Message to Parents:

Oblock Junior High School courses are designed to challenge students to learn and grow while building a solid foundation for a successful high school transition. We recognize the unique developmental needs of our 7th and 8th grade adolescents. Our goal is not only meet the academic needs of our students, but also assist in fostering their social and emotional needs. This program of studies is designed to give you a snapshot of our junior high school curriculum. We are confident that through collaboration with you, your student, and the Oblock team, we can assist in selecting educationally appropriate courses where your student will reach their fullest potential. We sincerely hope that the upcoming school year will provide your student with a positive learning experience. We look forward to working with you during the scheduling process and are here to assist. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our team with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mr. Ashley Boyers
Principal

Mrs. Maria Fajt
Assistant Principal
Vision:
The vision of Plum Borough School District is to be a distinguished educational organization where well-rounded students are exceptionally prepared for success.

Mission:
The mission of the Plum Borough School District is to be a top performing school district by increasing levels of academic rigor and student achievement through the development and execution of best practices, accountability, the highest ethical standards, and an unrelenting commitment by ALL to embrace excellence and pride in everything that we do.

Beliefs:

- We believe every child has a right to a high-quality and rigorous education in a safe, student-centered and accountable environment.
- We believe collaborative partnerships focused on continuous improvement will serve to create educational opportunities for our students.
- We believe in developing productive and responsible citizens who are exceptionally prepared for success.
- We believe a first-rate workforce will foster an environment that is foundational to all academic success.
- We believe all children can learn and develop their talents in a positive, supportive, caring and growth mindset focused environment.
Plum CommUNITY Pledge

As a member of the Plum Borough School Community, I pledge in both my words and actions . . .

to work together to build pride, positivity, and unity in my school and community;

★
to foster a safe, welcoming, non-intimidating atmosphere and a sense of belonging for all students, staff and community members;

★
to enhance the value of education by respecting how all cultures solve problems in positive ways;

★
to accept my role in supporting a high quality, student-centered learning environment;

★
to foster a sense of equity in school experiences and opportunities to enable success for all;

★
to listen to the views, ideas, thoughts, and beliefs of others with tolerance, empathy, and respect;

★
to acknowledge, honor and celebrate the similarities and differences in others;

★
to share my knowledge about culture and the contributions made by diverse members of our society;

★
to report behaviors that are discriminatory, biased or culturally insensitive;

