



Prince Edward County Middle School

Program of Studies

Course Offerings

2016-2017

School Information

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Prince Edward County Middle School



“All Students Matter”

Located in Prince Edward County Virginia, Prince Edward County Middle School serves students in grades 5, 6, 7, & 8. We understand that middle school students are going through physical, social, emotional, psychological, and intellectual changes. Our job as an educational institution is to find ways to make these changes, while ensuring that our students have basic foundations in reading, writing, comprehending, and critical thinking.

It is important that we create and maintain partnerships with parents and the community to achieve the goal of a successful middle school experience for all students. In addition to our academic programs, we offer after school programs that include band, clubs, tutoring, enrichment and sports.

Prince Edward County Middle School follows the middle school philosophy by organizing our students and teachers into teams at each grade level. These teams provide support, have common rules, and follow consistent procedures. The teams are able to help nurture and guide the students' journey through the middle school years. Teams have four core area teachers with approximately 70 to 75 students on each team. The teachers meet regularly to discuss academic progress and areas in need of remediation.

Vision Statement

Prince Edward County Public Schools will be high performing schools of choice that educate a diverse population to be informed, responsible, and productive citizens.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to enable each student to achieve full intellectual, personal, and vocational potential.

The Program of Studies has been developed to assist parents and students in creating a road map of success starting at the middle school and continuing throughout the high school. Working with counselors and teachers, you and your child should select those courses meeting your child's individual needs.

2016-2017 Course Offerings

By Course (numerical number)

High School Credit Classes

Algebra I	grade 8
Geometry	grade 8
Spanish I	grade 7
Spanish II	grade 8
Keyboarding Applications	grade 8

Students taking a high school credit class may earn a standard credit and or a verified credit.

What is a Standard Unit of Credit?

A standard unit of credit is awarded for a course in which the student successfully completes the objectives of the course and the equivalent of 140 clock hours of instruction.

What is a Verified Credit?

Verified Credit = Passing the class and the SOL test

A “verified unit of credit” for graduation is a course credit based on a minimum of 140 clock hours of instruction, successful completion of the requirements of the course, and the achievement by the student of a passing score on the end-of-course SOL (Standards of Learning) test for that course.

ENGLISH OFFERINGS

English 5 / Advanced English 5

Reading and writing skills continue to support an increased emphasis on content-area learning and utilization of a variety of resources to locate and read primary sources of information. The student will read a variety of texts to acquire information to answer questions, generate hypotheses, make inferences, support opinions, confirm predictions, compare and contrast relationships, and formulate conclusions. Fiction and nonfiction selections will continue enhance students’ appreciate for literature through the use of online, print, and media resources. Oral and written communication skills are used to describe key concepts and information contained in all Standards of Learning. Students will also plan, draft, revise, and edit writings to describe, entertain, explain, and persuade.

NOTE: The Grade 5 Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 5th grade.

English 6 / Advanced English 6

Students will examine personal opinions, understand differing viewpoints, distinguish between fact and opinion, and analyze the effectiveness of group communication while elements of media literacy continue to be reviewed. Students will begin the study of word origins and continue to development essential vocabulary skills. Independent reading of fiction and nonfiction texts will enhance students' comprehension. Students will also build upon their skills to plan, draft, revise, and edit narratives, descriptions, and explanations, with attention to composition and style as well as sentence formation, usage, and mechanics. Correct use of language, spelling and mechanics will be applied in writing and speaking and technology will be used as a tool for research, organization, and communication.

NOTE: The Grade 6 Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 6th grade.

English 7 / Advanced English 7

Oral communication skills will continue to be a focus as well as understanding the role of verbal and nonverbal behaviors in that communication. A variety of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry will aid the student in becoming more independent and analytical. Written composition skills and informational writing skills will include special attention to word choice, organization, style, and grammar. Vocabulary development will continue through a study of figurative language, roots, affixes, and cognates. Students will also examine informative / persuasive techniques used in media messages. Research techniques will be applied to gather, organize, and communicate information and properly citing sources.

NOTE: The Grade 7 Reading Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 7th grade.

