

# Pelham Park Middle School



## Course Selection Guide 2020-2021

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:

Shannon Bogert, 504 and Title II Coordinator  
Floyd Collins, Title IX Coordinator

3113 Cummings Street, Pelham, AL 35124  
205-624-3700

***Pelham City Schools***

Dr. Scott Coefield, Superintendent  
Dr. Justin Hefner, Principal  
Mr. Kevin Finch, Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Alicia Melton, Academic Specialist

**PELHAM PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2016 PELHAM PARK BOULEVARD  
PELHAM, ALABAMA 35124  
PHONE: (205) 624-3702**

***Pelham City Schools  
Board of Education***

Mr. Rick Rhoades, Board President  
Mrs. Angie Hester, Vice President  
Mr. Bob O’Neil  
Ms. Sharon Samuel  
Mr. Allan Wade

***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.***

***Counseling Department***

Ms. Melba Holloway  
*6<sup>th</sup> grade; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Last Name A- L*  
Mrs. Laura Cochran  
*8<sup>th</sup> grade; 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Last Name M- Z*

***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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<p><b><u>English Language Arts (Grades 6,7,8)</u></b></p> <p>Language Arts encompasses all skills related to written and spoken language, 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.</p>	<p><b><u>Accelerated Mathematics (Grade 7) and Advanced Mathematics (Grade 6)</u></b></p> <p>Accelerated and Advanced Mathematics is an accelerated academic course 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.</p>
<p><b><u>Advanced English Language Arts (Grades 6,7,8)</u></b></p> <p>Advanced English Language Arts is an accelerated academic course 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 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.</p>	<p><b><u>Mathematics (Grade 8)</u></b></p> <p>Pre-Algebra 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.</p>
<p><b><u>Mathematics (Grade 6)</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b><u>Algebra I (Grade 8- advanced)</u></b></p> <p>Algebra I is a rigorous study of the fundamental structure of the real number system. Emphasis is placed on algebraic properties and operations needed to solve complex equations. Correlation between equations and their corresponding graphs are a primary focus. Real life application is emphasized throughout the course to develop problem-solving and higher order thinking skills. Calculator use is encouraged when appropriate. <b>Students passing Algebra I will earn one high school credit, and final grades will count toward the high school grade point average (GPA).</b></p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Social Studies (Grade 6)</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Science (Grade 6)</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Social Studies (Grade 7)</u></b></p> <p>Seventh grade Social Studies is comprised 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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Science (Grade 7)</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Social Studies (Grade 8)</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Science (Grade 8)</u></b></p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Advanced Social Studies (Grades 7 and 8)</u></b></p> <p>Advanced Social Studies is an accelerated academic course 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 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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Advanced Science (Grades 7 and 8)</u></b></p> <p>Advanced Science is an accelerated academic course 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 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.</p>

## ELECTIVES (Grade 6)

**Art (semester):** An introduction to basic drawing skills, color theory, and color design.

**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.

**Technology Education (semester):** This introductory 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 typing instruction and an introduction to Microsoft Office applications.

**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.

**Show Choir (semester):** This introductory course is designed for beginning music students to explore popular music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through academic study and performance. By creating, performing, and responding, students will develop basic vocal skills, choreography and movement and sight-reading techniques.

**Spanish (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 Cluster Technologies (semester):** This introductory course exposes students to the 16 career clusters, related pathways, and the core areas of technology.

**Arts Elective: Theatre and Stagecraft (semester):** This introductory course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of theater behind the scenes and on the stage. The class will focus on stagecraft, stage combat, theatrical makeup, stage props, the history of theater, directing, and acting. Students will have the opportunity to discover which components of theatre most interest them. Students may participate in a play as an actor, assistant, or director behind the scenes.

## ELECTIVES (Grade 7)

**Art (semester):** Students study the Principles of Design to conduct an in-depth study of Color Theory, while using a variety of media.

**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.

**Computer Essentials (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.

**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.

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

**Show Choir (semester):** This intermediate course is designed for students to explore popular music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through academic study and performance. By creating, performing, and responding, students will develop basic vocal skills, choreography and movement and sight-reading techniques.

**Theatre (semester):** This intermediate course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of theater behind the scenes and on the stage. The class will focus on stagecraft, stage combat, theatrical makeup, stage props, the history of theater, directing, and acting. Students will have the opportunity to discover which components of theatre most interest them. Students may participate in a play as an actor, assistant, or director behind the scenes.

**Journalism (semester):** This intermediate course introduces students to newspaper study, newspaper production, news information gathering, proofreading, journalistic writing, photography, and digital media and programs related to publication.

## 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)**.

**Business Technology Applications (year-long)**: The course develops students' technological proficiencies in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentations, communications, Internet use, ethics, and careers using technology applications. **Successful completion of BTA yields a high school credit and credential and will count toward the high school grade point average (GPA)**.

**Art (year-long or semester)**: This course builds upon artistic skills to create a foundation for future study in art. The elements and principles of art are fully introduced.

**Teen Connections (year-long or 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.

**Computer Essentials (semester)**: This course emphasizes Microsoft Office applications, internet safety, and other computing skills.

**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.

**Show Choir (semester)**: This course is designed for students to explore popular music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through academic study and performance. By creating, performing, and responding, students will develop basic vocal skills, choreography and movement and sight-reading techniques. Allowing musical experiences to other cultures and disciplines within and outside of the arts, music history and theory are embedded so students may connect these popular vocal style experiences to historical relevance, contemporary issue, and self-reflection.

**Theatre (semester)**: This course will increase students' understanding and appreciation of theater behind the scenes and on the stage. The class will focus on stagecraft, stage combat, theatrical makeup, stage props, the history of theater, directing, and acting. Students will have the opportunity to discover which components of theatre most interest them. Students may participate in a play as an actor, assistant, or director behind the scenes.

**Introduction to Programming (semester)**: This 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.



## **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.

### **Automation and Robotics**

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems.

### **Finance**

Students in the Business Academy will open and run every aspect of a school bookstore. Students will take on all the marketing, advertising, accounting, and day to day operations of the bookstore.

### **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.

## Course Changes

Students and parents should carefully consider student participation in advanced courses. Teacher recommendation and your student's grades and achievement test scores can help you make an informed decision. Course selections are full-year commitments. Students who experience difficulty in advanced level work will be expected to complete the course.

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

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## 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

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## OPTIONAL ADVANCED COURSES

***Advanced Math-*** Grade 6

***Accelerated Math-*** Grade 7

***Algebra I-*** Grade 8 (credit-bearing course)

***Advanced Language Arts-*** Grades 6, 7, 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 students' needs for self- expression, mental alertness, and physical growth. A student who elects to participate is voluntarily making a choice of 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**

**Swimming**

**Softball**

**Golf**

**Bowling**

### ***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 the completion and selling of a large 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, make announcements, maintain signs, conduct student polls, take photos, and write articles.

**Chess:** All experience levels 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 of the home boys' and girls' basketball games, and a local Dance Team Competition.

**Kindness Club:** This club is available to any student in grades 6, 7, or 8. 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.

**Pelham United:** This multicultural club brings cultural awareness to promote understanding and unity and celebrates diverse student backgrounds.

## 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who work together, to promote and encourage a positive school climate. They also have the opportunity to work with administration and students as a liaison in expressing concerns and suggestions. The students also represent PPMS at parent nights, visitor orientations, 5<sup>th</sup> 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).

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

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