

Henry Viscardi School

Course Offerings

Middle School Grades 6 - 8



September 2016 – June 2017

MISSION STATEMENT

The Henry Viscardi School (HVS) is a teaching community of students, parents, teachers, staff, and volunteers dedicated to empowering students with physical disabilities and health impairments to enable them to be active, independent, self-sufficient participants in society. The Henry Viscardi School creates supportive and challenging learning environments and integrated community based services where all students are treated with dignity and respect.

Beyond a traditional academic education, HVS offers and develops unique and innovative programs of excellence to address the scholastic, recreational, health, physical, vocational, and social needs of its students. The school shares its knowledge and skills to improve the education and lives of students with disabilities within their communities and throughout the world.

HISTORY

Founded in 1962 as the Human Resources School, the Henry Viscardi School (HVS) provides quality education for students with physical disabilities.

HENRY VISCARDI SCHOOL STAFF DIRECTORY

ADMINISTRATION

Angelo Zegarelli, Assistant Principal	465-1695
Jeanette Glover, Clinical Support Services and Admissions Coordinator	465-1673
Gail Nolan, Head Nurse	465-1650

PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK and MEDICAL

Amanda Caccavo, Social Worker	465-1689
Dr. Ronald Friedman, Psychologist	465-1656
Dr. Joan Adickman, Psychologist	465-1687
Monica Snyder, Guidance Counselor/Transition Coordinator	465-1698

Henry Viscardi Middle School

6th Grade Curriculum

English Language Arts

Reading:

- Decoding Including Phonics and Structural Analysis
- Print Awareness
- Fluency
- Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Development
- Comprehension Strategies
- Motivation to Read

Writing:

- Composition
- Motivation to Write

Listening and Speaking

Science

Physical Setting and Living Environment:

- Students will understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to the physical setting and living environment and recognize the historical development of ideas in science.

Social Studies

- Geography of the Eastern Hemisphere, Middle East , Africa Asia and Europe
- Early Civilizations
- Colonization and African cultures and civilizations
- Dynasties and social hierarchies in Asia
- Formation of modern Asia
- Europe and Colonization
- Formation of modern Europe:
- French Revolution

Mathematics

- Number Sense
- Maps, Charts and Graphs
- Geometry
- Multiplication and Division
- Fractions and Decimals
- Algebra, Probability and Statistics
- Measurement and Problem Solving

Specials

Technology
Health
Swimming
Adapted PE
Art
Music

Henry Viscardi School

7th and 8th Grade Courses

7th Grade

Course

English Language Arts

Mathematics 7

Science 7 (Life Science)

U.S History

(First year of a two year sequence)

Adapted Phys. Ed.

Music

Multimedia Technology

Family and Consumer Science

Art

Health

Library Science

7th Grade Assessment Tests

Mathematics Assessment

English Language Arts Assessment

8th Grade

Course

English Language Arts

Mathematics 8

Science 8 (Earth/Physical)

U.S. History

Second year of a two year sequence)

Adapted Phys. Ed.

Spanish

Multimedia Technology

Family and Consumer Science

8th Grade Assessment Tests

Mathematics Assessment

English Language Arts Assessment

NYS Intermediate Level Science Test

Individual Learning Needs

- Students are exposed to the same curriculum/content addressing the NYS Standards; however individual learning styles and needs are met through adapting the curriculum/content as per the Individualized Educational Plan.
- Identification of student's learning style/needs will determine any adaptations to be made to the content/curriculum format.