English 8 / Advanced English 8

Students will learn and apply interviewing techniques and proper delivery of oral presentations in groups and individually. Correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics will be applied by grammatical conventions in writing and speaking. Students will evaluate, analyze, develop, and produce media messages. Writings skills will include planning, drafting, revising, and editing with a focus on exposition and persuasion. Students will continue to develop their vocabulary with attention to connotations and figurative language. Appreciation for literary genres will continue to be developed through a wide variety of selections. Students will be able to describe themes, make inferences, interpret cause and effect relationships, differentiate between fact and opinion, and draw conclusions from a variety of texts.

NOTE: The Grade 8 Reading and Writing Standards of Learning (SOL) tests will be administered near the end of 8th grade.

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES OFFERINGS

VA Studies / Advanced VA Studies (grade 5)

Students will develop a greater understanding of Virginia's rich history, from the cultures of its native people and the founding of Jamestown to present. Students will learn geographic, economic, and civic concepts within this historical context. Emphasis is placed on development of the skills needed to analyze, interpret, and demonstrate knowledge of important events and ideas in Virginia's history as well as using geographic tools to examine the influence of physical and cultural geography. Students will also be introduced to ideas that form the foundation for political institutions in Virginia and the United States. Students will learn and apply responsible citizenship as it is embedded in the study of history.

NOTE: The Grade 5 Virginia Studies Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 5th grade.

US History I / Advanced US History I (grade 6)

Students will explore the early history of the United States through historical and geographical analysis in order to understand the ideas and events that strengthened the union. Fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography will be examined from pre-Columbian times until 1865. The history of the United States will be examined in chronological sequence in order for students to learn about change and continuity in our history. Documents and speeches will be studied to learn the origins of American ideals and institutions. Primary and secondary sources will also be used to examine the everyday life of people at different times throughout history. Students will learn and apply responsible citizenship as it is embedded in the study of history.

US History II / Advanced US History II (grade 7)

Students will examine American history since 1865 through historical and geographical analysis, exploring the history of the United States from the Reconstruction era to the present. Fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography within the context of United States history will continue to be the focus. Students will also develop an understanding of how the American experience chronologically shaped the world's political and economic landscapes. Students will learn and apply responsible citizenship as it is embedded in the study of history.

Civics Economics / Advanced Civics/Economics (grade 8)

Students will examine the roles citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States as well as examine the constitutions of Virginia and the United States. Students will identify the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens, and will describe the structure and operation of the government at the local, state, and national levels. There will also be a focus on decisions within the American market economy and the government's role in such. Students will also learn about personal character traits such as patriotism, respect for the law, willingness to perform public service, and a sense of civic duty. Students will learn and apply responsible citizenship as it is embedded in the study of history.

NOTE: The Grade 8 Civics Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 8th grade.

MATH OFFERINGS

Math 5 / Advanced Math 5

Students will learn mathematical skills that will aid in the development of algebraic concepts needed for success in the middle grades. Active engagement will occur through the use of concrete materials and appropriate technologies. Students will also learn specialized vocabulary, concepts, skills, symbols, and language patterns crucial to their understanding and appreciation of math. Emphasis is placed on acquiring problem solving skills in order to solve single-step and multistep problems. **NOTE: The Grade 5 Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 5th grade.**

Math 6 / Advanced Math 6

Students will be introduced to the foundations of algebra through a study of rational numbers. Problem solving continues to be a focus as students will apply mathematical skills to comparing data sets, solving single-step and multistep problems, and gaining a foundation in the understanding of integers. Active engagement will occur through the use of concrete materials, appropriate technologies, and identification of real-life applications of the mathematical principles they learn. Students will also learn specialized vocabulary, concepts, skills, symbols, and language patterns crucial to their understanding and appreciation of math. Emphasis is placed on acquiring problem solving skills.

NOTE: The Grade 6 Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 6th grade.

Math 7

Emphasis continues to be placed on learning the foundations of algebra. Students continue to learn application of real numbers in solving equations, solving inequalities, and the use of data analysis techniques to make inferences, conjectures, and predictions. Active engagement will occur through the use of concrete materials, appropriate technologies, and identification of real-life applications of the mathematical principles they learn. Students will also learn specialized vocabulary, concepts, skills, symbols, and language patterns crucial to their understanding and appreciation of math. Emphasis is placed on acquiring problem solving skills.

