

REQUIRED COURSE SELECTIONS

Grades 7 and 8

Below is a brief summation by grade and program, of Sayre Area High School's requirements.

GRADE 7	Days	Units	GRADE 8	Days	Units
English	180	1.00	English	180	1.00
Reading	180	1.00			
Social Studies	180	1.00	American History 8	180	1.00
Mathematics	180	1.00	Mathematics	180	1.00
Science	180	1.00	Science	180	1.00
Physical Education	90	.50	Physical Education	90	.50
Health 7	90	.50	Tech 8 & Financial Literacy	90	.50
<i>Related Arts Rotation</i>			<i>Related Arts Rotation</i>		
Art 7	45	.25	Communications 8	45	.25
Library Skills 7	45	.25	Computer Lit 8	45	.25
STEM 7	45	.25	Health 8	45	.25
Career Explorations 7	45	.25	Math Seminar 8	45	.25
<i>Electives</i>			<i>Electives (must take one or more)</i>		
Junior High Concert Band	90/180	.50/1.00	Junior High Concert Band	90/180	.50/1.00
Junior High Chorus	90/180	.50/1.00	Junior High Chorus	90/180	.50/1.00
			Media Literacy	180	1.00

7TH GRADE ONLY – IF STUDENT TAKES JUNIOR HIGH CONCERT BAND AND/OR JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS, THEY WILL NOT TAKE RELATED ARTS ROTATION.

8TH GRADE ONLY – IF STUDENT TAKES JUNIOR HIGH CONCERT BAND AND/OR JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS, THEY WILL NOT TAKE MEDIA LITERACY.

8 UNITS IS MAXIMUM NUMBER OF UNITS A STUDENT MAY TAKE PER DAY.

STUDENTS CANNOT FAIL MORE THAN 1-1/2 UNITS OR THEY FAIL THE GRADE.

Junior High ENGLISH

ENGLISH 7A	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 7
------------	--------	---------------------	---------

This course is designed for those students who demonstrate a proficiency in English, and who wish to pursue a college preparatory program in senior high school. Students will be familiarized with state standards and test-taking strategies and an emphasis will be placed on vocabulary, writing and literature.

ENGLISH 7G	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 7
------------	--------	---------------------	---------

This course reviews English skills and introduces new ones such as more in-depth reading and writing. Students will be familiarized with state standards and test-taking strategies and an emphasis will be placed on vocabulary, writing and literature.

ENGLISH 8A	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 8
------------	--------	---------------------	---------

This course is designed for students who possess a high degree of competence in English Language Arts (ELA). Similarly to English 8G, the course aligns with Pennsylvania State Standards and is a culmination of ELA skills from 4th-8th grades in preparation for the 8th-grade PSSA in the spring; additionally, students in 8A will be exposed to English 9 standards and skills throughout the year. The course of study will focus on the development of fundamental language skills in order to adequately prepare students to communicate to a wide variety of audiences and for varied purposes. Students will be exposed to complex thinking, ideas, and perspectives through the study of literature, non-fiction, poetry, and media. Reading strategies are explicitly taught with the intention of enhancing reading comprehension skills.

Written compositions are produced on a daily basis. Students produce writing to address task, purpose, perspective, and an intended audience including, but not limited to, argumentative writing and text-based analysis (TBA's). Complimentary lessons/units such as verbal communication and academic discussion, grammar and usage, vocabulary study and self-selected, independent reading are also incorporated into the program to increase reading and writing growth and stamina in preparation for high school and college preparatory or advanced English.

Due to the rigorous nature of the course, students are expected to receive a recommendation from the previous year's English teacher and earn a 94 or above in English 7 and Reading 7 or Literature 7 (if applicable).

ENGLISH 8G

1 Year

1 Unit
No Credit

Grade 8

This course is designed to align with Pennsylvania State Standards and is a culmination of ELA skills from 4th-8th grades in preparation for the 8th-grade PSSA in the spring. The course of study will focus on the development of fundamental language skills in order to adequately prepare students to communicate to a wide variety of audiences and for varied purposes. Students will be exposed to complex thinking, ideas, and perspectives through the study of literature, non-fiction, poetry, and media. Reading strategies are explicitly taught with the intention of enhancing reading comprehension skills.

Written compositions are produced on a daily basis. Students produce writing to address task, purpose, perspective, and an intended audience including, but not limited to, argumentative writing and text-based analysis (TBA's). Complimentary lessons/units such as verbal communication and academic discussion, grammar and usage, vocabulary study and self-selected, independent reading are also incorporated into the program to increase reading and writing growth and stamina in preparation for high school.

