

Pelham Park Middle School



Course Selection Guide 2024-2025

The Pelham City Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Floyd Collins, Assistant Superintendent

Lana Tew, 504 Coordinator, Director of Special Education

Robin Hollingsworth, Director of Human Resources, Federal Programs, After School Care

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Pelham City Schools

Dr. Chuck Ledbetter, Superintendent

Mrs. Shannon Bogert,
Chief of Curriculum and Instruction

PELHAM PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mr. Kevin Finch, Principal

Mrs. Andrea Fordham, Asst. Principal

Mrs. Alicia Melton, Asst. Principal

Pelham City Schools
Board of Education

Ms. Angie Hester, Board President

Mr. Robert Plummer, Vice President

Mr. Bob O'Neil

Mr. Jeff Adams

Ms. Shannon White

Faculty and Staff

Pelham Park Middle School faculty is comprised of highly qualified individuals who are dedicated and passionate about educating young people. An exemplary support staff is in place to complement the services provided by our faculty.

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Counseling Department

Ms. Patricia Simpson

6th grade; 7th Grade Last Name A- L

Ms. Nicole Howell

8th grade; 7th Grade Last Name M- Z

The mission of Pelham City Schools is to collaborate with parents and community to inspire and empower students to achieve personal success. INSPIRE. EMPOWER. ACHIEVE.

CORE ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

English Language Arts (Grades 6,7,8)

Language Arts encompasses all written and spoken language skills, including reading and responding to literature. The course incorporates grammar, vocabulary, and writing with an emphasis upon authentic opportunities for communication. Information retrieval and organization is also a part of the Language Arts curriculum.

Advanced English Language Arts (Grades 6,7,8)

Advanced English Language Arts is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school. Students will move at a fast pace, requiring an increased expectation of responsibility and independence. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in writing, reading, and critical thinking. Additionally, students should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions.

Mathematics (Grades 6 and 7)

The mathematics program requires proficiency in performing the basic operations with whole numbers and decimals. The study of statistics and probability involves conducting surveys and selecting appropriate ways to organize, display and interpret data. An understanding of mathematics is fostered through the use of instructional strategies in which students apply problem-solving techniques, explore and examine realistic situations, build understanding of percent and application to sales tax and discounts, and formulate questions to clarify their thinking and level of understanding.

Honors Math (Grade 6) and Accelerated Mathematics (Grade 7)

Honors Mathematics 6 and Accelerated Mathematics 7 are accelerated academic courses designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school in preparation for college. Students will move at a fast pace, requiring an increased expectation of responsibility and independence. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in mathematical skill and knowledge. Additionally, they should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions. **Honors Mathematics 6 is not a prerequisite for Accelerated Mathematics 7. Accelerated Mathematics 7 is a prerequisite course for Accelerated Mathematics 8.**

Mathematics (Grade 8)

Mathematics 8 is a course designed to provide students with a strong foundation in the concepts of Algebra and Geometry. Mathematical procedures are reinforced through expanded use of algebraic methods and complex problem-solving activities. Exploratory opportunities are provided in data analysis and probability. Students are encouraged to think critically about results and implications, consider alternative methods to approach problems, and generalize information properly

Accelerated Mathematics 8

Accelerated Mathematics is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school. Students will move at a fast pace, requiring an increased expectation of responsibility and independence. Students are expected to display a high

level of proficiency in mathematical skill and knowledge. Additionally, they should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions. **Accelerated Math 7 is a prerequisite course.**

Science (Grade 6)

The sixth grade Science curriculum focuses on Earth and Space Science. Content standards challenge students to discover their Earth and its place in the universe. The study of Science is blended with the development of literacy in the content area, mathematical skills such as charting and graphing, and project-based learning.

Life Science (Grade 7)

The seventh grade Science course covers the life sciences including Biology. Additionally, the course serves as a bridge to allow students to connect the concepts and skills learned in the sixth grade Earth and Space course to the principles of the universe studied in the eighth grade Physical Science course.

Physical Science (Grade 8)

Content standards in the eighth grade include Chemistry and Physics that are inquiry-based. In eighth grade Science, students engage in higher, more abstract thinking processes that combine reasoning skills with scientific knowledge through experimental, manipulative, and laboratory-oriented processes.

