

***MOUNT SINAI
MIDDLE SCHOOL***

CURRICULUM GUIDE



Dear Student / Parents:

This curriculum guide has been written to provide you with the course selections available to you.

It is recommended that you take the time to carefully read the course descriptions and that you actively seek the advice of your teachers and counselor. It is important you understand that the State Education Department has made many changes in the requirements for completion of the intermediate-level program, and specific units of study over the past few years. The standards are more stringent, expectations have increased. The better prepared you are for these challenges, the greater your chances for success. One way to do that is to know ahead of time what to expect in each course you are taking.

You will be meeting with your counselor to select courses of study for next year. Use this guide to help you in that process.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hine, Principal

Matthew Dyroff, Director

Elena Graham, Counselor

John Grossman, Counselor

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Raised Requirements

All eighth grade students must pass the core subjects of math, science, social studies and English to be eligible for promotion to high school, Grade 9.

Note: A student failing one (1) or two (2) core subjects may attend summer school and make up a failing grade(s). A student failing three (3) or more core subjects in Grade 8 may be retained in Grade 8 for the following academic year.

Section 100.4 of NYCRR

The following outlines the New York State requirements relating to *Units of Study* by the end of Grade 8.

English Language Arts	2 units of study
Social Studies	2 units of study
Science	2 units of study
Mathematics	2 units of study
Technology Education	1 unit of study
Home and Career Skills	3/4 unit of study
Health Education	1/2 unit of study
The Arts	1/2 unit of study in visual arts; 1/2 unit of study in music
Library and Information Skills	Equivalent of 1 period per week
*Languages Other Than English	At least 1 unit of study by the end of Grade 8
Physical Education	3 periods for 1 semester and 2 periods for the other semester per year

Assessments:

Intermediate-level assessments aligned to the State Learning Standards are administered in Grade 7 in English Language Arts and Mathematics.

In Grade 8 these assessments are administered in English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.

Note:

- (1) The unit of study requirement (180 minutes per week) for one or more subjects may be reduced for students in need of Academic Intervention Services (AIS), but in a manner that does not prevent them from attaining the State learning standards in any area required for graduation or from meeting local standards for promotion.
- (2) Qualified students in Grade 8 shall have the opportunity to take high school courses and receive diploma credit (Section 100.4(c) of NYCRR). Schools must offer Grade 8 acceleration in at least two subjects, one of which must be a mathematics course.
- (3) Study in home and career skills, technology, and health education may begin in Grade 6 if taught by a teacher certified in the area.

*Students who complete courses 1A and 1B in a language other than English no later than the end of Grade 8 must pass the Second Language Proficiency (SLP) exam in order to earn 1 unit of credit toward the high school diploma.

The Special Education Student

Students with learning difficulties, who are classified by the Committee for Special Education (CSE), have access to the full range of programs and services appropriate to their specific needs.

The CSE will consider what instructional techniques and modifications are being provided during the annual review process so that the appropriate recommendations for changes and revisions can be made.

Programs for Accelerated Students

Qualified students in Grade 8 shall have an opportunity to take high school courses and receive diploma credit (Section 100.4(c) of NYCRR). Schools must offer Grade 8 acceleration in at least two subjects, one of which must be a mathematics course. In the Middle School, we offer Algebra 1 and Earth Science to qualified students.

Scheduling/Course Changes

Your schedule for next year is based on the courses you select now. If you have questions after meeting with your counselor, then you would be best served to arrange a follow-up meeting with your parents and the counselor.

Schedule changes in September will be made only if:

- a) a clerical error was made and/or
- b) a student failed a course prerequisite.

Scheduling changes shall be requested in the Guidance Office during the week prior to the opening of school between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. only.

Furthermore, it is expected that **any student enrolling in a course will remain in that course for its duration**. On rare occasion there will be exceptions at the discretion of the principal, but even in these instances, a student will not be allowed to drop a course after the end of the first marking period.

The principal will have the final say on any request to drop a course. The student/parent request to drop a class or change a program is merely a request and is not official until the principal has made the decision.

