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# Overview of Programs

## Core Classes



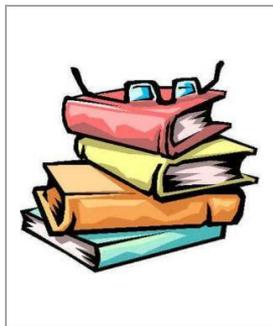
Students at Perry Hall Middle School will take Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts every school year. Additionally, they are recommended for either Reading or World Languages to complete their five core courses.

## Special Areas



Students at Perry Hall Middle School are required to take Physical Education combined with Health each year. They are also required to take a Fine Arts course each year, either Art or Music. Additionally, most students take a third special area course, either an additional Fine Arts course or Technology Education.

## Additional Courses



Some students are recommended to take an additional Mathematics Assistance class for support. As a result, they are limited to two choices in their Special Area courses and one must be a Fine Arts course. If a student applies to the AVID program and is accepted, they are limited to one choice.

# Our Courses

## Core Classes

Students at Perry Hall Middle School will take the following core courses in seventh grade:

- Pre-Algebra or Algebra I
- Science 7
- World History 7
- English Language Arts 7
- Reading or World Language

Depending on MCAP and MAP testing scores, classroom performance, and teacher recommendations, students will be scheduled for Reading or World Language. If a student is recommended for World Language, they will be asked to select Chinese, French, or Spanish.

## Special Areas

Students are required to take Physical Education with Health every year. In addition, they are required to take one Fine Arts class. Depending on academic requirements, students will choose two or three specials from Art, Music, and Technology Education.

**Physical Education and Health: (Required)** Students are exposed to a variety of individual and team sports, cooperative, and outdoor/adventure activities, as well as fitness activities. Emphasis is placed on refining game skills/play, problem-solving strategies through the application of game concepts, increasing knowledge of personal fitness, and developing appropriate social skills. This course is year-long program with one quarter of Health included in PE.

### **Fine Arts Courses, Art and Music (One is Required)**

**Art:** The art program allows students to create products (paintings, drawings, sculptures, prints) and encourages them to engage in experiences that aim to develop a visually literate individual. These standards include perceiving and responding, art history, creative production, aesthetic criticism, and productive habits of mind. This course is a year-long program.

**Music:** The music program provides rigorous music instruction aligned to state and national standards and designed to provide active and engaging music experiences for all students. Each course is a year-long program. Students can choose from the following courses:

- World Music
- Chorus
- Band (must currently play an instrument)
- Strings (must currently play an instrument)

Students that choose Chorus, Band, or Strings will participate in two concerts each year, one in the Winter and one in the Spring. They will showcase the development of the performing skills learned throughout the year and are a course requirement.

**Technology Education (Optional):** Students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade can elect to take the course entitled Engineering: Energy, Power, and Transportation. Understanding how engineers utilize energy and power for transportation is important to understanding technologies currently in development and possible for the future of transportation. Students will look specifically at the technologies of magnetic levitation and air cushion transportation through the lenses of Maglev trains (Hyper loop) and hovercraft. This course is a year-long program.

## Additional Courses

**Math Assistance:** Depending on MCAP and MAP testing scores, classroom performance, and teacher recommendations, students may be recommended for an additional math class called Pre-Algebra with Assistance (PAWA). This course will provide an additional math period every other day to refine mathematics skills that students need to be successful in their core math class. This will replace one special area course in the student schedule.

**AVID:** AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID classes use proven practices in order to prepare students for success in high school, college, and a career. Concepts include teaching skills and behaviors for academic success, providing intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships, creating a positive peer group for students, and developing a sense of hope for personal achievement gained through hard work and determination. Students must apply to the AVID

**AVID:** (continued) a teacher recommendation and interview process. This class takes the place of two special area courses. More information about the AVID program will be shared with students in January.

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- *EMBRACING TRADITION* •
  
  - *STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE* •
  
  - *EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES* •
- 

### What Choices Should be Made

Students received a registration sheet today in school. They should follow the steps listed below to make their course choices:

- In the section titled “My Recommendations and Choices”, teachers have recommended placement in Reading or Beginner A or B World Language.
  - If you are new to World Language, the box will say WL and you need to choose a language where it is indicated on the form.
  - If you are recommended for World Language, the box will indicate the language choice and you can move to the next step.
  - If you are recommended for Reading the box will indicate Reading and you can move to the next step.
  - If you are recommended for World Language but would like to change the language you are taking, choose the new language where it is indicated on the form. This will mean you will start that language at the Beginner A level.

- Students should number their choices of specials with a 1, 2, and 3 in the order of preference for those specials.
- Students whose Math Recommendation indicates Pre-Algebra with Assistance (PAWA) will only have two specials.
- Students enrolled in music will continue to participate in the same program as the previous school year. Listed on the paper is the current music class, if applicable. If a student is not currently in music, N/A will be listed. If a student wishes to make a change to their music class for next year or is new to music, that choice should be marked where it is indicated on the form.
- Staffing decisions are made at the school level based on course choices made by students. As a result, once a selection has been made for special area classes, students must remain in that special for the entire school year.
- Once the form is completed, please return the signed document to the teacher listed at the top of the form.

## Looking Ahead

- Counselors will be working with students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade to begin their 6-year plans which help each counselor guide and support students to reach their future college or career goals.
- Students who are considering applying to magnet schools for high school will be invited to attend a magnet night in the fall to explore schools and begin the planning process for high school.

## Contact Us

If you have questions regarding your child's scheduling choices or information about placement, please contact your child's counselor.

Ms. Savage – A – D – [nsavage2@bcps.org](mailto:nsavage2@bcps.org)

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Mr. Allen – Ro – Z – [ballen4@bcps.org](mailto:ballen4@bcps.org)

Ms. Farkas – AVID/All students – [cfarkas@bcps.org](mailto:cfarkas@bcps.org)



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