NOTE: The Grade 7 Mathematics Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 7th grade.

Advanced Math 7 (Pre-Algebra)

Students will further build upon the 7th grade content standards by examining more abstract concepts in algebra and geometry. Additional instruction and time are provided to acquire the concepts and skills necessary for success in Algebra I. Active engagement will occur through the use of concrete materials, appropriate technologies, and identification of real-life applications of the mathematical principles they learn. Students will also learn specialized vocabulary, concepts, skills, symbols, and language patterns crucial to their understanding and appreciation of math. Emphasis is placed on acquiring problem solving skills.

NOTE: The Grade 8 Mathematics (Pre-Algebra) Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 7th grade for those in the advanced class.

Algebra I (grades 7 or 8)

Students will build upon mathematical concepts through sequential development and through the use of concrete materials to assist in making the transition from the arithmetic to the symbolic. Students will begin to make connections and build relationships between algebra and arithmetic, geometry, and probability and statistics. Algebra will be used as a tool for representing and solving a variety of practical problems. Tables and graphs will be used to interpret algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities and to analyze behaviors of functions. Appropriate technologies will be utilized throughout the learning process. Students will also learn specialized vocabulary, concepts, skills, symbols, and language patterns crucial to their understanding and appreciation of math. Emphasis is placed on acquiring problem solving skills. Successful completion of this class will result in the student earning a high school credit.

NOTE: The Algebra I Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 7th / 8th grade for those in the Algebra I class.

Math 8 / Pre-Algebra

Students will review and further explore concepts and skills learned in previous grades as well as learn new content that will prepare them for more abstract concepts in algebra and geometry. Students will receive additional instruction and time to acquire the skills and concepts necessary for success in Algebra I. Active engagement will occur through the use of concrete materials, appropriate technologies, and identification of real-life applications of the mathematical principles they learn. Students will also learn specialized vocabulary, concepts, skills, symbols, and language patterns crucial to their understanding and appreciation of math. Emphasis is placed on acquiring problem solving skills.

NOTE: The Grade 8 Mathematics (Pre-Algebra) Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 8th grade.

Geometry

Students will learn properties of geometric figures, trigonometric relationships, and reasoning to justify conclusions. Emphasis will be placed on two- and three-dimensional reasoning skills, coordinate and transformational geometry, and the use of geometric models to solve problems. Students will apply a variety of general problem-solving techniques, including algebraic skills. Appropriate technologies will be utilized to enhance student learning. Successful completion of this class will result in the student earning a high school credit.

NOTE: The Geometry Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 8th grade for those in this advanced class.

SCIENCE OFFERINGS

Science / Advanced Science (grade 5)

Students will study the importance of selecting appropriate instruments for measuring and recording observations. Focus is placed on organization, analysis, and application of data in classroom inquiry. Previous skills and concepts are reviewed and expanded upon as well as the acquisition of new concepts to aid student learning in the nature of science. Students learn that the nature of science includes the concept that science can provide explanations about nature and can predict potential consequences of actions.

NOTE: The Science 5 Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 5th grade.

Science / Advanced Science (grade 6)

Students continue to focus on data analysis and experimentation. Methods are studied for testing the validity of predictions and conclusions. Scientific methodology is strongly reinforced with a focus on precision in stating hypotheses and defining dependent and independent variables. "Comprehension and application of these skills will be reinforced with participation of all 6th graders in the 4-H Science Fair." Transformations in energy and matter are explored as well as their roles in the concept of change. Previous skills and concepts are reviewed and expanded upon as well as the acquisition of new concepts to aid student learning in the nature of science. Students learn that the nature of science includes the concept that science can provide explanations about nature and can predict potential consequences of actions.

Life Science / Advanced Science (grade 7)

Students continue to build upon basic principles related to the concepts of change, cycles, patterns, and relationships by exploring the cellular organization and the classification of organisms; the dynamic relationships among organisms, populations, communities, and ecosystems; and changes resulting from the transmission of genetic information from generation to generation. Previous skills and concepts are reviewed and expanded upon as well as the acquisition of new concepts to aid student learning in the nature of science. Students learn that the nature of science includes the concept that science can provide explanations about nature and can predict potential consequences of actions. 4-H Science Fair will be a requirement for all 7th graders to reinforce the Steps of the Scientific Method and prior knowledge of previous scientific concepts.