Possible Format Adaptations

Rewrite with simplified language

Reorganize

Study Guides

Books on CD

Define and Illustrate words

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS GRADE 7

English Language Arts 7

This is a year long course combining the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The course content will review basic skills previously taught and teach new skills. This course will include exposure to a variety of literary forms and techniques. Emphasis will focus on composition, with focus on process writing: the comparison and contrast, a descriptive statement, a literary response, and the expository five paragraph essay. In addition, preparation and oral presentation of speeches is prominent. This course is intended to be the link from elementary language to junior high English Language Arts. NYS ELA Assessment is given in May. This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Mathematics 7

This is a year long course where students will build on math skills they have learned in previous years. In addition, they will explore basic operations with fractions, decimals, number theory, measurement, data interpretation and statistics, geometry, integers, algebraic concepts and percents. NYS Math Assessment is given in May. This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Science 7 – Life Science

This one year course is a continuation and an expansion of material presented previously in sixth grade science. The topics covered here will include the classification of living organisms; differences and similarities of animals, plants and other organisms; ecology and human interactions with the environment; genetics; human anatomy and physiology. The content of this course and the relevant accompanying skills are detailed in MST Standard 4-The Living Environment from The Intermediate Level Science Core Curriculum. The course relies upon a student centered, problem-solving approach. The general process skills for MST Standards 1, 2, 6, and 7, such as using a dichotomous key to classify organisms, are an integral part of that approach. The material covered in this course is part of the preparation necessary for the Intermediate-Level Science Test given at the end of eighth grade.

U.S. History (7th Grade)

The first year of a two-year course that highlights major events in U.S. history from European discovery to the civil war with emphasis on economics, geography, and government in accordance with New York State social studies standards. Students learn how political and social decisions help shape U.S. history through critical analysis of primary and secondary source documents. Students also strengthen social studies skills such as map and graph reading and editorial cartoon analysis, while gaining an understanding of historical themes and concepts. This course is also designed to help prepare students for the New York State Intermediate Level Social Studies Assessment given at the end of eighth grade.

Art

This is a one semester course. Students will understand and create works of art using a variety of mediums. The students will explore what it means to be an artist and communicate through their artwork. This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Adapted Physical Education

Students will develop the necessary knowledge and skills to establish and maintain physical fitness, participate in physical activities and maintain personal health. This is accomplished through team sports, outdoor activities and leisure activities. The team sports consist of baseball, football, hockey, and basketball. The personal living skills that are developed through team sport activities are as follows: cardiovascular fitness, musculoskeletal fitness, cooperation, risk-taking, safety, initiative, leadership, trust and respect. Additional activities include outdoor track, weight training, leisure activities (chess, checkers and board games) and adaptive gymnastics (simple stunts, tumbling, and small apparatus). This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Family and Consumer Science

This one semester course is designed to provide students with the knowledge of the elements of good nutrition in order to maintain personal fitness and health. Students will acquire the knowledge and the ability necessary to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment. The curriculum is adapted to meet individual needs and promote independence. Students will learn concepts and skills necessary to meet home and family responsibilities. This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Health

This one semester course is designed to provide students with the knowledge of personal growth and development, personal health maintenance, safety, nutrition, consumer health, and other health related areas. The health program also includes study in the areas of mental and social health to enable students to demonstrate personally and socially responsible behaviors. This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Library Science

The Library Science course meets one period each week during the seventh and eighth grade school year. This course enables students to grow as individuals by fostering a love of reading and learning; teaching students critical thinking, technology, and literacy skills to ask good questions and investigate the answers; offering equitable access to resources and technology; and helping students make sense of the information they find to develop new understanding. This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Music

This is a one semester course. The students are responsible for a continuation of music literacy which involves knowing the elements of music. Students will review and advance in the knowledge of music notation using and composing in the treble clef and having the basic knowledge of the base clef. The students will learn what reading music involves and play what they read on various pitched/unpitched percussion instruments. Students will be aware of how a melody is constructed and how to form basic intervals. There is an emphasis on knowing the families of the symphony orchestra and being able to identify some of the various instruments within each family by name and sound. Students will be introduced to the culture of music with more advanced seasonal holiday songs, integrating music with other subjects. Students will be exposed to various styles and genres in music appreciation.

7th grade Media Technology

Students will create a customized multimedia PowerPoint presentation on Aerospace with videos, music and narration. They will learn to use the toolbars to create tables, shapes, word art, text formatting, custom animations, transitions, charts and smart art.