Course Enrollment

If the total enrollment in any course falls below 20 students, the course will be in jeopardy of not being offered.

ART

Grade 7 Art
No. of Credits: 1/2
Prerequisites: None

7075

This course will provide each student with the opportunity to design an individual portfolio containing 5-10 pieces of art, which includes a process trail of written work, sketches, and ideas. The key structure will be for students to make decisions about works of art that satisfy the learning standards and explore the following concepts:

- Color
- Light
- Shape
- Line
- Composition
- Texture
- Pattern
- Movement

Grade 8 Art
No. of Credits: 1/2
Prerequisites: None

7885

This course will build upon the Grade 7 Art course. Students will develop an individual portfolio consisting of 5-10 pieces of art. These pieces comprise a process trail of written work, sketches, and ideas. The key structuring element will be for students to make decisions about works of art that meet the learning standards and explore concepts of:

- Color
- Light
- Shape
- Line
- Composition
- Texture
- Pattern
- Movement

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Grade 7 Computer Applications
No. of Credits: 1/2
Prerequisites: None

3570

Students use the computer as a problem-solving tool to complete a variety of projects. Students participate in team-building activities that will enhance academic competencies. Use of spreadsheets, word processing and data management are at the core of the course objectives. Students are required to complete the assigned related projects. Computer safety and search techniques using the Internet will also be addressed. Basic introduction to touch keyboarding instruction is provided early in the course.

Grade 8 Computer Applications
No. of Credits: 1/2
Prerequisites: Grade 7 Computer Applications

3572

This course builds on the introductory segment provided in Grade 7 Computer Basic. Keyboarding techniques are practiced. Solving problems using word processing, spreadsheets and using the Internet will be covered. Solving ethical and security problems relating to computers and advanced Internet searching techniques including Boolean operators will be explored. Students will be solving problems independently and in groups.

ENGLISH

Grade 7 English
No. of Credits: 1
Prerequisites: None

2110

English 7 provides a broad overview of the development of American literature. Students will read a range of texts including novels, short stories, poems and articles. Coursework will emphasize informational skills: reading to determine central ideas and claims conveyed in the text, identifying the author's viewpoints, and examining the text's language and craft. Coursework will also emphasize literature skills: analysis of literary concepts, reading for themes, differentiating characters, and recognizing literary elements. The Junior Great Books curriculum will be incorporated into the students experience in literary discussions, focusing on "Shared Inquiry." The discussions help students develop essential literacy skills, reading carefully, thinking critically, listening intently, and speaking and writing persuasively. Through reading selected short stories, thinking about interpretive questions, and participating discussion, Great Books students learn to read for meaning and to support their own interpretation of the text.

Grade 8 English
No. of Credits: 1
Prerequisites: Successful completion of English 7

2120

English 8 continues to focus on a range of literature such as poems, short stories, non-fiction articles and novels. Coursework will continue to emphasize informational skills and literature skills. There will be an emphasis on the interpretation and creation of various genres. Students will be able to further develop their written expression, particularly sentence structure, vocabulary, spelling, and clearly stated topic sentences with supporting details. There will be a continuation of the Junior Great Books curriculum will be incorporated into the students experience in literary discussions, focusing on "Shared Inquiry." The discussions help students develop essential literacy skills, reading carefully, thinking critically, listening intently, as well as speaking and writing persuasively. Through reading various short stories, thinking about interpretive questions, and participating discussion; Junior Great Books students learn to read for meaning and to support their own interpretation of the text.

Grade 8 English Honors
No. of Credits: 1
Prerequisites: 90% GPA in English 7 and/or teacher recommendation.

0186

English 8 Honors course will provide students with a challenging curriculum that teaches to the same standards as the English Language Arts 8 course. At the honors level, extended learning activities will require students to increase their use of critical thinking skills to include analysis, synthesis, and problem solving. The curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a greater focus on the Junior Great Books Curriculum. This involves students in intensive collaborative practice with interpreting outstanding stories drawn from many cultures. It fosters active reading, an exchange of ideas and rigorous individual thinking while still using a shared inquiry approach. Students will be exposed to honors level work in order to introduce and prepare them for possible enrollment in Grade 9 English Honors.