Advanced Science (Grades 7 and 8)

Advanced Science is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school. Students will move at a fast pace, requiring an increased expectation of responsibility and independence. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in science skills and knowledge. Additionally, they should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic and demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies.

Social Studies (Grade 6)

Sixth grade Social Studies focuses on America from the beginning of the twentieth century to present day. Units of study include: immigration, westward expansion, World War I, Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, World War II, the Fifties, and the Civil Rights Movement. Research, map and globe skills, literacy, and writing are applied throughout the course.

Civics/Geography (Grade 7)

Seventh grade Social Studies consists of geography and citizenship. Geography places emphasis on the knowledge and skills that allow the student to develop a geographical perspective of Europe and the Eastern hemisphere. The Civics/ Citizenship course serves as a bridge between the curriculum emphasis in the elementary and secondary grades by providing an understanding of representative democracy, law, personal economics, and civic responsibility.

World History (Grade 8)

Eighth grade Social Studies is a course blending world history and geography from prehistoric man to the 1500's. Students are required to think critically about the various forces that combined to shape the

world today. Emphasis is placed on geographic impact, development of civic knowledge/ responsibilities, and emerging economic systems within a chronological context.

Advanced Social Studies (Grades 7 and 8)

Advanced Social Studies is an accelerated academic course designed for dedicated students who plan to continue on the advanced track throughout high school. Students will move at a fast pace, requiring an increased expectation of responsibility and independence. Students are expected to display a high level of proficiency in reading and writing. Additionally, they should be willing to respond to an increased workload, exhibit a strong work ethic, demonstrate a serious attitude toward their studies, and participate consistently in class discussions.

ELECTIVES (Grade 6)

Art (semester): This introductory course content provides students with the opportunity to explore various art media. The seven elements of art as well as basic color theory are explored through each major project. Basic drawing, painting, and printmaking skills are introduced. Three-dimensional work and collage may also be introduced. Students will learn how to creatively problem solve and tackle artistic challenges while learning lifelong skills such as persistence, observation, and self-critique.

Teen Challenges (semester): This introductory course content provides opportunities for students to use a variety of 21st century skills to build a small business. General knowledge in food, clothing, and consumerism will be explored.

Band (year-long): Beginning band is for any student who is interested in learning to play a musical instrument. Students are taught the basics of how to read music as well as how to play their instruments. No prior musical experience is necessary. There will be an associated cost for band.

Spanish Exploration (semester): The introductory course is designed to teach students the basic language and vocabulary of Spanish. Students will also learn cultural norms and characteristics of Latin countries.

Career Exploration (semester): This introductory course exposes students to the 16 career clusters, related pathways, and the core areas of technology.

Theatre (semester): This introductory course will introduce students to the basic elements of theatre arts and give them the opportunity to discover which part of theatre interests them the most. Students will collaborate and perform in improv, monologue, and duo scenes. Students will also complete projects in playwriting, set, and costume design.

Scratch Programming– Survey Elective (semester): This interactive computer class allows students to create games, stories, and animations.

ELECTIVES (Grade 7)

Band (year-long): Intermediate band allows students to develop the technical skills and tone production necessary for individual musical achievement. Instruction includes instrumental proficiency, improving listening skills, and music appreciation. Prior instrumental music experience is preferred. Associated cost.

Computer Science Discoveries (year-long): This yearlong course will increase student understanding of basic computer programming concepts and logic. Students will be introduced to programming through a variety of projects and object based programming activities and applications. Students will explore and demonstrate business related skills such as teamwork, interpersonal skills and ethics while completing projects.

Art (semester): This introductory course content provides students with the opportunity to explore various art media. The seven elements of art as well as basic color theory are explored through each major project. We will also start to explore the principles of design. basic drawing, painting, and printmaking skills are introduced. Three-dimensional work and collage may also be introduced. While this is still an introductory course, some concepts will build on those previously introduced.

Teen Discoveries (semester): This intermediate course content provides opportunities for students to use a variety of 21st century skills in food, clothing, and consumerism in order for students to develop entrepreneurial skills.

Digital Technology (semester): This intermediate course is designed to aid the student in better understanding the function of a computer for school and personal use. Emphasis will be placed on Microsoft Office applications, internet safety, and presentation creation.

