



PROGRAM OF STUDIES 2015-16

*Presented to the Education Committee
on February 10, 2015*

PLUM SENIOR HIGH ~ UPDATES

Forbes

Update of Forbes Road CTC Offerings

SAT Prep

Enrichment Offering through Waterfront Learning

Language Program adapted to Reading Comprehension

Continued use of the Language Program with the ability to supplement resources more flexibly as needs are assessed

AP Language and Composition, AP Literature and Composition

Open interchangeably to all 11th and 12th grade students

AP American Government and AP Comparative Government

AP American History moves from 11th to 10th grade, AP European History moves from 12th to 11th grade, AP American Government and AP Comparative Government will serve as a combined full-year AP offering for 12th grade students.

Math Course Sequence Offerings

Remediation and Keystone Preparation Interventions, Pre-Algebra adopted in place of a third Transition Math class. Addition of an online diagnostic remediation program (possibly ALEKS) for students in Plane Geometry and Advanced Plane Geometry.

Official Addition of AP Physics 2

Adopted this school year, but a group of anticipated students expected to take AP Physics 2 after first year offering of AP Physics 1

Educational Investment Fund

Integration of donated funds by Mr. Robert McCann into Business Law and Finance, real money investment experience.

Computer Applications

Practical Applications for the Digital Classroom expand from Microsoft programs to include Google applications.

Engineering Design and Architectural and Civil Engineering

Full year to semester classes for the purpose of accommodating high course requests in the Technology Education department, as well as the ability to provide a solid content foundation in both classes in one semester.

Class Piano and Music Theory

Full year combined class from previously separated semester classes. Offering available to non-music or introductory level students, through advanced level music students. This class will also serve as the prerequisite to AP Music Theory.

Music Appreciation and Technology

Full year combined class from previously separated semester classes.

AP Music Theory

Pilot offering for 15-16 for students currently taking Music Theory

Educational Release for 12th Grade Students

Opportunity for internships, apprenticeships, voluntary service, work experience, or outside coursework.

Life Skills Classroom

College & Career Pathways with Naviance



What is Naviance?

Connecting Learning & Life

Naviance is a comprehensive college and career readiness solution for middle and high schools that helps align student strengths and interests to post-secondary goals, and improve student outcomes.

- ✧ Personalized "GPS" for students
- ✧ Family Connection
- ✧ Task Completion Reports
- ✧ Career Planning
- ✧ Career Assessments
- ✧ Career Education
- ✧ College Planning
- ✧ eDocs
- ✧ Alumni Tracking

OBLOCK JR. HIGH UPDATES

7th Grade English

The seventh grade English course focuses on the study of writing and language. Writing instruction includes narrative, argumentative, and informational domains, as well as the research process. Attention is paid to strengthening student writing through advanced sentence structure, as well as an in-depth review of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Language instruction includes vocabulary study, with a focus on word parts and origins. Additionally, speaking and listening skills are developed through presentations and classroom discussion.

7th Grade English: Advanced

The seventh grade Advanced English course follows the same curriculum as the regular course, but at a faster pace and more in-depth level. It is assumed students have achieved mastery of all grammar and language concepts taught in sixth grade and have advanced vocabulary and writing skills. Students enrolled in the Advanced English course are also concurrently enrolled in the Advanced Reading course. Placement in the advanced curriculum is determined by teacher recommendation/evaluation, standardized test scores, and grades. Students must demonstrate a strong work ethic and interest in writing and language. The seventh grade Advanced English course focuses on the study of writing and language. Writing instruction includes narrative, argumentative, and informational domains, as well as the research process. Attention is paid to strengthening student writing through advanced sentence structure, as well as an in-depth review of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Language instruction includes vocabulary study, with a focus on word parts and origins. Additionally, speaking and listening skills are developed through presentations and classroom discussion.

7th Grade Reading

The seventh grade reading course is designed to develop and strengthen students' ability to analyze literary and informational texts, with a focus on developing a life-long love of reading. Students explore an extensive variety of genres through structured and independent reading, including poetry, drama, short stories, articles, critically, beyond a surface-level comprehension, and to provide text-dependent analysis, with a focus on author's purpose and craft.

7th Grade Reading: Reinforced

The seventh grade Reinforced Reading course follows the same curriculum as the regular course, but is designed to provide additional instructional support for students who have been identified as reading below grade level. Emphasis is placed on developing reading strategies and habits to improve the comprehension and analysis of texts. The seventh grade reading course is designed to develop and strengthen students' ability to analyze literary and informational texts, with a focus on developing a life-long love of reading. Students explore a variety of genres through structured and independent reading, including poetry, drama, short stories,

articles, essays, speeches, and novels. Emphasis is placed on teaching students to read critically, beyond a surface-level comprehension, and to provide text-dependent analysis, with a focus on author's purpose and craft.