The main focus of the presentation will cover 4 main topics, Flight, the SLS Launch Vehicle, the International Space Station and the Mars Rover.

An emphasis will be placed on improving computer literacy skills using Windows 10.

The curriculum is adapted to meet individual needs and promote independence.

This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS GRADE 8

English Language Arts 8

This is a year long course combining the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The course content will review basic skills previously taught and teach new skills. This course will include exposure to a variety of literary forms and techniques. Emphasis will be on composition, with focus on process writing: the comparison and contrast, a descriptive segment, a literary response and the persuasive five-paragraph essay. In addition, preparation and oral presentation of speeches is prominent. This course is intended to be the bridge from junior high school to high school English Language Arts. NYS ELA Assessment is given in May. This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Mathematics 8

This is a year long course. Students will transition from concrete to abstract relationships in preparation for high school mathematic courses. Concepts included are real numbers, algebraic concepts, geometric principles, ratio, proportion, percents, number theory, probability and statistics, measurements, data analysis, the coordinate system and basic trigonometry. A variety of problem solving techniques and technology will be used when applying these concepts, which will enable students to solve real life problems. NYS Math Assessment is given in May. This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Science 8– Physical / Earth Science

This course is a year long course. In this course students will explore the most important concepts of the physical sciences: chemistry, geology, oceanography, meteorology, astronomy, and physics. The key ideas to be presented in class, as well as the relevant accompanying skills, are outlined in MST Standard 4-The Physical Setting from the Intermediate Level Science Core Curriculum. This course relies upon a student centered, problem-solving approach. The general process skills for the MST Standards 1, 2, 6, and 7, such as identifying cause and effect relationships, are an integral part of that approach. The material covered in this course is the final preparation for the Intermediate-Level Science Test which all students are required to take at the end of eighth grade.

Spanish 8

This year long course is an introductory course to the Spanish language. Instruction focuses on developing the four basic communication skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as cultural understanding skills addressed by the New York State Standards. Various strategies, collaborative activities, and materials are employed. Lessons are conducted in Spanish and English. *This course is required in order to gain high school credit for Spanish 9.*

U.S. History (8th Grade)

This is the second year of a 2-year course of study that highlights major events in U.S. history from the civil war to the present period with emphasis on economics, geography, and government in accordance with New York State Social Studies Learning Standards. Students learn how political and social decisions help shape U.S. history through critical analysis of primary and secondary source documents. Students also strengthen social studies skills such as map and graph reading and editorial cartoon analysis, while gaining an understanding of historical themes and concepts.

Adapted Physical Education

This course is a continuation of the seventh grade adapted physical education program. Students will develop the necessary knowledge and skills to establish and maintain physical fitness, participate in physical activities and maintain personal health. This is accomplished through team sports, outdoor activities and leisure activities. The team sports consist of baseball, football, hockey, and basketball. The personal living skills that are developed through team sport activities are as follows: cardiovascular fitness, musculoskeletal fitness, cooperation, risk-taking, safety, initiative, leadership, trust and respect. Additional activities include outdoor track, weight training, leisure activities (chess, checkers and board games) and adaptive gymnastics (simple stunts, tumbling, and small apparatus). This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

Family and Consumer Science

This one semester course is designed to further provide students to meet their adult responsibilities as a member of a family, a consumer, a home manager, and wage earner. Students will develop personal and adapted daily living skills which will enhance employment potential and independence. The curriculum is adapted to meet individual needs and promote independence. This course meets the NY State Learning Standards.

8th Grade Media Technology

This is a one semester course whereby students will improve their computer literacy skills using Windows 10 through their work in Adobe Photoshop Elements. Students will be able to express their creative side using this software as they learn how to edit images and photos using the creative tools and menus.

Students will be able to improve their ability to work independently using their assistive technology to access the computer if needed.

The curriculum is adapted to meet individual needs and promote independence.