Physical Science / Advanced Physical Science (grade 8)

Students continue to build on previously learned skills of systematic investigation with a clear focus on variables and repeated trials. Students learn to validate conclusions using evidence and data as it becomes increasingly important at this level. Students will plan and conduct research involving both classroom experimentation and literature reviews from a variety of sources. Emphasis is placed on an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristics of energy. Technological application is also highlighted throughout the course. Previous skills and concepts are reviewed and expanded upon as well as the acquisition of new concepts to aid student learning in the nature of science. Students learn that the nature of science includes the concept that science can provide explanations about nature and predict potential consequences.

NOTE: The Physical Science Standards of Learning (SOL) test will be administered near the end of 8th grade.

ELECTIVE OFFERINGS

Physical Fitness Grade 5

Students learn and apply movement principles and concepts and knowledge of anatomical structures and functions to enhance their movement performance, personal fitness, and game strategy and tactics. This program focuses on motor skill development, anatomical basis of movement, fitness planning, social development, and energy balance. Students will also acquire an understanding of health concepts and the skills needed to make healthy decisions to improve, sustain, and promote personal, family, and community health.

Health & PE Grade 6

Students learn and apply fundamental skills and knowledge of anatomical structures and movement principles to build movement competence and confidence through acquisition, performance, and refinement of skills. This program focuses on motor skill development, anatomical basis of movement, fitness planning, social development, and energy balance. Students will also acquire an understanding of health concepts and the skills needed to make healthy decisions to improve, sustain, and promote personal, family, and community health.

Health & PE Grade 7

Students continue to develop competence in modified versions of various game/sport, rhythmic, and recreational activities. They will vary movement during dynamic and unpredictable game situations. This program focuses on motor skill development, anatomical basis of movement, fitness planning, social development, and energy balance. Students will also acquire an understanding of health concepts and the skills needed to make healthy decisions to improve, sustain, and promote personal, family, and community health.

Health & PE Grade 8

Students will demonstrate competence in skillful movement in modified, dynamic game / sport situations and in a variety of rhythmic and recreational activities. They transition from modified versions of movement forms to more complex applications across all types of activities while applying their knowledge of the major body structures. This program focuses on motor skill development, anatomical basis of movement, fitness planning, social development, and energy balance. Students will also acquire an understanding of health concepts and the skills needed to make healthy decisions to improve, sustain, and promote personal, family, and community health.

Art 5

Students will use their knowledge and skills to synthesize information, allowing them to produce and respond to works of art. Emphasis is on communication of personal values and beliefs in art appreciation and production. Students gain fluency in using and understanding the elements of art (color, form, line, shape, space, texture, value) and the principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, proportion, rhythm, unity, variety) as they relate to artistic expression and communication.

Art 6

Students will use the elements of art (color, form, line, shape, space, texture, value) and the principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, proportion, rhythm, unity, variety) as a framework to investigate various ideas for creating art. Through critical analysis and evaluation, students determine how artists convey meaning through the use of forms, media, and symbols.

Art 7

Students continue to explore, analyze, and investigate the create process. Students apply the elements of art (color, form, line, shape, space, texture, value) and the principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, proportion, rhythm, unity, variety) to solve design problems, using traditional and contemporary art media. They develop critical inquiry skills and expand their vocabulary as they explore the meaning of works of art through the evaluation of subject matter, themes, and symbols. Students also develop an increases awareness of the nature of art and of their relationship to it as they explore the meaning and value of works of art.

Art 8

Students will apply and synthesize previously learning concepts and more complex technical skills as students manipulate the elements of art (color, form, line, shape, space, texture, value) and the principles of design (balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, proportion, rhythm, unity, variety) in the art-making process. Students make conscious choices of media, processes, and techniques for expressive purposes in the creation of original works of art. They debate the purposes of art, formulate reasoned responses to meaningful art questions, develop their own criteria for making art judgments, and develop a personal philosophy of art. Students make connections between their prior art experiences and other fields of knowledge.