READING

1 Year

1 Unit
No Credit

Grade 7

The goal of this course is to support the student in becoming a functional reader across all content areas as a basis for moving toward reading proficiency. The course consists of four major components or best practices in reading instruction: (1) explicit, reading strategy instruction; (2) intensive, small group instruction and conferring; (3) appropriate, self-selected, independent reading; (4) integration of reading and interactive writing. Additionally, students will be exposed to the basic study of linguistics to increase vocabulary and reading comprehension. This course will also help prepare students for the 7th grade ELA PSSA in the spring.

LIT 7A

1 Year

1 Unit
No Credit

Grade 7

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop and strengthen advanced skills and strategies through integrated experiences in speaking, listening, reading, writing, researching and thinking skills. Emphasis will be on inference, application, analysis, and evaluation of content from varied texts including narrative and informational text. In this course, students will encounter challenging texts, discussions and writing. In addition, students in this course have consistently demonstrated that they are working above grade level in the English Language Arts.

MEDIA LITERACY	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 8
----------------	--------	---------------------	---------

Media literacy is the ability to access, interpret, analyze, evaluate and use all forms of media, including but not limited to, direct mailings, newspaper articles, television advertisements, and Internet content. Media literacy includes understanding that because different people interpret messages in different ways, the media often change their message about the same product or issue to fit their intended audience. This course is designed to help students evaluate and assess what they read as well as recognize the bias incorporated into some forms of communication, particularly that of Internet content. The content being evaluated will be cross-curricular and range across all core subjects. The goal of this course is to help students develop an understanding of what is behind every message they receive and how to use that knowledge and their critical thinking skills to form well-rounded opinions and become better informed consumers of media messages.

Junior High HISTORY

SOCIAL STUDIES 7A	1Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 7
SOCIAL STUDIES 7G	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 7

Social Studies 7 is a multi-subject course that allows students to see a wide variety of history and government. The focus of the course is centered on Civics, the study of citizenship and government, and physical and human geography. Lessons about what the world is made up of and how people adapt to it and how that compares to America will be the basis of instruction.

AMERICAN HISTORY 8A	1Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 8
AMERICAN HISTORY 8G	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 8

American History 8 is a survey course of major themes in American History. The subject covers the time period of early exploration (1400's) to the Reconstruction Era after the Civil War (1870's). It emphasizes the development of the American governmental system and its adaptation to the changing needs of American society.

Junior High MATHEMATICS

MATH 7 G or A

1 Year

1 Credit

Grade 7

Math 7 focus is on rational numbers and their operations, equations and inequalities. You will build your understanding of these concepts using models, such as number lines and verbal. You will also apply your skills to problem-solving situations and use estimation to check reasonableness. Topics from math strands such as real number properties, geometric formulas, and averages are introduced early in this course and then integrated and expanded upon throughout.

This course will also include topics such as linear equations and their graphs, properties of right triangles, geometric transformations, and probability. The number and variety of problems, ranging from basic to challenging, give you the practice you need to develop your math skills.

- Passing Math 6.
- Scientific calculators are useful, but not required, for successful completion.
- Completion of daily assignments is required for successful completion.
- Curriculum reflects PA Core Standards.

MATH 8

1 Year

1 Credit

Grade 8

Math 8 will give you a strong foundation in algebra while also preparing you for future study of geometry, probability, and data analysis. The clearly written lessons make even difficult math concepts and methods understandable by providing numerous stepped-out examples. Each lesson's exercise set includes a wide variety of exercises, ranging from basic exercises that involve logical reasoning and problem solving.

This course will also help you become better at taking notes and taking tests. Look for a note taking strategy at the beginning of each chapter as well as helpful marginal notes throughout each chapter. The marginal notes give you support in keeping a notebook, studying math, reading algebra and geometry, doing homework, using technology, and reviewing for tests. Also look for instruction and practice that prepare you for taking standardized tests with questions in multiple choice, short response, and extended response formats.

- Passing Math 7 or recommended as an advanced 7th grade math student
- Graphing calculators are useful, but not required, for successful completion.
- Completion of daily assignments is required for successful completion.
- Curriculum reflects PA Core Standards.

ALGEBRA I - 8

1 Year

1 Credit

Grades 8

Algebra 1 is organized around families of functions, with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. As you study each family of functions, you will learn to represent them in multiple ways – as verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. You will also learn to model real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems arising from those situations.

