenship; and government, culture and economics.

Music 3

Building on foundational skills taught in Music 1 and 2, students will experience music through playing the recorder. In this course students will be merging cognitive skills while reading music and physical skills playing the instrument. Learning an instrument teaches a student discipline, patience, and rewards them with the end product of making their own music.

Physical Education

Through this online elementary Physical Education course students will be exposed to many diverse activities and will learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that they will be able to use in their everyday lives. Students will learn movements involved in activities such as locomotor, non-locomotor, and balance. Students will develop a sense of self-esteem and accomplishment through completion of fitness tests, learning new exercise routines and understanding how good nutrition can make their bodies healthy. After completion of this course students will have the knowledge to stay fit and stay active.

ART

The Elements and Principles of Design are the building blocks of art and will be reviewed and honed in Third grade as students learn about a variety of artists, cultures, and styles and explore and experience a variety of materials and techniques. Each student will experience, clay, sculpture, painting, printmaking and drawing and also some computer generated art every year.

Third grade will concentrate on: improving drawing skills including showing depth in a drawing, and drawing the human figure more accurately. Students will also experiment with color mixing and creating value to show form. During class students will make a least one 3-D project to demonstrate problem solving skills and building skills.

FOURTH GRADE:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Students in fourth grade will work hard developing skills necessary for real life concepts and ideas. Each lesson is aligned with state and national standards and is developed in a scaffolding process essential for life-long learning and long term success. Lessons will be devoted each day on the development of the skills and knowledge of the five subsections of Language Arts; reading, writing, vocabulary, grammar and spelling. Textbook: Harcourt StoryTown 2007 Additional Curriculum: PSSA Reading Coach/ Compass Learning Odyssey/Academy of Reading/Reading A-Z/ Study Island

Fourth grade students will continue to reinforce their decoding skills in order to read and comprehend texts, as well as to increase their fluency. They will also learn and utilize process strategies to understand different types of text before, during and after reading. The students will focus on comprehension strategies and begin to analyze a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts, poetry and folk tales, drama and autobiographies. Parts of the story elements encompass robust vocabulary and spelling rules and generalizations.

Writing instruction will commence with learning the conventions of language and the development of writing skills. Those skills will be practiced throughout the year when producing written narrative, expository, persuasive and poetic compositions. Grammar instruction, which focuses on correctly using the parts of speech and following grammatical rules, will also be applied when writing.

Throughout the duration of the course, students will also develop and refine their speaking and listening skills in order to successfully comprehend and convey information.

MATH

Students in fourth grade Math will cover a broad range of mathematical concepts based on national and state standards. Students use the 2007 Harcourt math text to introduce and reinforce the fundamental themes of numbers and operations; time and money, multiplication and division; fractions and decimals; geometry lines, segments, rays and angles; measurement of length, capacity, and weight; algebraic concepts, and problem solving.

Additional emphasis is placed on the development of problem-solving strategies so that students develop the analytical skills need to solve a wide variety problems presented. In addition, the students will use the PSSA Math Coach series to expand on each concept and to help prepare for the PSSA Math Test. With the Math Coach series, students become comfortable with mathematics presented in multiple choice and open-ended question format. Math instruction is provided through daily live classrooms, recorded sessions, or small group/individual help sessions. Students are provided with math manipulatives, websites, and independent work to reinforce classroom instruction. Math instruction is differentiated so that each child can experience success in mathematics.

SOCIAL STUDIES/The History of Pennsylvania

Students will explore the history of Pennsylvania from the first settlers to present day. The students will continue to develop skills including cause and effect, reading time lines, and sequencing of events as well as lessons in citizenship. While exploring the content, the students will identify natural resources, landforms, culture, industry, inventions, and people of Pennsylvania. They will analyze how all these things impacted the growth and development of historic Pennsylvania.

SCIENCE

Students taking this course experience a quality science curriculum based on national and state standards. The goal of this course is to develop strong scientific skills, an understanding of scientific inquiry, and most importantly to foster a life-long love and excitement for science, within each of our students. This course includes the 2007 Harcourt Science Text, PSSA Science Coach Series, live classroom experiments, and supplemental monthly calendars. Special emphasis will be placed on the themes of living things, life cycles, adaptations, and ecosystems; rock cycle, changes to the Earth's surface, and water cycle; sound, light, heat, and electricity; forces and motions, and simple machines.