★

AND, to be kind, caring and unbiased in my words and actions.
## Administration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Ashley Boyers, Principal</td>
<td><a href="mailto:boyersa@pbsd.net">boyersa@pbsd.net</a></td>
<td>6395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Maria Fajt, Assistant Principal</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fajtm@pbsd.net">fajtm@pbsd.net</a></td>
<td>6310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. JoAnn Pastucha, Administrative Assistant</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pastuchaj@pbsd.net">pastuchaj@pbsd.net</a></td>
<td>6325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## School Counselors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Joe Miller, 7th grade Counselor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:millerj@pbsd.net">millerj@pbsd.net</a></td>
<td>6326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Michele Markiewicz, 8th grade Counselor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:markiewi@pbsd.net">markiewi@pbsd.net</a></td>
<td>6327</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## School Nurse:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Tina Jagodzinki</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jagodzinskit@pbsd.net">jagodzinskit@pbsd.net</a></td>
<td>6377</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To better assist our students, we believe communication with our families is critical. Below is a list of concerns that may arise and a corresponding hyperlinked list of school personnel or information to help address an issue.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Person To Call</th>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Person To Call</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Grade</td>
<td><strong>Teacher Issuing Grade</strong></td>
<td>Teacher Issue</td>
<td><strong>Teacher Principal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td><strong>Teacher School Counselor</strong></td>
<td>Medical</td>
<td><strong>School Nurse</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course Placement</td>
<td><strong>School Counselor</strong></td>
<td>At-Risk Students</td>
<td><strong>School Counselors Assistant Principal Principal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Information</td>
<td><strong>Administrative Assistant</strong></td>
<td>Trip Requests</td>
<td><strong>Request Form</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch Account</td>
<td><strong>Food Services</strong></td>
<td>Athletic Information</td>
<td><strong>Athletic Office</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus Issues/Discipline</td>
<td><strong>Transportation Assistant Principal</strong></td>
<td>General Information</td>
<td><strong>Announcements</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Scheduling Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6th to 7th Grade Transition</th>
<th>7th to 8th Grade Transition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>April 25, 2019</strong> - 6th grade Parent Orientation at Oblock Junior High School @ <strong>6:30 p.m.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 29, 30, May 1, 2019</strong> - 6th Grade ELA + Math placement tests @ Holiday Park</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 3, 2019</strong> - 6th grade Student Move Up Day at Oblock Junior High School during the school day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 6, 7, and 8, 2019</strong> - Oblock School Counselor assists 6th grade students with course scheduling at Holiday Park Elementary School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>February 15, 2019</strong> - teachers make course recommendations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>March 11, 13, and 14 2019</strong> - School Counselor assists students in scheduling via 1:1 device during the school day.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A student day at Oblock Junior High School is made up of a nine period day, each period being approximately 42 minutes. The nine periods include academic courses, lunch, a Unified Arts rotation, twelve weeks each, and a study hall. Additionally, Physical Education/Health and Music courses occur on a six day rotation, with three school days dedicated to each course. Students select a music course based on their interest.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>7th Grade</th>
<th>8th Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Physical Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Life Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Unified Arts 7</td>
<td>Unified Arts 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>➢ Art 1</td>
<td>➢ Art 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>➢ Technology Education 7</td>
<td>➢ Technology Education 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>➢ Computer Applications</td>
<td>➢ Exploratory Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Six Day Rotation Courses</td>
<td>Six Day Rotation Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>➢ Physical Education/Health</td>
<td>➢ Physical Education/Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>➢ Music Elective</td>
<td>➢ Music Elective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Study Hall</td>
<td>Study Hall or Spanish 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
~William Butler Yeats
SEVENTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Academic Courses:
- ENGLISH
- ADVANCED ENGLISH
- READING
- ADVANCED READING
- FOUNDATIONAL READING
- MATH 7
- PRE-ALGEBRA
- EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE
- WORLD HISTORY

Unified Arts 7:
- ART 7
- COMPUTER APPLICATIONS
- TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 7

Physical Education/Health and Music Electives:
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 7
- BAND
- CHORUS
- MUSIC
- ORCHESTRA

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Academic Courses:
- LANGUAGE ARTS
- ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS
- FOUNDATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS
- MATH 8
- ALGEBRA 1
- GEOMETRY
- LIFE SCIENCE
- PHYSICAL SCIENCE
- EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY

Unified Arts 8:
- ART 8
- TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8
- EXPLORATORY FRENCH & SPANISH

Physical Education/Health and Music and Language Electives:
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 8
- BAND
- CHORUS
- MUSIC
- ORCHESTRA
- WORLD LANGUAGE LEVEL 1
ENGLISH
1107 English
Seventh grade English focuses on the study of writing and language. Writing instruction will include narrative, argumentative, and informational domains, as well as the research process. Attention will be paid to strengthening student writing through advanced sentence structure, as well as an in-depth review of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Language instruction will include vocabulary study, with a focus on word parts and origins. Additionally, speaking and listening skills will be developed through presentations and classroom discussion. Students enrolled in this class will take the English Language Arts Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

ADVANCED ENGLISH
1157 Advanced English
Advanced English will follow the same curriculum as the regular course (see above), 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 an 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. Students enrolled in this class will take the English Language Arts Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

READING
1127 Reading
This seventh grade course will develop and strengthen the students’ ability to analyze literary and informational texts, with a focus on developing a lifelong love of reading. Students will explore an extensive variety of genres through structured and independent reading, including poetry, drama, short stories, articles, essays, speeches, and novels. Emphasis will be placed on teaching students to read critically, extending beyond surface-level comprehension into text-dependent analysis, with a focus on the author’s purpose and craft.

“If you don’t like to read, you haven’t found the right book.”
~J.K. Rowling
**ADVANCED READING**

**1147 Advanced Reading**

Advanced Reading will follow the same curriculum as the regular course, but at a faster pace and more in-depth level. It is assumed that students have basic reading comprehension skills. The Advanced Reading course will use a variety of texts and genres to expand and increase student’s use of critical thinking. While following the Reading curriculum, students will be required to independently read novels that will challenge them. Emphasis will be placed on each student’s ability to read critically, extend beyond surface-level comprehension, and more deeply analyze and evaluate text. Opportunities will be provided for students to develop questioning and reasoning skills, all which will be an aid in fostering an environment that will create strong, independent, and life-long readers and learners.