In addition to algebra content, Algebra 1 includes lessons on probability and data analysis as well as numerous examples and exercises involving geometry. These math

topics often appear on standardized tests (like the Keystone Exam), so maintaining your familiarity with them is important. To help you prepare for standardized tests, Algebra 1 provides instruction and practice on standardized test questions in a variety of formats – multiple choice, short response, extended response, and so on. Technology support for both learning algebra and preparing for standardized tests is also available throughout the course at classzone.com.

- Passing Math 7.
- Graphing calculators are useful, but not required, for successful completion.
- Completion of daily assignments is required for successful completion.
- Curriculum reflects PA Core Standards and Keystone Exam expectations.

Junior High SCIENCE

All science courses meet the Pennsylvania Science Standards. Students will need to complete class work, homework, laboratory activities, quizzes, tests/exams, and special projects as assigned by their teacher. Notebooks are required in most classes.

SCIENCE 7A	1Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 7
------------	-------	---------------------	---------

This course develops a foundation in the Nature of Science, Biology, and Environmental standards. The course concentrates on topics such as cell structures and organization, genetics, and ecology. For the advanced class, attention to detail, the ability to independently apply scientific knowledge, and technical writing is also a focus.

SCIENCE 7G	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 7
------------	--------	---------------------	---------

This course develops a foundation in the Nature of Science, Biology, and Environmental standards. The course concentrates on topics such as cell structures and organization, genetics, and ecology. For the general class, strengthening organizational skills and enhancing learning behaviors is also a focus.

SCIENCE 8A	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 8
------------	--------	---------------------	---------

This course develops a foundation in Chemistry and Physics standards. The course concentrates on topics such as atomic structure and functions, chemical bonds and reactions, Newton's Laws, and simple machines. For the advanced class, attention to detail, the ability to independently apply scientific knowledge, and technical writing is also a focus. Students who complete this course and meet the following criteria will be recommended to advance to Biology 10 instead of Science 9. The criteria are as follows:

- Student must have an overall average of at least a 93%.
- Student has exhibited good lab techniques throughout the year.
- Student has exhibited good study skills and classroom behavior throughout the year.

SCIENCE 8 G	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 8
-------------	--------	---------------------	---------

This course develops a foundation in Chemistry and Physics standards. The course concentrates on topics such as atomic structure and functions, chemical bonds and reactions, Newton's Laws, and simple machines. For the general class, strengthening organizational skills and enhancing learning behaviors is also a focus.

RELATED ARTS

<u>RELATED ARTS 7</u>	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 7
ART 7	¼ Year	¼ Unit No Credit	
LIBRARY SKILLS 7	¼ Year	¼ Unit No Credit	
STEM 7	¼ Year	¼ Unit No Credit	
CAREER EXPLORATIONS 7	¼ Year	¼ Unit No Credit	

ART 7. This course is designed to bridge the gap between elementary-level and middle-level art making and conceptual thinking. Students will explore a variety of media, history, and artistic applications during this 45-day (one marking-period) course. Artistic engagements within the course include but are not limited to line drawing, 3D construction, collage, and visual narrative. Emphasis is placed on both skill-building and personal expression as students develop their creativity and craftsmanship as artists. Student grades for 7th grade art are earned in the categories of projects, classwork, and writing.

LIBRARY SKILLS 7. Library Skills is a basic research skills class. Students will learn how to use the school's library database, use search engines effectively, learn how to decipher between good and bad websites for research, and use a variety of databases and the basics of plagiarism and how to create citations and works cited pages. Students will use all that information in preparation for future research projects and papers.

STEM 7. The goal of STEM 7 is to foster a learning environment in which students are guided to produce original ideas, objects, and structures according to certain specifications using concepts and skills from math, science, and technology. The class will include, but not limited to, water bottle rocketry, bridge building and design, concepts of renewable energy, and the use of measurements.

- Students will be graded on projects, class participation, and limited homework.
- The class will last 45 school days.

CAREER EXPLORATION 7. Career Exploration 7 helps start preparing students for the workforce by covering topics such as Career Awareness and Preparation, Career Acquisition, Career Retention and Advancement, and Entrepreneurship. This is a 9-week course.