Computer Technology 5 - 7

Students will gain essential knowledge and skills necessary to access, manage, evaluate, use, and create information responsibly using technology and digital resources. Students will learn basic operations and concepts, social and ethical issues, technology resource tools, technology communication tools, thinking skills, problem solving, and decision making.

Keyboarding Applications 8

This course is designed for secondary school students to develop and enhance touch skills for entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbol information on a keyboard. Students compose and produce a variety of personal, educational, and professional documents. Successful completion of this course will result in the student earning a high school credit.

Work & Family

Work and Family courses prepare students for the demands of the 21st century living. These courses provide a foundation for managing individual, family, career, and community roles and responsibilities. Students focus on areas of individual growth, goal setting, strengthening families, and awareness of personal safety and wellness. Students also explore saving and spending practices, clothing care, food preparation, positive and caring relationships with others, and careers. Students are also introduced to STEM concepts whenever appropriate.

Music Appreciation (grades 7 or 8)

Students learn to appreciate a variety of musical selections and listen to various performances including country, rock, jazz, electronic music, and the classics. Students learn to describe music using the appropriate vocabulary to make value judgments regarding performance and style.

Band 5-8

Students learn to identify the essential knowledge and skills required in the music curriculum for each grade level. Students learn music theory / literacy; performance; music history and cultural context; analysis, evaluation, and critique; and aesthetics. This comprehensive music program provides students with the ability to understand their own responses and the responses of others to the many forms of musical experience. Students develop individual expression and the ability to work collaboratively to achieve common artistic goals which preparing for a lifetime of engagement with the arts. Students in grade 8 will earn a high school credit for this class upon successful completion.

Spanish I

Students will be introduced to the Spanish language and culture. The four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are also introduced with an emphasis on grammatical structure with exposure to oral communication. The culture of Spanish speaking people is emphasized. Students will earn a high school credit for this class upon successful completion.

Spanish II

Students review the four basic skills and continue with oral practice, listening drills, in-depth grammar study and practice in translation. Emphasis is placed on oral proficiency and supported through continued exposure to the culture. Students will earn a high school credit for this class upon successful completion.

ELECTIVE COURSE SEQUENCES

Semester Exploratory classes offered to 5th graders alternating with Physical Fitness

Art, Computer, Work & Family

Semester Exploratory classes offered to 6th graders alternating with Health & PE

Art, Computer, Work & Family

The following semester long elective classes are offered to 7th graders:

Art, Work & Family, Music Appreciation, Computer

The following semester long elective classes are offered to 8th graders:

Art, Work & Family, Music Appreciation

The following year long elective classes are offered to students:

Advanced Art	grades 5, 6, 7, 8
Band	grades 5, 6, 7, 8
Spanish I	grade 7
Spanish II	grade 8
Keyboarding Applications	grade 8

Alternative School Course Offerings for Grade 6, 7, & 8

Alt. Sch. Eng. grades 6, 7, 8

Alt. Sch. US I
Alt. Sch. US II
Alt. Sch. Civics 8

Alt. Sch. Math 6
Alt. Sch. Math 7
Alt. Sch. Pre-Alg
Alt. Sch. Algebra I

Alt. Sch. Science 6
Alt. Sch. Life Science 7
Alt. Sch. Physical Science 8

Special Education Class Offerings**35**

Inclusion	English 5, 6, 7, 8
Inclusion	Virginia Studies 5, US History I US History II, Civics 8
Inclusion	Math 5, Math 6, Math 7, Pre-Algebra
Inclusion	Science 5, Science 6 Life Science 7, Physical Science 8

Special Education Class Offerings – Self Contained**37**

English	grades 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th
Math	grades 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th
Science	grades 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th
Social Studies	grades 5 th , 6 th , 7 th , 8 th

The grading system for pupils in grades 5-8 is as follows:

91 – 100 =	A
81 – 90 =	B
71 – 80 =	C
66 – 70 =	D
0 – 65 =	F

Incomplete = I

(must be changed to a grade upon completion of work, within two weeks of distribution of report cards)