Students enrolled in the Advanced Reading course are also concurrently enrolled in the Advanced English course. Placement in the advanced curriculum is determined by a rubric that includes the following: teacher recommendation/evaluation, standardized test scores, and grades. Students must demonstrate a strong work ethic and interest in writing, language, and reading.

**FOUNDATIONAL READING**

**1137 Foundational Reading**

Students enrolled in this course will follow the same curriculum as Reading 7. Additionally, this course will focus on the fundamentals of reading including the development of reading strategies and habits to improve comprehension and text analysis. The course will develop and strengthen the students’ ability to analyze literary and informational texts, with a focus on developing a lifelong love of reading. Students will explore a variety of genres through structured and independent reading, including poetry, drama, short stories, articles, essays, speeches, and novels. Emphasis will be placed on teaching students to read critically, beyond surface-level comprehension, and to provide text-dependent analysis, with a focus on the author’s purpose and craft.

**MATH 7**

**1317 MATH 7**

Math 7 will solidify the student’s understanding of computation with rational numbers and linear expressions. Problem solving with equations and inequalities will also be emphasized during the year. The course will furthermore provide an introduction to the concepts of algebra and geometry, as well as provide exploratory experiences in proportionality, data analysis and probability.

The development of problem solving strategies will be stressed in all units. A student who is successful with this program should be prepared to take Math 8 in the eighth grade. Students enrolled in this class will take the Mathematics Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).
**PRE-ALGEBRA**  
**1327 Pre-Algebra**  
Pre-Algebra will solidify the student’s understanding of computation with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and equation solving. Problem solving with ratios, proportions, and percent, in addition, computation with integers will be emphasized during the year. The course will also provide an introduction to the concepts of algebra and geometry, as well as provide exploratory experiences in data analysis and probability. The development of problem solving strategies will be stressed in all units. A student who is successful with this program should be prepared to take Algebra in 8th grade. Students enrolled in this class will take the Mathematics Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

**Prerequisite:** Course selection is based on an evaluation tool consisting of the student’s sixth grade math teacher’s recommendation, math grades, work habits, and standardized/placement tests.

**EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE**  
**1407 Earth & Space Science**  
This course will provide students with an understanding of the basic concepts and actions that shape our earth and universe. They will see that the complex earth has been shaped by past developments which show its current form and are the result of several ongoing processes. Students will also develop an understanding of celestial bodies in the universe and how they operate. They will be inspired by natural phenomena and expand their scientific terminology while viewing the practical application of earth and space science.

**WORLD HISTORY**  
**1207 World History**  
Students enrolled in World History will explore the subject through various methods. Students will journey from Prehistoric times to the birth of civilization and then the Renaissance period. Furthermore, the students will adventure across China and the Far East, Egypt and Africa, Greece and Rome, Europe and Central America. Students will utilize curriculum resources, 1:1 technology devices, and various supplemental media resources to expand their learning capabilities. Finally, students will be asked to think conceptually and critically about the past to appreciate the complexity and variety of human achievements.

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin, and culture is like a tree without roots.” ~ Marcus Garvey
**ART 7**
**1902 Art 7**
Art 1 will focus on developing creative thinking skills while teaching fundamental skills in diverse art forms. Various two-dimensional and three-dimensional art media will be explored. Students will create art with digital media and photography. They will study visual art forms from different times and cultures. Many projects will incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math as part of STEAM integrated lessons. Technology will be incorporated as a means to explore student interests, examine art from all over the world, develop art skills, collaborate, critique, and provide feedback to one another. Students will be prepared to generate unique ideas and express themselves in new ways.