MUSIC 4

This course focuses on the further development of fundamental musical skills as well as giving students a foundational knowledge of the instruments of the orchestra. Students will learn about each family of instruments, how their sound is produced, and what they sound like. Students will also be exposed to music in which these instruments are used, so as to give a real world example.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through this online elementary Physical Education course students will be exposed to many diverse activities and will learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that they will be able to use in their everyday lives. Students will learn skills that are incorporated into sports and activities such as overhand and underhand throw, and stationary kicking and punting. Through research the students will also be exposed to extreme sports and their benefits on our physical health. Students will develop a sense of self-esteem and accomplishment through completion of fitness tests, learning new exercise routines and understanding how good nutrition can make their bodies healthy. After completion of this course students will have the knowledge to stay fit and stay active.

ART

The Elements and Principles of Design are the building blocks of art and will be reviewed and honed in Fourth Grade as students learn about a variety of artists, cultures, and styles and explore and experience a variety of materials and techniques. Each student will experience, clay, sculpture, painting, printmaking and drawing and also some computer generated art every year.

Fourth Grade will concentrate on: improving drawing skills including drawing a correctly proportioned figure and portrait, and animals. Students will practice mixing and using color and demonstrate understanding of the color wheel. Students will also create at least one 3-D project involving problem solving skills and building skills.

TECHNOLOGY

Fourth grade's Introduction to Technology class is a semester class. It begins with computer fundamentals and moves through to web searching. Students get hands-on learning using common office applications. Also, through the website <http://www.learning.com>, live classroom discussions and other activities, students will be introduced to key computer terminology, valuable information and skills that will provide students with a good foundation in technology.

FIFTH GRADE:

LANGUAGE ARTS

The goal of the Reading/Language Arts program is for students to demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, grammar and spelling. Fifth grades students continue to develop reading strategies including vocabulary building, fluency, and the comprehension of fiction, nonfiction, poetic and dramatic texts. Writing instruction will commence with reviewing the conventions of language and basic writing skills. Those skills will be practiced throughout the year when producing written narrative, expository and persuasive compositions. Grammar instruction, which focuses on correctly using more sophisticated parts of speech and grammatical rules, will also be applied when writing. Emphasis will also be placed on learning to correctly spell words.

Throughout the course, the refinement of speaking and listening skills are also emphasized through participation in small and large group settings in order to successfully comprehend and convey information. This course utilizes the textbook, *Storytown*, (Harcourt) 2007. The Academy of Reading, an online skills development program, is also utilized

MATH

Students in fifth grade Math will cover a broad range of mathematical concepts. These topics include place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, fractions, probability, measurement, collecting and organizing data, integers, and geometry. An emphasis is placed on developing strong fundamental skills so that students may apply them in various ways. The concepts of multiplication and division will see students working with larger numbers as they apply the skills they've learned in the past. Fractions and decimals will also build on prior concepts as we broaden understanding of those topics. Additional emphasis is placed on the development of problem-solving strategies so that students develop the analytical skills need to solve a wide variety problems presented. The textbook utilized for this course is *Math*, (Harcourt), 2004.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The goal of Social Studies in Grade 5 is to develop an understanding of the historical, political, social, cultural and geographical characteristics of the United States from the beginning to 1824. It is designed to provide students with the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge that they will need to function as productive and involved members of society. This course utilizes primary documents, maps, graphs, timelines, and other supplementary sources in combination with the textbook, *Social Studies; The United States: Making a New Nation*, (Harcourt), 2007.

SCIENCE

Fifth grade Elementary Science is a course that addresses Life, Earth, and Physical Science strands of the PSSA test and the PA Academic Standards for Science and Technology. The fifth grade students will be introduced to different objectives within the areas of the Earth's features and processes that change its structures resources, weather, climate, atmospheric pressures, and composition and structure of the universe. Special emphasis will be placed on scientific methods, life cycles, light, electricity, weather, heat, and simple machines. Students learn to observe and analyze through hands-on experiments, and gain further insight into how scientists understand our natural world. This course utilizes the textbook, *Science*, (Harcourt), 2007.

MUSIC 5

Students in this course will continue to develop and reinforce skills from previous grades. Students will compose their own music using skills that are revisited early in the semester. In composing, students are putting the foundational skills they have been building to practice. Their compositions will also be played for the entire class in non-threatening, positive environment.

Students will also learn about the history of American music. This includes genres such as folk and jazz music. Students will be able to associate composers and musicians of these styles with the music that they hear in this course. Associating history and music helps students to gain a broader perspective and appreciation for the world around them.