7th Grade Reading: Advanced

The seventh grade Advanced Reading course follows the same curriculum as the regular course, but at a faster pace and more in-depth level, with more challenging texts. It is assumed students have achieved mastery of all literary and informational text concepts taught in sixth grade and have advanced comprehension, vocabulary, and writing skills. Students enrolled in the Advanced Reading course are also concurrently enrolled in the Advanced English course. Placement in the advanced curriculum is determined by teacher recommendation/ evaluation, standardized test scores, and grades. Students must demonstrate a strong work ethic and interest in reading. The seventh grade reading course is designed to develop and strengthen students' ability to analyze literary and informational texts, with a focus on developing a life-long love of reading. Students explore an extensive variety of genres through structured and independent reading, including poetry, drama, short stories, articles, essays, speeches, and novels. Emphasis is placed on teaching students to read critically, beyond a surface-level comprehension, and to provide text-dependent analysis, with a focus on author's purpose and craft.

8th Grade Language Arts

Title Change to reflect change to ELA PSSA, formerly English

The eighth grade language arts course builds on the foundations of the seventh grade English and reading course curriculums. Students review and extend upon the concepts of grammar, language, and vocabulary. Writing instruction focuses on narrative, informational, and argumentative domains, with an emphasis on improving writer's craft and structure. Students engage in independent and structured literature study of both informational and literary texts, including novels, short stories, plays, poems, articles, and essays. Particular attention is paid to the critical, close reading of texts and strong text-dependent analysis, with a focus on author's purpose and craft.

8th Grade Language Arts: Advanced

Title Change to reflect change to ELA PSSA, formerly English

The eighth grade advanced language arts course follows the same curriculum as the regular course, but at a faster pace and more in-depth level. It is assumed students have achieved mastery of all grammar and writing concepts taught in seventh grade and are reading at a higher instructional level than the regular eighth grade student. Students must demonstrate a strong work ethic and interest in reading and writing. The eighth grade language arts course builds on the foundations of the seventh grade English and reading course curriculums. Students review and extend upon the concepts of grammar, language, and vocabulary. Writing instruction focuses on narrative, informational, and argumentative domains, with an emphasis on improving writer's craft and structure. Students engage in independent and structured literature study of both informational and literary texts, including novels,

short stories, plays, poems, articles, and essays. Particular attention is paid to the critical, close reading of texts and strong text-dependent analysis, with a focus on author's purpose and craft.

Pre-requisite: Students in 7th grade regular English and reading must have teacher recommendation, score no lower than 90% on the comprehensive language arts pre-test, and have an A average in both. Students already in the Advanced 7th grade English and Reading must have a B average in both.

8th Grade Language Arts Workshop

Title Change to reflect change to ELA PSSA, formerly reinforced reading

The eighth grade language arts workshop course is designed to reinforce and develop strategies and habits necessary for students who are reading below grade level to succeed in the content areas and on standardized tests. Students work to improve comprehension skills, with an emphasis on critically reading and analyzing literary and informational texts, as well as creating text-dependent responses to reading. The course is designed to work in conjunction with the 8th grade language arts curriculum, providing additional practice and support in the instructional areas of need for students concurrently enrolled in the 8th grade language arts course.

7th Grade General Music

Change to Music Tech/Intro to Piano

8th Grade General Music

Change to Music History/Class Guitar

ELEMENTARY UPDATES

Grades 5-6 Subject / Schedule Configuration

Ongoing discussion

English Language Learning (ELL)

From IU program to in-house.

Eliminate Technology Special

The technology curriculum will be integrated into several areas including library, STEM Studio and the classroom. The technology integrators will continue to work collaboratively with classroom teachers to integrate the technology related standards into class assignments and projects.

Library (to Library & Digital Media)

Expand Library to incorporate the ISTE Standards (*listed below*)

STEM STUDIO

Expand STEM STUDIO to incorporate ISTE Standards (*listed below*)

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION – ISTE STANDARDS

1. Creativity & Innovation

- a. Students demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative products and processes using technology.
 - i. Apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes
 - ii. Create original works as a means of personal or group expression
 - iii. Use models and simulations to explore complex systems and issues
 - iv. Identify trends and forecast possibilities

2. Communication & Collaboration

- a. Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.
 - i. Interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media
 - ii. Communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats
 - iii. Develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures
 - iv. Contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems

3. Research & Information Fluency

- a. Students apply digital tools to gather, evaluate, and use information.
 - i. Plan strategies to guide inquiry
 - ii. Locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media
 - iii. Evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness to specific tasks
 - iv. Process data and report results

4. Critical thinking, problem solving, and decision-making

- a. Students use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, and make informed decisions using appropriate digital tools and resources.
 - i. Identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation
 - ii. Plan and manage activities to develop a solution or complete a project
 - iii. Collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions
 - iv. Use multiple processes and diverse perspectives to explore alternative solutions

5. Digital Citizenship

- a. Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
 - i. Advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology
 - ii. Exhibit a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity
 - iii. Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning
 - iv. Exhibit leadership for digital citizenship

6. Technology Operations & Concepts

- a. Students demonstrate a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations.
 - i. Understand and use technology systems
 - ii. Select and use applications effectively and productively
 - iii. Troubleshoot systems and applications
 - iv. Transfer current knowledge to learning of new technologies