<u>RELATED ARTS 8</u>	1 Year	1 Unit No Credit	Grade 8
COMMUNICATIONS 8	¼ Year	¼ Unit No Credit	
COMPUTER LIT 8	¼ Year	¼ Unit No Credit	
HEALTH 8	¼ Year	¼ Unit No Credit	
MATH SEMINAR 8	¼ Year	¼ Unit No Credit	

COMMUNICATIONS 8. This course is designed to focus on developing communication skills necessary to be successful in life. In a world of endless communication opportunities it is imperative for students to understand how to handle themselves correctly in all situations. The course covers everything from listening skills to solving conflict and overcoming communication apprehension.

COMPUTER LIT 8. This course will utilize the internet and library to teach students how to properly do research papers using MLA format. Emphasis will be placed on research techniques and documentation sources. Also covered will be Microsoft Word, Publisher, Power Point and HTML programming. In addition, students will be responsible for a career research catalog.

HEALTH 8. Health 8 provides our students with needed information on crucial problems to assist them in making wise decisions and solutions involving drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Additional topics include 1) body systems, 2) AIDS, 3) communicable diseases, 4) non-communicable diseases, 5) prevention of violence and abuse, 6) first aid and safety.

MATH SEMINAR 8. This course is designed to review math skills and take an in-depth look at fundamental probability and geometry. Students will be familiarized with state standards and test-taking strategies and an emphasis will be placed on vocabulary and problem solving skills.

Junior High TECH 8 / BUSINESS 8

TECH 8	1 Sem	¼ Unit No Credit	Grade 8
--------	-------	---------------------	---------

FINANCIAL LITERACY	1 Sem	¼ Unit No Credit	Grade 8
--------------------	-------	---------------------	---------

TECH 8.

The goal of Tech 8 is to foster a learning environment in which students are guided to produce original ideas, objects, and structures according to certain specifications using concepts and skills from math, science, and technology. The class may include, but not limited to, model rocketry, CO2 car design, 3D printing, bridge building and design, basic woodworking, basic electricity principles, and the use of measurements.

- Students will be graded on projects, class participation, and limited homework.
- The class will last 45 school days.

FINANCIAL LITERACY.

Financial Literacy is a course designed for 8th graders to teach about Time Management, Loans, Buying a Home, Retirement, etc. This is a web-based course.

Junior High PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7	1 Year	½ Unit No Credit	Grade 7
----------------------	--------	---------------------	---------

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8	1 Year	½ Unit No Credit	Grade 8
----------------------	--------	---------------------	---------

Physical Education will provide exposure to as many activities as possible including (but not limited to) the following: nitroball, indoor soccer, cricket, speedball, European handball, football, badminton, ultimate frisbee, basketball, softball, stickball, volleyball, floor pong, pickle ball and golf. The emphasis is on basic skills in both individual and team sports. Participation in game situations affords a controlled, wholesome environment for learning. Swimming is incorporated into physical education. This includes water safety, survival skills, strokes, water polo and boating. Student grades are based on participation, effort and a written final.

HEALTH 7	1 Year	½ Unit No Credit	Grade 7
----------	--------	---------------------	---------

Students will comprehend concepts related to health and disease prevention. Topics covered will include adolescent growth and development, relationships and social health, nutrition, substance abuse, communicable diseases, and non-communicable diseases.

Junior High MUSIC

JUNIOR HIGH CONCERT BAND 7-8 Everyday w/no chorus OR Every other day w/chorus	1 Year	½ Unit/1 Unit No Credit	Grades 7-8
JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS 7-8 Everyday w/no band OR Every other day w/band	1 Year	½ Unit/1 Unit No Credit	Grades 7-8

JUNIOR HIGH CONERT BAND 7-8.

This course is designed for students able to play a musical instrument. Emphasis is on ensemble performance and individual improvement and facility on a musical instrument. This course also develops aesthetic sensitivity, basic musicianship, and an appreciation of various musical styles. Students will perform in the concert band and have the option to join marching band, and/or chamber ensembles. Students will complete written and played assessments related to the concert band literature. Literature will be chosen from a range of styles, historical periods and cultures. Two public performances are mandatory: winter and spring concerts. Students are required to attend all assigned group or private lessons and held accountable for the condition of all music, instruments, and equipment. Previous instrumental experience is required or permission of director.

JUNIOR HIGH CHORUS 7-8.

Junior High Chorus is an elective course offered to 7-8 grade. It is designed as an ensemble music class that focuses on vocal performance. Students will gain musical knowledge and skills through singing a variety of music. Emphasis will be on developing vocal technique, and music literacy. Chorus performs concerts for an audience several times throughout the year (required).