Goals for this course:

- Count and Clap rhythms containing whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes.
- Sing simple melodies using the solfeg method (Do, Re Mi...)
- Write, perform, and record a rhythm.
- Identify the note names of the treble and bass clef staff.
- Identify specific music terminology found in songs we learn.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through this online elementary Physical Education course students will be exposed to many diverse activities and will learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that they will be able to use in their everyday lives. Students will learn about sports skills such as throwing and catching, and stick handling. Students will develop a sense of self-esteem and accomplishment through completion of fitness tests, learning about recreation safety and understanding how good nutrition can make their bodies healthy. After completion of this course students will have the knowledge to stay fit and stay active.

ART

Fifth graders will review and apply the Elements and Principles in their work as they study a variety of artists, cultures, and styles and explore and experience a variety of materials and techniques. Each student will experience, clay, sculpture, painting, printmaking and drawing and also some computer generated art every year.

Fifth graders will concentrate on: building drawing skills and trying to capture what they see in their drawings, using color to express emotion, studying other cultures and creating work based on those cultures, becoming more skilled at showing depth in a drawing, use proportion to correctly draw a self-portrait and the figure and use and identify symbols in artwork.

TECHNOLOGY

Fifth grade's Intro to Technology class is a semester class. It reviews computer fundamentals with a focus on keyboarding and word processing. Students get hands-on learning using common office applications. In addition, through the website <http://www.learning.com>, Live Classroom discussions and other activities, students will be introduced to key computer terminology, valuable information and skills that will provide students with a good foundation in technology.

SIXTH GRADE:

LANGUAGE ARTS

The goal of the Reading/Language Arts program is for students to demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, grammar and spelling. Sixth grades students continue to develop reading strategies including vocabulary building, fluency, and the comprehension of fiction, nonfiction, poetic and dramatic texts. Writing instruction will commence with reviewing the conventions of language and writing skills introduced in Grade 5. Those skills will be practiced throughout the year when producing written narrative, expository and persuasive compositions. Grammar instruction, which focuses on correctly using more sophisticated parts of speech and grammatical rules, will also be applied when writing. Emphasis will also be placed on learning to correctly spell words.

Throughout the course, the refinement of speaking and listening skills are also emphasized through participation in small and large group settings in order to successfully comprehend and convey information. This course utilizes the textbook, *Storytown*, (Harcourt), 2007. The Academy of Reading, an online skills development program, is also utilized.

MATH

Students in sixth grade Math will work with concepts of place value, multiplication, division, decimals, fractions, probability, measurement, integers, collecting and organizing data, and geometry. There is an emphasis on strong fundamental mathematical skills which are necessary as students move toward working with more abstract concepts. Many topics will be studied significantly more in-depth than in previous years, as students learn how to apply all four operations to not only whole numbers, but to fractions, decimals, and integers. The study of geometry is also greatly broadened as we look at basic geometric concepts, plane figures, and three-dimensional figures, including measurement of those figures. The textbook utilized for this course is *Math*, (Harcourt), 2004.

SOCIAL STUDIES/World Cultures

The goal of Social Studies in Grade 6 is to develop an understanding of the historical, political, social, cultural and geographical characteristics of the world from the beginning to the present. It is designed to provide students with the opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge that they will need to function as productive and involved members of society. This course utilizes primary documents, maps, graphs, timelines, and other supplementary sources in combination with the textbook, *People, Places & Change* (Holt, Reinhart & Winston), 2005.

SCIENCE

Sixth grade Elementary Science is a course that addresses Life, Earth, and Physical Science strands of the PSSA test and the PA Academic Standards for Science and Technology. The sixth grade student will be introduced to different objectives within the areas of the Earth's features and processes that change its structures and resources, weather, climate and atmospheric pressures, and composition and structure of the universe. Special emphasis will be placed on scientific methods, life cycles, human body systems, light, electricity, weather, heat, and simple machines. Students learn to observe and analyze through hands-on experiments, and gain further insight into how scientists understand our natural world. The textbook utilized *Science & Technology; Short Course D, F, G, H*, (Holt, Reinhart & Winston), 2005.

MUSIC 6

This course is devoted to the study of the six main periods in western music history: Middle Ages, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and 20th Century. Through a historical perspective, students will learn how music radically changed from 400AD to 1900AD. In each musical period, students will learn about what was going on at the time in history and how that shaped the composers who wrote the music. Students will learn about the most important composers of each period, and will listen to the music that defined each period.