Spanish Exploratory (semester): Intermediate Spanish is designed to teach, and build upon, students' understanding and use of the language, vocabulary, and Spanish culture.

Life Skills (semester): An interactive course that teaches daily life skills such as effective communication skills, budgeting, social skills, coping skills, decision-making, etiquette, social influences, and hands-on activities.

Theatre (semester): This intermediate course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of the theatre arts. Students will complete advanced versions of playwriting, set, and costume design projects. Students will also have the opportunity to enhance their acting skills and perform a scene at the semester show.

Stage Crew Theatre (semester): This intermediate course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of design and technical theatre skills. Students will complete advanced versions of the playwriting, set, and costume design projects, as well as projects in state management, lighting design, sound design, set construction, etc. Students will have the opportunity to participate as stage crew members for the semester show.

ELECTIVES (Grade 8)

Career Preparedness A (semester): All eighth grade students are **required** to take a semester of *Career Preparedness A*. This course prepares students for career development, financial literacy, and employment process and **will count toward high school GPA and transcript credit.**

Spanish I (year-long): This advanced course is designed to teach, and build upon, students' understanding and use of the language, vocabulary, and Spanish culture. **Successful completion of Spanish I yields a high school credit and will count toward the high school grade point average (GPA).**

Band (year-long): This course encompasses advanced music fundamentals and skills, which develop musicianship. Instruction includes instrumental mastery, performance, and evaluation. Prior instrumental instruction is required. Associated costs.

Computer Science Discoveries (year-long): This year-long course will increase student understanding of basic computer programming concepts and logic. Students will be introduced to programming through a variety of projects and object based programming activities and applications. Students will explore and demonstrate business related skills such as teamwork, interpersonal skills and ethics while completing projects.

Art (semester): This progressive course builds upon artistic skills and concepts introduced in previous courses to create a foundation for future study in art. Students will explore the 7 elements of art through a variety of projects and different mediums.

Teen Connections (semester): This progressive course content provides opportunities for students to use a variety of 21st century skills in food, clothing, and consumerism in order for students to develop entrepreneurial skills.

Theatre (semester): This course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of the theatre arts. Students will complete advanced versions of the playwriting, set, and costume design projects. Students will also have the opportunity to enhance their acting skills and perform a scene at the semester show.

Stage Crew Theatre (semester): This intermediate course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of design and technical theatre skills. Students will complete advanced versions of the playwriting, set, and costume design projects, as well as projects in state management, lighting design, sound design, set construction, etc. Students will have the opportunity to participate as stage crew members for the semester show.

Life Skills (semester): An interactive course that teaches daily life skills such as effective communication skills, budgeting, social skills, coping skills, decision-making, etiquette, social influences, and hands-on activities.

Robotics– Survey Elective (semester): Students utilize virtual and in-person platforms to build knowledge on building, coding, and programming robots.

Google Workplace– Survey Elective (semester): Students learn their way around Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Sheets, and Google Drawings in order to make homework, projects, and teamwork easier and more fun.

ACADEMIES (Grades 7 and 8)

*The following Academy courses span one semester, count as an elective course for students, and can only be taken **once** during middle school.*

Medical Detectives

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs.

Law

This course studies constitutional democracy and develops skills needed to become effective and responsible citizens. The course increases understanding of the democratic process, how to manage conflict, and utilizes decision-making skills both in public and private life.

Computer-Based App Creators– Survey Elective

This course will expose students to computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile development and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

Course Changes

Students and parents should carefully consider student participation in advanced courses. Teacher recommendations and your student's grades and achievement test scores can help you make an informed decision. Course selections are a semester commitment.

Elective and Academy course offerings are subject to change due to enrollment and scheduling needs.

Course Information

Required Academic Courses

Language Arts

6, 7, 8

Math

Math 6, 7, 8

Science

6, 7, 8

Social Studies

6, 7, 8

Physical Education

6, 7, 8

OPTIONAL ADVANCED COURSES

Advanced Language Arts- Grades 6, 7, 8

Honors Math- Grade 6

Accelerated Math- Grades 7, 8

Accelerated Math 7 is a prerequisite course for Accelerated Math 8.