**COMPUTER APPLICATIONS**
**1507 Introduction to Computer Applications**
This course will stress three major areas of computer applications: programming, website design, and file management. Students will be introduced to the world of programming using tools for learning logical and computational thinking skills and the fundamental principles of coding. They will create basic commands, loops, condition statements, and algorithms essential to programming. Students will also be introduced to website design - including principles of creating websites, various web pages, and hyperlinks. Finally, students will use a variety of resources to create documents and images for inclusion in both programming and web design projects. Students will participate in Digital Literacy and Citizenship, to emphasize the importance of thinking and behaving responsibly in the 21st Century digital world.

**TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 7**
**1807 Technology Education 7**
Technology Education will introduce a variety of engineering concepts for students through the utilization of tools, materials, and processes used in the planning for projects. The planning and engineering of these projects is designed to implement 21st century learning for all students. Students will be presented with a 3-D design experience and a hands-on approach to the safe use of hand and power tools. With the safe use of tools, students will complete their structural and mechanical engineering projects. They will learn that while the finished product is important, their ability to work with others, solve problems, and follow directions is also an integral part of the course objective. At this level, the goal is to have students become interested in the subject matter and further their ability to be a 21st Century learner based on engineering concepts.

“Let’s go invent tomorrow instead of worrying about what happened yesterday.”
~ Steve Jobs
PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 7

1331 Girls' Physical Education/Health    1340 Boys' Physical Education/Health

This course will educate and encourage students to understand the benefits associated with good health and fitness habits, and provide them with the tools needed to attain them. Knowledge gained will help promote an ongoing healthy and active lifestyle. Students will develop good sportsmanship, fair play, and meaningful recreational habits. The activities will include: Team Sports, Fitness Training and Recreational Games. Students will learn essential information that can help protect and preserve life from childhood thru their adult lives. Students will undergo physical testing in order to determine a baseline of abilities that will occur at the start of the year. The culminating post testing will occur at the end of the school year in order to determine any physical improvement gained from their experiences in Physical Education.

Seventh grade Health will teach students pertinent information such as how to make the best decisions possible in order to prevent any dangers against their personal health and lifestyle. Information presented will include how poor diet, inactivity, tobacco, alcohol, and use of other drugs destroy body systems, while the implementation of daily physical activity and ingestion of nutrient dense foods improve the functions of the body. Opioid specifics will be examined as students become aware of the differences between prescription painkillers, heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil. A major emphasis will be placed on the addictive nature of these substances, as students are shown how addiction affects all demographics, while a specific focus is put on the epidemic locally. The topics in this course will include: Wellness, Personal Development, Tobacco, Alcohol, and Drugs. Opioids will be discussed in accordance of state requirements.

BAND

1909 Band

Through Band, students will continue instrumental studies in an ensemble setting, meeting three days out of each six-day cycle. Students will play a varied repertoire of music and further develop their ensemble skills. Band members' time will be divided among the following areas: technical study, aural skills, music history, class discussion, and semi-private instruction. Students will perform in two major concerts (winter and spring) and will have opportunities to play in auxiliary ensembles for pep rallies, special events, school assemblies, etc.

CHORUS

1904 Chorus

Chorus provides students the opportunity to sing with proper expression, technical accuracy, posture and embouchure, breathing technique, and tone production. The class will explore different styles of choral literature and languages. Students will cover music theory skills and are required to participate in a winter and spring concert. The concerts provide students an opportunity to to showcase their musical skills.

Select Chorus is an honors ensemble and is selected by audition only. The ensemble will perform with the 7th grade chorus at the concert focusing on a select repertoire independently.
MUSIC
1907 Class Piano
This course will provide students the opportunity to develop basic music skills on the piano. Students will have the opportunity to utilize their 1:1 device as keyboards as well as write music with various applications. In addition, the students will recognize and understand the concepts of melody, rhythm, tempo, dynamics, and note values. This class will take place in a music tech lab with electronic keyboards.