Reading & Writing Workshop – Grade 8
No. of Credits: 1/2
Prerequisites: None

0180

The Reading and Writing Workshop enhances the students' overall writing, reading and listening skills. The course is designed to help students develop strategies to become more comfortable with the writing process as a whole. Students will also read a variety of literature, fiction and non-fiction. These works are intended to familiarize students with a varied range of genres, to serve as prompts and models for their writing and to help deepen their skills as readers.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES HOME AND CAREERS

Grade 7 Home and Careers

6075

No. of Credits: 1/2

Prerequisites: Home & Careers

This course is taught for 20 weeks. It follows the guidelines of the New York State Curriculum. Students will develop, explore and expand on concepts dealing with Food and Nutrition, Child Development, Careers, Relationships, Problem Solving Skills, Entrepreneurship and Clothing and Textiles.

HEALTH

Grade 8 Health

8341

No of Credits: 1/2

Prerequisites: None

This required course addresses three State standards:

- (1) **Personal Health and Fitness** – students will be given the necessary knowledge and skills to establish and maintain physical fitness, participate in physical activity and maintain personal health.
- (2) **A Safe and Healthy Environment** – students will acquire the knowledge and ability necessary to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment.
- (3) **Resource Management** – students will learn how to manage personal and community resources.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Grade 7 Spanish 1A

5313

No. of Credits: See Grade 8 Spanish 1B

Prerequisites: None

Spanish 1A is the first half of a Regents Level I course. Students will receive one high school credit upon satisfactory completion of Spanish 1A, Spanish 1B and a Second Language Proficiency Exam. Students will be introduced to the Spanish language and the cultures of the many and varied people who speak it. The four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are introduced in keeping with the New York State's Regents Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English.

Grade 8 Spanish 1B

5309

No. of Credits: 1

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Spanish 1A

Spanish 1B is the second half of a Regents Level I course. Students will receive one high school credit upon satisfactory completion of Spanish 1A, Spanish 1B and a Second Language Proficiency Exam. Students will continue to explore the Spanish language and the cultures of the many and varied people who speak it. The four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are practiced in keeping with the New York State's Regents Learning Standards for Languages Other Than English.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics 7
No. of Credits: 1
Prerequisites: None

2150

This seventh grade course is designed to prepare the students for progressive mastery of more difficult and complex arithmetical skills. The curriculum ensures a natural development of higher-level problem solving skills and critical thinking. It prepares students to recognize and analyze relations, to communicate mathematical ideas and to use mathematic strategies in solving problems, which exist in and out of mathematics.

Pre-Algebra 7
No. of Credits: 1

0402

Prerequisites: Top 20% GPA in Grade 6 Math and teacher recommendation.
***Score on Math Screening Exam may ultimately be used to determine placement.**

The seventh grade accelerated course will prepare students to make the transition from elementary mathematics to algebra in one year. The course ensures a solid algebra background through a strong development of signed numbers and linear equations. It also develops an introduction to the foundations of geometry from the concept of undefined terms, to angles, to properties of polygons and solids. Students will understand mathematically, by applying mathematics in real-world settings, and by solving problems through integrated study of number systems, geometry, algebra, data analysis, probability, and trigonometry.

Mathematics 8
No of Credits: 1
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Math 7

2160

This course emphasizes pre-algebra skills and concepts, such as variables, equation solving and problem solving. Students will understand mathematics and become mathematically confident by communicating and reasoning mathematically by applying mathematics in real-world settings, and by solving problems through integrated study of number systems, geometry, algebra, data analysis, probability and trigonometry. The course includes an introduction to the Algebra 1 curriculum.

Algebra 1 Regents - Grade 8
No. of Credits: 1

0405

Prerequisites: Minimum 90% GPA in Pre-Algebra 7 and teacher recommendation.
***A score below 90 on the Pre-Algebra 7 Final Exam may ultimately determine placement.**

This course is designed to integrate algebra, geometry and various branches of mathematics including trigonometry. It emphasizes the algebraic background necessary for these students to be fully prepared for higher level math courses. It also delves into coordinate geometry including quadratics (graphically and algebraically) and transformations in the coordinate plane. Enrichment activities will prepare these students with the necessary background for the Algebra 1 Regents exam. Instruction will be provided in using the graphing calculator. At the end of this course, students will take the NYS Algebra 1 Regents Exam.

