



**SCHMUCKER
MIDDLE SCHOOL**
A PENN-HARRIS-MADISON SCHOOL

Schmucker Middle School Curriculum Information (6-8)

The school day is comprised of an advisory period to start the day, six class periods, a 30-minute lunch, and five 5-minute passing periods. Students are enrolled in four content classes (math, science, language arts and social studies) during their three years at Schmucker. A wellness (physical education) class that alternates every 22 days with an exploration rotation class (PLTW: design and modeling, art, computers, and health) and a music class that meets every day completes the six-period day for 6th graders. In addition to the four content classes, 7th and 8th grade students are enrolled in wellness (physical education and health) every day and they choose a music class, PLTW, Art, or the exploration rotation classes (PLTW, art, computers I, and personal finance). Students will receive a syllabus for each class.

Advisory—Students start their day with advisory class. During this time, students participate in academic goal setting, grade checks, community building activities, reading time (One Book One School), and 5 Star videos. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) lessons are taught during this time. Stress and time management skills are a few of the topics covered in SEL lessons.

Math—Students are assigned a math course when they move into the middle school. This assignment is based upon the student’s math progress and formative/standardized testing results. Student progress is monitored carefully and adjustments are made to the assigned course as needed.

Language Arts—Upon completion of the study of Language Arts/English at a PHM Middle School, each student is expected to proficiently read grade-appropriate complex literature and informational text while further developing the ability to cite textual evidence to support analyses. Students also share findings in class discussions and expand vocabularies. The Writing Standards expect students to learn how writers influence readers while learning to do this themselves. Students answer questions through writing and use rewriting to refine their understanding of a text or topic. Students will learn to take a critical stance toward sources and apply criteria to identify reliable information. Each year, students will complete a unit of study in argument, information and narrative writing.

Science—The science curriculum through the three-year study contains seven standards. These standards include The Nature of Science and Technology, Scientific Thinking, The Physical Setting, The Living Environment, The Mathematical World, Historical Perspectives, and Common Themes. The grade level syllabus more specifically details a year’s course work. Honors Science classes are offered in each grade.

Social Studies—The social studies curriculum is designed to develop the skills necessary for students to be productive members of the 21st century. By implementing guided inquiry in social studies through the use of Teachers’ Curriculum Institute materials and Google Chromebooks, teachers will have resources to develop independent learners who will, through questions and investigations, recognize the importance of the past, contribute to the present, and learn how to be valuable contributors to society in the future. Honors Social Studies classes are offered in each grade. Sixth graders study the Ancient World, 7th graders study The Medieval World and Beyond, and the 8th graders study The United States Through Industrialism. In 8th grade, we encourage all of our students to participate in the Washington, D. C. trip.

PTO offers fundraisers to help 8th grade students bank profits. 8th graders may bank all of their profits from the school's fall fundraiser of Mrs. Field's Cookies and parents may also earn money toward the trip, by participating in PTO fundraisers.

World Languages—7th grade students explore four languages and cultures (Spanish, German, Japanese, and French) in a nine-week long course. Travel abroad opportunities to Europe and China are offered to 7th and 8th Grade students. Please visit

<https://schmucker.phmschools.org/middle-school-travel-opportunities> for more information!

Band, Orchestra and Choir—All sixth grade students have the opportunity to take a music class. They can select from three music classes that include band, orchestra, or choir. Students learn to read music and work within a group in band, orchestra, and choir.

Exploration Classes include: PLTW (Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, Computer Science) – 6th grade students learn to apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. 7th and 8th graders apply their knowledge of mechanical systems and design, build and program real-world objects. All students can take a PLTW Zero Hour Class before school. **Art**—Students complete both two- and three-dimensional projects often related to units of study within the curriculum. Projects include drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, color pencil, stained glass, and collage. Students are asked to furnish some materials for this class. **Computers** —6th grade students practice basic word processing/typing skills and apply those skills. 7th and 8th graders explore a variety of programs and skills including graphic design, databases and spreadsheets, coding, and more multimedia. **Personal Finance**—This nine week course for 7th and 8th graders gives students the opportunity to navigate the financial decisions they must face to make informed decisions related to career exploration, budgeting, banking, credit, insurance, taxes, investing and saving.

WSMS - A TV Studio class, **WSMS**, is designed for 7th and/or 8th graders where students produce our daily morning TV news broadcast. This class runs during advisory class.

Wellness—Students in all grades, through physical education and health units, will be educated towards making choices that promote healthy lifestyle skills. Students will be exercising more and specific fitness data will be taken and shared with students and their parents.