ORCHESTRA
1906 7th Grade String Orchestra
Orchestra provides students with an opportunity to enhance their ability to play music in a group and as individuals. This will be the students’ first opportunity to play and perform as a group in the school setting. Much of the instruction will focus on developing their ability to play in an actual orchestra on a daily basis. The students will further their understanding about posture, bow usage, vibrato, tempo, intonation, and finger position. All students of various skills are welcome to join orchestra. There are opportunities for beginners, as well as solo and group pieces for more advanced musicians. There will be at least two concerts during the year, which is a positive way for the students to showcase their musical skills. Any student who is interested in taking orchestra or playing an instrument for the first time should consider joining Orchestra.
EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS
1108 Language Arts
Eighth grade Language Arts will build on the foundations of the seventh grade English and Reading course curriculums. Students will review and expand upon the concepts of grammar, language, and vocabulary. Writing instruction will focus on narrative, informational, and argumentative domains, with an emphasis on improving writer’s craft and structure. There will also be a strong emphasis on analyzing texts and writing text-dependent analysis. Grammar will be strongly writing-based and will be integrated using practical application. Students will engage in independent and structured literature study of both informational and literary texts, including novels, short stories, plays, poems, articles, and essays. Particular attention will be paid to the critical, close reading of texts and strong text-dependent analysis, with a focus the on author’s purpose and craft. Students enrolled in this class will take the English Language Arts Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS
1128 Advanced Language Arts
Advanced Language Arts will follow 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. Students enrolled in this class will take the English Language Arts Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

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

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the Advanced Language Arts 8 course is determined by student’s placement on the 8th grade ELA performance rubric.
FOUNDATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS
1138 Foundational Language Arts
This course will reinforce and develop strategies and habits necessary for students to succeed in the content areas and as lifelong learners. Students will work to improve comprehension skills, with an emphasis on critical reading and analyzing literary and informational texts, as well as creating text-dependent responses to reading. Students enrolled in this course are also enrolled in 1108 Language Arts. The dual enrollment provides additional practice and support in the instructional areas of need for students with a deeper focus on reading comprehension and analysis. 7th grade teachers recommend students based on English and Reading course performance as well as standardized test scores. Students enrolled in this class will take the English Language Arts Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

MATH 8
1308 Math 8
Math 8 will provide students with a foundation of mathematical reasoning mainly focused on algebraic concepts. Students will explore number theories and their real world applications as well as demonstrate a mastery of single variable equations and functions. A focus will be directed towards the five eligible contents specific to the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. Upon completion, students will have attained the knowledge necessary to begin Algebra 1 the following year. Students enrolled in this class will take the Mathematics Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

ALGEBRA 1
1318 Algebra 1
This Algebra 1 course will develop algebraic concepts and methods skills which will enable students to represent situations involving variable quantities with expressions, equations, inequalities, word problems, and matrices. These skills will be developed through symbolism and mathematical abstraction. The students will demonstrate their ability to transform algebraic ideas to solve equations, inequalities, and linear systems. The ideas of relations, lines and slope, along with linear functions will be discussed. This course is aligned to the Pennsylvania Keystone Algebra 1 eligible content. Students enrolled in this class will take the Mathematics Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) and the Algebra 1 Keystone Assessment.

“Pure mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.”
~ Albert Einstein
GEOMETRY
1301 Geometry
Through the development of axiom and postulates students will explore deductive reasoning. Geometric concepts relating angles, segments, areas, triangles, and other polygons are proven. This course develops logical thinking while exploring the relationship of geometric figures. Students enrolled in this class will take the Mathematics Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

Prerequisite: Earn a culminating grade of an 80% or better in Algebra 1

LIFE SCIENCE
1408 Life Science
This year long course focuses on ecology and basic biology. The course begins with students exploring the interactions between the nonliving parts of the ecosystem and how they affect the living things on Earth. Next, students investigate the characteristics of living things and how they interact with one another. The class also explores the ways in which human activity influences the ecosystem. Students take a focused view of life at the cellular level where they learn various cell processes such as photosynthesis, respiration and cell division. This leads to the investigation of DNA, genetics and ultimately evolution. The course concludes with a survey of the catalogue of life from simple bacteria to complex vertebrates with special attention given to the plant and animal life of Pennsylvania. Students enrolled in this class will take the Science Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

PHYSICAL SCIENCE
1409 Physical Science
Physical Science will provide students with a deeper understanding of the interrelationship between matter and energy. Students will be provided opportunities to explore the physical and chemical nature of the world around them through meaningful hands-on experiences. The course will also teach and develop the fundamental skills in the use of scientific equipment and experimental procedures for future learning within the field of science. Students enrolled in this class will take the Science Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