MUSIC

Grade 7 General Music 7074
No. of Credits: 1/2
Prerequisites: None

This course is for seventh grade students who are not involved in any musical performing group. It is held every other day.

Grade 7 Band 7077
No. of Credits: 1/2
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Grade 6 Band

Students will continue to perform, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. They will improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments. They will develop the abilities to listen, analyze, evaluate and describe music and music performances. The band meets every other day.

Grade 8 Band 7087
No of Credits: 1
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Grade 7 Band

Students continue to perform, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. They will improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments. They will develop the abilities to listen, analyze, evaluate and describe music and music performances at continuing levels of difficulty. The band meets every day.

Grade 7 Chorus 7078
No. of Credits: 1/2
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Grade 6 Chorus

This course will familiarize students with several styles of choral music, including madrigal masses, classical and popular music, folk music, spirituals, etc. Students will learn proper diction, and sing in languages other than English. They will sight read and sing musical notation and perform as a section and a large ensemble. The chorus meets every other day.

Grade 8 Chorus 7088
No. of Credits: 1
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Chorus 7

This course continues to build on the learnings of Chorus 7. Students continue to perform, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. They develop the abilities to listen, analyze, evaluate and describe music and music performances at continuing levels of difficulty. The chorus meets every day.

Grade 7 Orchestra 7076
No. of Credits: 1/2
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Grade 6 Orchestra

Students will continue to perform, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. They will improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments. They will develop the abilities to listen, analyze, evaluate and describe music and music performances. The orchestra meets every other day.

Grade 8 Orchestra

7086

No. of Credits: 1**Prerequisites: Successful completion of Grade 7 Orchestra**

Students continue to perform, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music. They will improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments. They will develop the abilities to listen, analyze, evaluate and describe music and music performances at continuing levels of difficulty. The orchestra meets every day.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION**Grade 7 and Grade 8 Physical Education**

8075/8085

No. of Credits: 1/2**Prerequisites: None**

In Grades 7 and 8, all students must successfully complete a combined two years of physical education in order to meet New York State intermediate-level standards for promotion. For each year of successful completion, the student will earn ½ credit. The physical education program in the middle school is designed to enhance students' basic motor and manipulative skills. They will attain competency in a variety of physical activities and proficiency in a few select complex motor and sports activities. The program prepares students to live a physically active lifestyle and to maintain a health enhancing level. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that students demonstrate responsible personal and social behavior in physical education.

SCIENCE

Grade 7 Science
No. of Credits: 1
Prerequisites: None

2170

This course focuses on understanding important relationships, processes, mechanisms and application of concepts in the life sciences, metric measurement and conversion, states of matter and energy, chemistry, modern genetics (DNA structure and function), as well as life processes as they relate to cellular respiration and photosynthesis. Students will develop skills in applying existing understanding of scientific and technological ideas and principles, and the ability to successfully communicate information regarding natural phenomena in a variety of modes.

Grade 8 Science
No of Credits: 1
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Science 7

2180

This course involves the study of topics within the science fields of physics and chemistry. Three major units of study during the course of the year include science fundamentals, force and energy and the nature of matter. In the fundamentals unit, students learn skills and tools involved with measurement, problem solving utilizing the scientific method, laboratory safety and graphing techniques. The force and energy unit will allow students to explore Newton's laws, forms of energy and construction and benefits of simple machines. The nature of matter unit will involve studying the forms and classification of matter and the study of the atom and periodic table of elements. During this course, students will review the entire four year middle school science curriculum in preparation for the New York State Intermediate-Level Science Exam.