Each lesson will also have time devoted to singing and rhythmic activities.

Goals for this course:

- Count and Clap rhythms containing whole, half, quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes.
- Sing simple melodies using the solfeg method (Do, Re Mi...)
- Get historical perspective on European music from 400 – 1900 AD.
- Identify composers, musical styles, instruments, and other details pertaining to the musical culture of each period

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Through this online elementary Physical Education course students will be exposed to many diverse activities and will learn a wide variety of fitness concepts that they will be able to use in their everyday lives. Students will learn about the F.I.T.T. principle as well as how technology can assist us in exercising properly. Students will develop a sense of self-esteem and accomplishment through completion of fitness tests, learning about lifetime activities and understanding how good nutrition can make their bodies healthy. After completion of this course students will have the knowledge to stay fit and stay active.

ART

The Elements and Principles of Design are the building blocks of art and will be reviewed and applied in Sixth grade as students learn about a variety of artists, cultures, and styles and explore and experience a variety of materials and techniques. Each student will experience, clay, sculpture, painting, printmaking and drawing and also some computer generated art every year.

Sixth Grade will concentrate on: drawing realistically especially in portraits, use color and line expressively, combine materials and media for new effects, use and identify symbols in their work, and work collaboratively

TECHNOLOGY

Sixth grade's Intro to Technology class is a semester class. It reviews computer fundamentals with a focus on spreadsheets and operating system basics. Students get hands-on learning using common office applications. In addition, through the website <http://www.learning.com>, Live Classroom discussions and other activities, students will be introduced to key computer terminology, valuable information and skills that will provide students with a good foundation in technology.

SEVENTH GRADE:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Students enrolled in this course will read, analyze, and interpret short stories, essays and poetry from different literary genres. Development of student writing skills by responding to informational and persuasive prompts and to literature that is within the text will be a central point for the year. Expansion of vocabulary, comprehension and grammar skills will be emphasized. Students will be exposed to additional resources by reading and interpreting a novel. Participation is highly encouraged through discussion board threads and Wimba sessions. Instruction will be focused on the Pennsylvania Reading, Writing, and Speaking standards. Textbook: Holt – *Elements of Literature: First Course 2003*

SOCIAL STUDIES—AMERICAN HISTORY

Beginnings to 1877 and Holt – *Call to Freedom, 1865 to the Present*

United States History is a year-long course, which builds upon concepts developed in previous studies of American history. Students in this course are expected to identify and review significant events, persons, and movements in the early development of the nation. After providing such a review, the course gives major emphasis to the interaction of key events, persons, and groups with political, economic, social, and cultural influences on state and national development in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Textbook: Holt – *Call to Freedom, Beginnings to 1877* and Holt – *Call to Freedom, 1865 to the Present*

MATH

This course will develop mathematical skills by studying connections between data, numbers, and applications. The topics covered include a study of rational numbers, algebraic reasoning, proportions, percents, and plane figure geometry, including perimeter, circumference, area and volume. Textbook: Holt MS Math - Course 2 (online)

SCIENCE

This course is a general science course appropriate for learners of all levels and abilities that will address both Physical and Life science strands of the PSSA test and the PA Academic Standards for Science and Technology.

Topics to be covered include the properties of matter; states of matter; elements, compounds and mixtures; introduction to the atom and the periodic table; cells; cellular function; heredity; evolution; and classification of organisms. There is a strong laboratory component to this course, which consists of at-home hands-on investigations and online virtual labs. There are also many interactive, inquiry-based activities built into the coursework. Students will be expected to complete at least one self-designed experiment each year. Textbooks: Holt Online Learning Book K – *Introduction to Matter* and Book C – *Cells, Heredity and Classification*
Supplemental resources: explorelearning.com (gizmos)

MUSIC

Half Year – 2nd Semester

In this course students will gain a perspective on the music of other countries, continents, and cultures. Most of us are familiar with the names of Mozart and Bach, but what about the music of South America, or Indonesia? It is important to be aware that all cultures value music very highly. In some cases, music is much more important to the everyday lives of people in some cultures than it is in ours.

Students will become familiar with a country's musical style and cultural significance, as well as the instruments that are unique to them.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will study and practice several activities related to individual fitness status including aerobic fitness, flexibility, and muscular strength. Students will also have the opportunity to count and monitor the number of steps they take during a day; as well as analyze the benefits of walking, running and other aerobic activities. Students will analyze and apply scientific and biomechanical principles to complex movements. Seventh graders will have an opportunity to discuss and share ideas of important concepts in a discussion board format.

