



PA Distance  
Learning  
CHARTER SCHOOL

**7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Catalog**

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

Welcome to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade! Middle school students are expected to attend live-learning sessions and complete their assigned daily asynchronous lessons. Regulations require every middle school student to spend a minimum of 5.5 hours each school day, which equates to spending a minimum of 45 minutes completing daily lessons in each class.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts**

Course length: Full-year

Curriculum Resources: *Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery* and *Acellus*

English Language Arts is focused on mastery of the following skills: grammar, writing, comprehension, and analysis of fiction and nonfiction text, research, and poetry. These skills are assessed through various activities ranging from tests and quizzes to creative projects. Throughout the year, students will read one biography and complete multiple writing projects that include: narrative, descriptive, and persuasive essays, a research project, and text-dependent analysis essays.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

Course length: Full-year

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Math, students will focus on foundational math topics, such as numbers and operations, measurement, geometry and scale, algebraic concepts, data analysis, and probability. Students will utilize the online curriculum, videos, online games, and activities to help emphasize the key concepts and master these concepts. During this course, students will engage in mathematical dialogue and writing with peers.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**

Course length: Full-year

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Life Science is the study of all living organisms. Students will begin the year with the scientific process and tools of science. They will study the characteristics of living things, cells, cell processes, classification, kingdoms of living things, human body systems, and ecology. A variety of activities including in class demonstrations, writing assignments, projects, and intervention labs for extra help will enhance the learning experiences in Life Science.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies**

Course length: Full-year

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

The course examines the geography of the world and the great events in history shaped by it. Course topics include: people, economy and culture, government, looking at the past, North America, South America, Central America, Ancient Greece and Rome, Middle Ages, Renaissance, Exploration, Revolution, Europe, Russia, West Africa, East Africa, North Africa, the near and far East and Oceania. Students will build map skills, learn key events in world history, and practice critical thinking and writing skills as we travel the world together. Students will complete a variety of writing, reading, and critical thinking activities.

## **7th Grade Art**

Course length: Semester

The course is comprised of project based lessons with a deeper focus on the elements of art and principles of design, major art movements in history and significant artists of these movements. Guided practice, videos and quizzes support the subject matter taught through synchronous and asynchronous lessons.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Music**

Course Length: Semester

Music is designed to cycle through four major topics of: Music History, International Music, Composition and Theory, and Music Technology. As these fields are in higher demand in the work force, we are excited to offer engaging musical course material for students to engage in and research. Students will discover the Baroque Period 1600's to 1750 and the Classical Period 1750-1830, introduced to the musical structure of Africa and its culture, as well as to Music Theory scales, modes and intervals, an exciting exploration of Music Technology and finally the physics behind the sounds and the studios in which they are made. This course is designed for students to engage in productive group work, create interdependence in small tasks, and ensure individual success.

## **7th Grade Computing Ideas**

Course length: Full-year

Curriculum Resource: *Code HS*

This elective course is a first computer science course introducing the basics of programming with Karel the Dog, the basics of designing a web page, and how information and images are represented with computers. Students will learn to code using blocks to drag and drop, while being able to switch between blocks and text as desired. Students will create a portfolio on the web of projects they build throughout the course. With a unique focus on creativity, problem solving and project based learning, the course also gives students the opportunity to explore several important topics of computing using their own ideas and creativity and develop an interest in computer science that will foster further endeavors in the field.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Health and Wellness**

Course length: Full-year

Health and Wellness, students will focus on gaining a greater awareness about what constitutes their physical, mental, and social well-being. Students will attain knowledge and skills that will enable them to make responsible decisions and maintain a healthy lifestyle, which benefits adolescents in all aspects of their growth and learning. Work in this course will meet PA Academic Standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education with age appropriate topics such as concepts of health, personal choice and disease, decision making skills, the environment, first aid, injury prevention, nutrition, MyPlate exploration, eating disorders, managing conflict and the immune system. In addition, students will focus on completing the Presidential Youth Fitness Program to assess their overall fitness levels, as well as, engage in daily physical activity by completing a Weekly Fit Log.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts**