Earth Science Regents – Grade 8
No. of Credits: 1

5565

Prerequisites: Top 20% GPA in Science 7 and teacher recommendation.
***A score below 90 on the Science 7 Final Exam may ultimately determine placement.**

This course fulfills the ninth grade Regents science requirement. Areas of study include energy and measurement, properties of earth materials such as rocks, water and air, measuring the Earth, motions of the Earth, deep space, meteorology, erosion, environmental problems and geologic history. This is a laboratory-oriented course and students must meet New York State Education Department requirements by completing 30 lab hours (1200 minutes) of lab activity and a satisfactory written report of each activity. It meets 7 1/2 periods per week in order to meet this requirement. Students will take the Physical Setting: Earth Science Regents Exam at the end of the year.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 7 Social Studies

2130

No. of Credits: 1

Prerequisites: None

The history of the United States is the history of a great experiment in democracy. Social Studies content in Grade 7 is the first part of a chronological study of the *United States and New York State History*. The major units of study include: The Global Heritage of the American People prior to 1500; European Exploration and Colonization of the Americas; A Nation is Created; Experiments in Government; and Life in the New Nation.

Grade 8 Social Studies

2140

No. of Credits: 1

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Social Studies 7

Social Studies 8 is the second part of a two-year course titled *United States and New York State History*. The content of this course is divided into eleven units, six of which are studied in eighth grade.

- Unit Six Division and Reunion
- Unit Seven An Industrial Society
- Unit Eight The United States as an Independent Nation in an Increasingly Interdependent World
- A midterm exam will be administered in late January / early February.
- Unit Nine The United States Between the War
- Unit Ten The United States Assumes Worldwide Responsibilities
- Unit Eleven The Changing Nature of the American People from World War II to the present

Grade 8 Social Studies Honors

0286

No. of Credits: 1

Prerequisites: 90% GPA in Social Studies 7 and English 7, and/or teacher recommendation.

The eighth grade program of study consists of a comprehensive course on United States History, from the Reconstruction period to present day. The honors course will offer enrichment through reading, writing and research activities. Activities will take students above and beyond the traditional curriculum. The course is designed for students who are willing to work above grade level, have the ability to work independently, manage time responsibly, and have analytical and critical thinking skills. Students will be exposed to Advanced Placement level work in order to introduce and prepare them for possible enrollment in AP World History in Grade 9.

TECHNOLOGY

Grade 7 and Grade 8 Technology

6076/6676

No. of Credits: 1 (upon successful completion of Technology 7 & 8)

Prerequisites: None

The purpose of this course is to reinforce math and science skills in a hands-on-learning environment. Students will be researching, exploring, designing, building, testing, and evaluating different theories, methods, materials, processes and products to get better acquainted with the world we live in. This course will also give students a chance to develop and practice learning methods such as problem solving, working in teams, following detailed instructions, visualization and conceptualization. Grade level learning activities include (but are not limited to) the following:

Grade 7

Bridge Engineering & Model Bridge Project
Magnetic Levitation Project
Technology Article Presentation
Wood Processing Unit

Grade 8

Skyscraper Engineering & Model Tower Project
CO₂ Dragster Project
Manufacturing of a Mass Production Project
Catapult Design & Construction

MOUNT SINAI MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE PROGRAM WORKSHEET
Grade 6 to 7

Name: _____ Teacher: _____
Last First

All students will be enrolled in the following courses as required by Section 100.4 of NYCRR:

English	5313 (Spanish 1A)
Social Studies	
*Math	Art AND Computers
Science	Physical Education
One of the following (based on Grade 6 placement):	Technology AND Family Consumer Sciences
• Band	
• Chorus	
• Orchestra	

*Enrollment in Pre-Algebra 7 will be based upon the selection criteria described within the Curriculum Guide.

Academic Intervention Services (AIS):

English Language Arts AIS 7: Delivery and level of services will be based on multiple measurements, including but not limited to, Grade 6 English performance and teacher recommendation.

Math AIS 7: Enrollment in this course will be based on multiple measurements, including but not limited to, Grade 6 math performance and teacher recommendation. This course will be scheduled as a "zero" period prior to the start of the regular school day.

Special Education and Support Services: Student schedules will be developed in accordance with their Individualized Education Plan, which is developed and reviewed annually by the Committee for Special Education.