ART

The seventh grade student will continue building on the experiences from elementary school. They will explore a variety of artists and their work from many different cultures and time periods and be able to recognize and describe works of famous artists or cultures. Seventh graders will examine and produce an optical illusion, improve shading and color mixing skills and demonstrate problem solving skills by completing 3D projects. Students will also reflect on their own work and the work of their classmates.

TECHNOLOGY

Seventh grade's Introduction to Technology class is a semester class. Learning in this class builds upon basics covered in previous technology classes. Our focus is on operating system functions and perfecting word processing skills. Students get hands-on learning using common office applications. Also, through the website <http://www.learning.com>, Live Classroom discussions and other activities, students will be introduced to key computer terminology, valuable information and skills that will provide students with a good foundation in Technology.

EIGHTH GRADE:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Students enrolled in this course will be introduced to a broad range of literary genres and devices. Students will develop written responses to prompts and to literature they are reading. The progression of writing will begin as informal and progress to full length essays with supporting evidence. Students will be exposed to additional resources by reading and interpreting a novel. Participation is highly encouraged through discussion board threads and Centra sessions. Instruction will be focused on the Pennsylvania Reading, Writing, and Speaking standards. Textbook: *Elements of Literature*, Second Course.

SOCIAL STUDIES—WORLD HISTORY

Students in eighth grade Social Studies will study World History to 1500. Areas of study include the ancient civilizations and cultures of Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. The course examines the chronology and significance of major events, individuals and trends in world history. The course will focus on the impact of these historical developments on the relationships of the world's civilizations throughout history and in the present day. Textbook: Holt – *World History*

MATH

The objectives for eighth grade students are to understand and complete problems involving integers, exponents, rational numbers, real numbers, ratios, percents, probability, equations and inequalities, collecting and displaying data, graphing and plane geometry including perimeter, area and volume. Textbook: *Holt MS Math - Course 3* (online)

SCIENCE

This course is a general science course appropriate for learners of all levels and abilities that will address both Physical and Environment and Ecology science strands of the PSSA test and the PA Academic Standards for Science and Technology.

Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to: matter, forces and motion; work and machines; energy and energy resources; heat and heat technology; introduction to electricity; electromagnetism; introduction to ecology; ecosystems; agriculture and society; environmental problems and solutions; science and technology; and scientific inquiry and design. There is a strong laboratory component to this course, which consists of at-home hands-on investigations and online virtual labs. There are also many interactive, inquiry-based activities built into the coursework. Students will be expected to complete at least one self-designed experiment each year Textbooks: Holt Online Learning Book M - *Forces, Motion and Energy*, Book N – *Electricity and Magnetism* and Book E – *Environmental Science*
Supplemental resources: explorelearning.com (gizmos)

MUSIC

Half Year – 1st Semester

In this course students will gain a perspective on the music of other countries, continents, and cultures. Most of us are familiar with the names of Mozart and Bach, but what about the music of South America, or Indonesia? It is important to be aware that all cultures value music very highly. In some cases, music is much more important to the everyday lives of people in some cultures than it is in ours.

Goals for this course:

- Identify historical and cultural background of each area studied.
- Identify instruments, styles, and practices of each country or culture.
- Get a broad perspective of world music and be able to relate it to the student's musical tastes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will be exposed to a variety of group sports performing brief research projects. Students will also generate and share creative skills devising new games and expressing thoughts to an assortment of fitness and sport related questions. Students will also be expected to participate in the walking/step counting projects.

ART

The eighth grade student will continue building on the experiences from seventh grade. They will continue to explore a variety of artists and their work from many different cultures and time periods and be able to recognize and describe works of famous artists or cultures. Eighth graders will examine and produce self-portraits, improve shading techniques including hatching, cross-hatching and stippling. Students will also complete a research report on a famous artist and create a piece using that artists' style or conventions. Students will also be required to reflect on their own work and the work of their classmates.

TECHNOLOGY

Eighth grade's Introduction to Technology class is a semester class. We will go deeper into prior computer concepts. Our focus will concentrate on presentation software and graphics. Students get hands-on learning using common office applications. Also, through the website <http://www.learning.com>, Live Classroom discussions and other activities, students will be introduced to key computer terminology, valuable information and skills that will provide students with a good foundation in Technology.