Course length: Full-year

Curriculum Resource: *The Outsiders*, *And Then There Were One*, and *Acellus*

English Language Arts is designed and delivered with equal emphasis on both reading and writing skills. It builds upon previously learned skills and serves to prepare students for high school level English courses. To strengthen reading comprehension skills, lessons are focused on analyzing the use of literary elements in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Students will practice these skills through reading and evaluating short stories, essays, poetry, and novels including *And Then There Were None* by Russell Freedman and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. The writing portion of the course works with students to produce coherent and focused multi-paragraph essays that feature varied sentence structure, as well as, follow grammar and usage, spelling, punctuation and other conventions. Additionally, the course is designed so students are able to select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes. These include: expository, argumentative, narrative, research-based, and text-dependent analysis.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

Course length: Full-year

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Eighth grade math offers a diverse pre-algebraic curriculum to help students prepare for Algebra I and high school math. Students in this course will explore all domains of math with a focus on critical thinking, analysis, writing, and problem solving skills. Students will learn about the number system by expanding on both rational and irrational numbers then building into exponential expressions. Some of the algebraic concepts explored will include using the Pythagorean Theorem, solving linear equations, systems of equations, and graphing functions. Geometry concepts will include transformations of figures on the coordinate plane, pairs of angles and lines, and two and three-dimensional measurement. Students will also learn about data analysis through scatterplots, lines of best fit, and two-way tables. During this course, students will engage in mathematical dialogue and writing with peers.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies**

Course length: Full-year

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

This course is a survey of historical, cultural, political, economic, and institutional factors and events that have shaped United States history from colonization through the Reconstruction era following the Civil War. The course takes a chronological approach with an emphasis on major themes throughout history that have impacted the development of our nation. Additionally, students will analyze how continuity and change has influenced U.S history by evaluating primary source documents. Throughout the year, students will compare the role that groups and individuals have played in the social, political, cultural, and economic development of the United States and the effects this change still has today.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**

Course length: Full-year

Curriculum Resource: *Acellus*

Eighth grade science is a study of physical science. Matter and energy are the main concepts studied in this course, and basic concepts of chemistry and physics are also introduced. Students will study the basic components of matter and energy, the elements, magnetism, electricity, waves, sounds, light, forces and motion, machines, and sources of alternate energy. Activities including in-class demonstrations, labs, and assignments enhance the student's understanding of the key concepts.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Health and Wellness**

Course length: Full-year

Throughout the Health and Wellness course, students will be able to meet PA Academic Standards for Health, Safety and Physical Education by engaging in lessons that focus on the following categories: concepts of health, healthful living, safety and injury prevention, physical activity and concepts, principles and strategies of movement. To meet the physical activity standards, students are responsible for engaging in daily physical activities by completing a weekly fit log. This approach makes fitness very personal and individualized by giving the students the freedom to choose their own fitness activities. In addition to the weekly fit log, students will focus on completing the Presidential Youth Fitness Program to assess their overall fitness levels. Students will also learn the importance of decision-making skills, nutritional choices, the body systems, disease prevention, skills related fitness and principles of training. Throughout the year, students will be assessed in all of these areas by completing assignments, quizzes and unit assessments.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Music**

Course Length: Semester

Music in this Eighth Grade elective course is designed to cycle through four major topics of: Music History, International Music, Composition and Theory, and Music Technology. As these fields are in higher demand in the work force, we are excited to offer engaging course material for students to engage in and research. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade we discover the Romantic Period 1830-1900 and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Music 1900-2000, students are introduced to the musical structure of Europe and Asia and its culture, an introduction to Music Theory chords, cadences and melody writing, and finally an exciting exploration of Music Technology; platforms for electronic music making and tools used in the trade of music editing. This course is set up for students to engage in productive group work, create interdependence in small tasks, and ensure individual success!

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Introduction to Art**

Course length: Semester

This introductory, elective course in the arts builds upon the Pennsylvania Art Standards learned in Grades K-8. This course focuses on the elements of art and principles of design, major art movements throughout history and their significant artists. Students will work in the course delivery system to learn about these concepts. Hands-on projects, videos and quizzes will also support the subject matter to deliver this well-rounded curriculum. This class requires daily work to be completed in order to be successful. Art supplies are provided to complete all assigned projects.

## **8th Grade Web Design**

Course Length: Full-year

Curriculum Resource: *CodeHS*

In today's world, web pages are the main medium for sharing ideas and information. Learning to design websites is an incredibly useful skill for any career path. This course is a project-based course that teaches students how to build their own web pages. Students will learn the languages HTML and CSS, and will create their own live homepages to serve as portfolios of their creations. By the end of this course, students will be able to explain how web pages are developed and viewed on the Internet, analyze and fix errors in existing websites, and create their very own multipage websites.