EARLY AMERICAN HISTORY
1228 Early American History
This course will cover the time period of Indian discovery to the end of the War Between the States. With this as a foundation, the course will proceed to emphasize the following major units: The American Indian, Discovery and Exploration, Colonial, Revolution, Articles of Confederation, Constitution, Expansion/Regionalism, War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, and Reconstruction Era. Current events will also be included throughout the course.
ART 8
1903 Art 8
Art 2 will continue students’ study of the visual arts introduced in seventh grade Art I. They will continue to advance their skills in artistic and perceptual awareness using various media, tools, and processes. Throughout the process, students will connect art history, artist styles, media, etc. Students will also incorporate technology into the curriculum, with the use of 1:1 device, and a variety of apps. Visual projects will be a culmination of students’ research, understanding of a specific artist life/style, use of media, and incorporate fine motor skills, creativity, knowledge of materials. Students will have the opportunity to incorporate a personal touch into these projects. Students will deliver an oral presentation, developing specific speaking skills, volume, confidence, body language, etc. The art of Photography will also be explored as students learn about the optics of lenses and temperature of light, digital cameras and software. They will relate photography to optics and its influence on abstraction and Impressionism.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION 8
1808 Technology Education 8
Eighth grade Technology Education gives students an opportunity to relate what they learn in the core curriculum to real world applications. Enrolled students will have an opportunity to investigate 2D design, 3D design, robotics, video game design, CAD/CAM, and programming using systems such as Python, Robot C, and GML. Students will develop authentic projects and create new works to demonstrate a full understanding of the concepts and software presented in the class.

EXPLORATORY FRENCH & SPANISH
1614 Exploratory French & Spanish
This course will provide students the opportunity to explore both Spanish and French. During the course, students will acquire an understanding of how to be a successful world language student. They will learn to communicate in each language at a Novice Low level, explore important cultural information about the people who speak each language, and discuss how their own language developed along with how French and Spanish have influenced English.
PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 8
1332 Boys' Physical Education/Health  1333 Girls' Physical Education/Health
This course will educate and encourage students to understand the benefits associated with good health and fitness habits as well as providing them with the tools needed to attain both. Knowledge gained through this course will help promote an ongoing healthy, active lifestyle by developing good sportsmanship, fair play, and meaningful recreational habits. Student activities will include: Endurance Games, Strength and Muscle Development in the weightroom, and Recreational Games. Additionally, students will obtain essential information that can ultimately protect and preserve life, such as how to safeguard and prevent unwanted non communicable diseases.

Eighth grade Health will educate students on the ability to identify and handle various types of emergency situations, as well as obtain basic concepts of CPR, AED, and first aid. Students will discover the different systems of the body and are introduced to the effects that certain behaviors have on those body systems. Opioid specifics will be examined as students become aware of the differences between prescription painkillers, heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil. Furthermore, changes in development and function of body systems will be discussed in terms of maturation, as students develop a full understanding of gender specific adolescent growth and puberty. The topics included in this course are: Body Systems, Handling Emergencies, Health & Personal Development, Communicable/Non Communicable Diseases, and Human Development. Opioids will be thoroughly discussed in depth according to state requirements.

BAND
1910 Band
Eighth grade Band will continue students' instrumental studies in an ensemble setting, meeting three days out of each six-day cycle. Students play a varied repertoire of music and further develop their ensemble skills. Band members' time will be divided among the following areas: technical study, aural skills, music history, class discussion, and semi-private instruction. Students will perform in two major concerts (winter and spring) and will have opportunities to play in auxiliary ensembles for pep rallies, special events, school assemblies, etc.

CHORUS
1905 Chorus 8
Chorus will give students the opportunity to sing with proper expression, technical accuracy, posture and embouchure, breathing technique, and tone production. Students will explore different styles of choral literature and languages along with music theory skills. Students will showcase their musical skills at the required winter and spring concerts.

Select Chorus is an honors ensemble and is selected by audition only. The ensemble performs with the 8th grade chorus at the winter and spring concerts in addition to performing a select repertoire on their own.

Exceptionally Prepared for Success
MUSIC
1908 Class Guitar
This course will focus mainly on learning to play the guitar. Students will use a method book to develop proper technique and playing ability. By the end of the school year, students will be able to read notes on the first four strings, chords, tabs, and be able to find pieces of music to play independently. Throughout the year, classes will be broken into sections to provide a variety of small exercises and projects which pertain to the history of the guitar and various unique instruments.