MOUNT SINAI MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE PROGRAM WORKSHEET Grade 7 to 8

All students will be enrolled in the following courses as required by Section 100.4 of NYCRR:

*English

*Social Studies

*Math

*Science

One of the following (based on Grade 7 placement):

- Band
- Chorus
- Orchestra

Spanish (based on Grade 7 enrollment)

Reading & Writing Workshop **AND Technology

Health **AND** Physical Education

*Enrollment in Algebra 1, Earth Science, Social Studies 8 Honors and/or English 8 Honors will be based upon the selection criteria described within the Curriculum Guide.

**Students enrolled in Earth Science will be scheduled for Earth Science Lab in lieu of Reading & Writing Workshop as per NYS lab requirements.

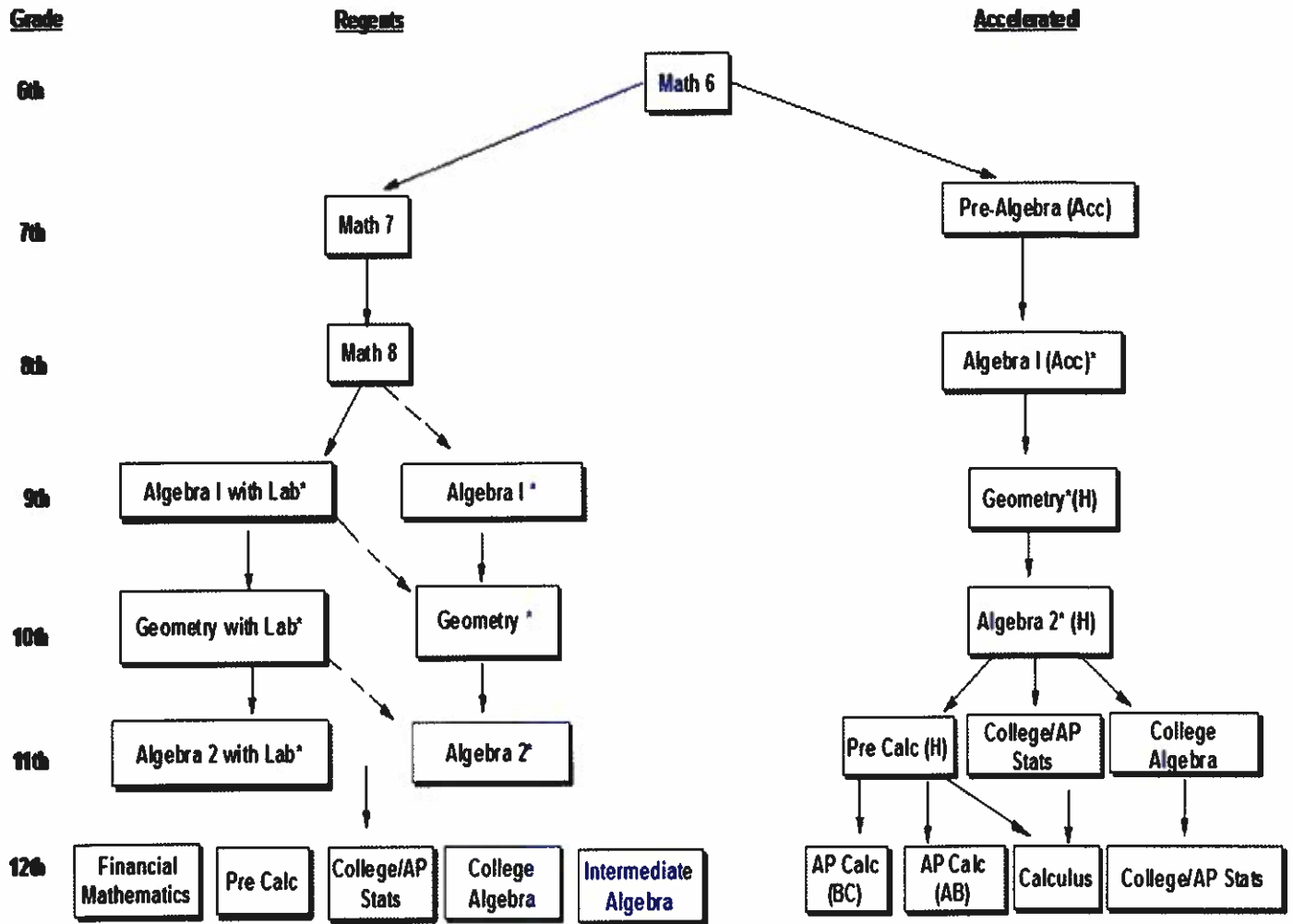
Academic Intervention Services:

English Language Arts AIS 8: Delivery and level of services will be based on multiple measurements, including but not limited to, Grade 7 English performance and teacher recommendation.

Math AIS 8: Enrollment in this course will be based on multiple measurements, including but not limited to, Grade 7 math performance and teacher recommendation. This course will be scheduled as a "zero" period prior to the start of the regular school day.

Special Education and Support Services: Student schedules will be developed in accordance with their Individualized Education Plan, which is developed and reviewed annually by the Committee for Special Education.

MATH

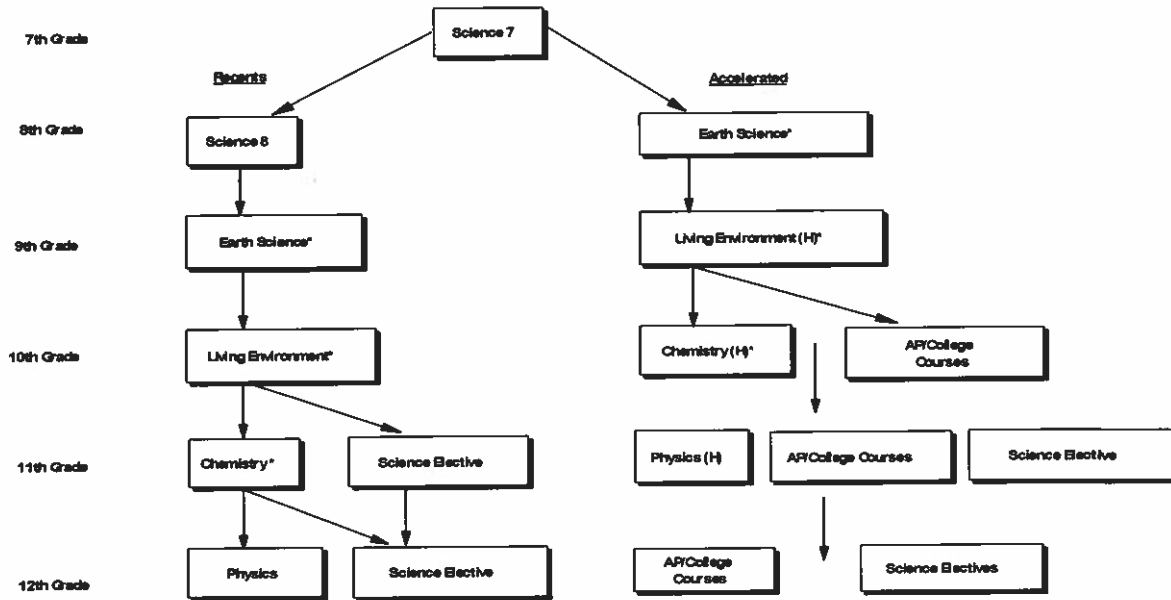


*Required for Advanced Regents Diploma

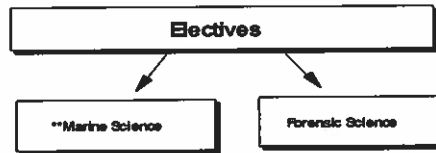
Lab classes meet daily with a double period every other day.

Note: Students who excel in Regents classes may be recommended for Honors classes.
 Students who do not meet expectations in Honors classes will be recommended for Regents classes.

SCIENCE



* Required for an Advanced Regents Diploma



** may be taken as a College Course through Stony Brook University (MAR 104)