Advanced Science- Grades 7, 8

Advanced Social Studies- Grades 7, 8

Extracurricular Opportunities

Student- Athlete

Pelham Park Middle School provides for the development of boys and girls through a properly controlled, well-organized sports program designed to meet the student's needs for self-expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. A student who elects to participate in voluntarily choosing self-discipline. Specific expectations and program philosophy may be communicated from the athletic department.

Baseball	Cheerleading	Football
Cross Country	Track and Field	Tennis
Indoor Track	Basketball	Volleyball
Wrestling	Soccer	Softball
Bowling	Golf	

THE STATE ELIGIBILITY RULES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Students entering the seventh grade for the first time are eligible. Sixth-grade students are not eligible to participate per AHSAA rules.
2. The maximum age limit for seventh and eighth-grade competitions is 15 years of age on or after August 1 of the current year to be eligible.
3. A student must have passed a minimum of five subjects with a minimum composite numerical average of 70 in those five subjects and must have been promoted to the next grade during the last year in attendance in order to be eligible during the current school year.
4. A player eligible at the beginning of the year is eligible the whole year.
5. To be eligible students must have a current Alabama physical, birth certificate by the State Bureau of Vital Statistics in which the state the student was born, AHSAA Release Form, and AHSAA Concussion form on file in the Director of Athletics office.
6. Any member of a school athletic team who participates in an athletic contest as a member of a similar team during the same season shall be ineligible to compete under these rules for the remainder of the season.
7. A pupil must be legally enrolled in Pelham City Schools.

Optional Student Clubs

Yearbook: Yearbook is a club that gives students marketable experience in print media publishing. This club solely works toward completing and selling a sizeable finished product, Pelham Park Middle School's yearbook. In Yearbook, students compose, construct, and edit all elements of computerized text layout, graphic art, and digital photography. Students work on many clerical operations, making announcements, maintaining signs, conducting student polls, taking photos, and writing articles.

Chess: All experience levels are welcome! Learn new tricks and test yourself against other players. From recognizing traps and pitfalls to controlling the center of the board to developing and implementing complex strategies, the chess club has something for everybody.

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA): is a nonprofit educational career and technical student organization for young men and women preparing for careers in business and business-related fields.

Dance Team: The PPMS Golden Girls Dance Team performs between quarters and at halftime of the 7th and 8th-grade football games and during several home boys' and girls' basketball games and a local Dance Team Competition (this follows the state eligibility requirements for athletics).

Kindness Club: This club is available to any grade 6, 7, or 8 students. The purpose and goal of the club is to promote leadership opportunities for students through building a culture of kindness throughout our school.

Special Olympic Peer Buddies: This club is an opportunity for typical students to serve alongside a student with special needs during the Special Olympics and other events.

Book Club: This club is open to all grades and meets monthly. Students read a book in the assigned genre and then share about it to the group.

First Priority: This is a student-led Christian organization that seeks to provide middle school students with a club in which Christian students can belong. Students who wish to participate are encouraged to attend weekly meetings where local youth pastors train and equip to share the love of Christ. Student leaders are also coached and trained on how to spread the gospel at school.

Optional Student Clubs (cont.)

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS): NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship.

Ambassadors: The Pelham Park Middle School Ambassadors are a group of 7th and 8th grade students who work together to promote and encourage a positive school climate. They also have the opportunity to work with the administration and students as a liaison in expressing concerns and suggestions. The students also represent PPMS at parent nights, visitor orientations, 5th grade orientation day, and other community activities.

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA): Family, Career and Community Leaders of America is a technical student organization for students enrolled in Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA provides opportunities for personal development and will help students become strong leaders, build good relationships, and learn about options for their future.

Junior United Nations Assembly (JUNA): The JUNA student organization aims to increase awareness of global issues and international relations. Being a delegate of JUNA develops lifetime skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, research, teamwork, and leadership.

Technology Student Association (TSA): TSA is a national organization of students engaged in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Math Club: Math Team/Club includes meetings with engaging math activities such as games and explorations, problem sets, and challenges that can be enjoyed by students in grades 7-8. Students build confidence and improve attitudes about math and problem solving. Students apply their skills to participate in a series of competitions.

Anime Club: This club meets monthly and is open to all grades. During club meetings, students will share and learn about anime, Japanese culture, and manga.

***** All clubs and organizations are subject to change from year to year.***

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