ORCHESTRA
1911 8th Grade String Orchestra
Orchestra will provide students with an opportunity to enhance and develop their ability to play music as a group and individuals. Students will focus on improving their posture, bow usage, vibrato, tempo, intonation, and finger position. The study of these skills will enable students to play and perform a more challenging repertoire. All students of various skills are welcome to join orchestra. There will be opportunities for beginners as well as solo and group pieces for more advanced musicians. Students will be able to showcase their musical skills at the required concerts throughout the year.

WORLD LANGUAGE LEVEL 1
1634 Spanish I 1644 French I
This course is a performance-to-proficiency based curriculum designed to develop learners’ communication skills and intercultural competencies. These skills and competencies will prepare students to interact with people in our nation and around the world as well as investigate and use information from global sources. The five goals of the National World Readiness Standards for Learning Language will be integrated naturally throughout the curriculum. Communication and cultures are addressed in the language and intercultural Can-Do statements in order to participate in multilingual communities at home and around the world. Academic and career connections will be evident in the content-based elements of each theme. Regular comparisons will be made between the learner’s own language and culture and that of the target language. By the end of the course, students will be expected to function at a novice high proficiency level as defined by the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines.

PREREQUISITES:
- Earned a final grade of ‘A’ in English: Advanced 7
- Earned a final grade of ‘A’ in Reading: Advanced 7
- Earned an “advanced” on the 6th grade PSSAs
- Students enrolled in Spanish I or French I in eighth grade are on target to take Advanced Placement courses in the respective language in high school.
### Plum Borough School District School Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Mr. Scott Coulson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CoulsonS@pbsd.net">CoulsonS@pbsd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President - Safe and Supportive Schools Chair</td>
<td>Mrs. Vicky Roessler</td>
<td><a href="mailto:RoesslerV@pbsd.net">RoesslerV@pbsd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Achievement and Activities Chair</td>
<td>Dr. Angela Anderson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:DrAndersonA@pbsd.net">DrAndersonA@pbsd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intergovernmental and Legislative Policy Council - Liaison</td>
<td>Mrs. Sue Caldwell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CaldwellS@pbsd.net">CaldwellS@pbsd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel - Committee Chair</td>
<td>Mr. Scott Kolar</td>
<td><a href="mailto:KolarS@pbsd.net">KolarS@pbsd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forbes Road CTC - Liaison</td>
<td>Mr. Jim Rogers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:RogersJ@pbsd.net">RogersJ@pbsd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget and Finance - Committee Chair</td>
<td>Mr. Steve Schlauch</td>
<td><a href="mailto:SchlauchS@pbsd.net">SchlauchS@pbsd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy - Liaison</td>
<td>Mrs. Karin Acquaviva</td>
<td><a href="mailto:AcquavivaK@pbsd.net">AcquavivaK@pbsd.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities and Operations - Committee Chair</td>
<td>Mr. Rich Zucco</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ZuccoR@pbsd.net">ZuccoR@pbsd.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Plum Borough School District Administrative Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Office Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Dr. Brendan Hyland</td>
<td>412-798-6359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Superintendent K-8</td>
<td>Dr. Rick Walsh</td>
<td>412-798-6370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Superintendent 9-12</td>
<td>Dr. Gail Yamnitzky</td>
<td>412-798-6360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Educational Technology and Innovation</td>
<td>Mr. Daniel Lauletta</td>
<td>412-798-6329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Facilities</td>
<td>Mr. Jim McClelland</td>
<td>412-798-6312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Director</td>
<td>Mr. Scott Mergen</td>
<td>412-798-6388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Special Education</td>
<td>Dr. Ashlea Rineer-Hershey</td>
<td>412-795-0100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief Financial Officer/Right to Know</td>
<td>Mr. John Zahorchak</td>
<td>412-798-6356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Director</td>
<td>Mr. Joshua Shoop</td>
<td>412-798-6318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director of Food Services</td>
<td>Mrs. Jessica Griggle</td>
<td>412-798-6367</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.” ~ Martin Luther King, Jr.