



Henry Viscardi School at The Viscardi Center

**Course Booklet
Middle School
Grades 6-8
2022-2023**



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Message from Administration

Dear Henry Viscardi School Community,

At HVS we strive to provide our students with every opportunity to achieve academic success and excellence in an environment that, with Social and Emotional Learning embedded within the curriculum, focuses on the best interests of each individual student. We are committed to providing programs and opportunities that will support all students as they endeavor throughout their school years.

HVS students receive instruction aligned with the New York State Learning Standards. Students' Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs) identify the essential skills and knowledge that a student with a disability needs to acquire to master grade-level content standards. Content, methodology, or delivery of instruction is adapted, as appropriate, to address the unique needs of our students and to ensure access of the student to the general curriculum so that he or she can meet the education standards that apply to all students.

This HVS course booklet has been prepared so students and parents/guardians may familiarize themselves with the curriculum and courses offered. The HVS Guidance Counselor/Transition Coordinator is available to answer any questions you may have as well.

We are hopeful this guide proves to be helpful and informative to both you and your child.

Sincerely,

Angelo Zegarelli

Angelo Zegarelli, Head of School

Jessica Caggiano

Jessica Caggiano, Assistant Head of School

Jeanette Glover

Jeanette Glover, Clinical Support Services and Admission Coordinator

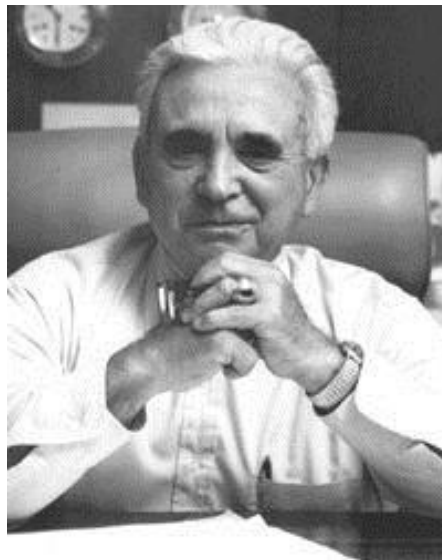
Mission Statement

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, and 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 by Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., and the first of its kind, the Henry Viscardi School was a place where children with physical disabilities and rare illnesses could go to school, just like other children. Today, the Henry Viscardi School continues to be an alternative choice for parents and a resource to school districts that cannot accommodate the academic, health, and assistive technology needs of children, Pre-K through Grade 12, with severe disabilities.



Henry Viscardi School

Staff Directory

Administration		
Angelo Zegarelli	Head of School	azegarelli@henryviscardischool.org
Jessica Caggiano	Assistant Head of School	jcaggiano@henryviscardischool.org
Jeanette Glover	Clinical Support Services & Admissions Coordinator	jglover@henryviscardischool.org

Guidance		
Monica Adams	Guidance Counselor/ Transition Coordinator	516-465-1698 madams@henryviscardischool.org

Henry Viscardi School

6th Grade Courses

Courses	
English Language Arts	
Mathematics	
Social Studies	
Science	
Aviation Science (Special STEM Course)	
Health	
Swim/Gym	
Physical Education	
Art	
Music	
6th Grade Assessment Tests	
English Language Arts Assessment	
Mathematics Assessment	

Henry Viscardi School

7th Grade Courses

Courses	
English Language Arts 7	
Mathematics 7	
Social Studies 7 - U.S. History (First Year of a Two-Year Sequence)	
Science 7 (Intermediate Science 7)	
Technology 7	
STEM	
Physical Education 7	
Music 7	
Art 7	
7 th Grade Assessment Tests	
English Language Arts Assessment	
Mathematics Assessment	

Henry Viscardi School

8th Grade Courses

Courses
English Language Arts 8 Mathematics 8 Social Studies 8 - U.S. History (Second Year for a Two-Year Sequence) Science 8 (Intermediate Science 8) Spanish 8 Technology 8 Health 8 Physical Education 8
8 th Grade Assessment Tests
English Language Arts Assessment Mathematics Assessment NYS Intermediate Level Science Test

Henry Viscardi School

English Language Arts Course Descriptions

English Language Arts – 6th Grade

English Language Arts focuses on a combination of reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Reading

Students will be reading novels and informational texts including stories, poems, historical novels, realistic fiction, and fantasy. Areas of focus are:

- Identifying key ideas and details by looking at the five elements of reading comprehension: plot, characters, theme, setting, and conflict.
- Looking at the language and organization of the text.
- Comparing and contrasting different texts of the same story and comparing the text to different media (for example comparing a novel to a movie).

Writing

Students will be working on their ability to write arguments, informative/explanatory texts, and narratives for all content areas.

In their writing, students will continue to develop language use- from vocabulary and syntax as well as organization of ideas.

The New York State English Language Arts Assessment is given in the Spring.

English Language Arts – 7th Grade

This is a year-long course combining the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. This course is an expansion of and builds upon material previously presented in 6th Grade.

Middle School reinforces and enhances:

- Reading comprehension through the study of non-fictional and fictional short stories, poetry, and novels.
- Writing through the development of personal narratives, expository essays, and poetry.
- Speaking through oral presentations and small group work.

This course is intended to be the bridge from middle school to high school English Language Arts. This course meets the New York State Learning Standards.

The New York State English Language Arts Assessment is given in the Spring.

English Language Arts – 8th Grade

This is a year-long course combining the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Middle School reinforces and enhances:

- Reading comprehension through the study of non-fictional and fictional short stories, poetry, and novels.
- Writing through the development of personal narratives, expository essays, and poetry.
- Speaking through oral presentations and small group work.

This course is intended to be the bridge from Middle School to High School English Language Arts. This course meets the New York State Learning Standards.

The New York State English Language Arts Assessment is given in the Spring.

Henry Viscardi School

Mathematics Course Descriptions

Mathematics – 6th Grade

Instructional time will focus on:

- Connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems.
- Completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers.
- Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations.
- Developing understanding of statistical thinking.

The New York State Math Assessment is given in the Spring.

Mathematics – 7th Grade

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 percent. This course meets the New York State Learning Standards.

The New York State Math Assessment is given in the Spring.

Mathematics – 8th Grade

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. This course meets the New York State Learning Standards.

The New York State Math Assessment is given in the Spring.

Henry Viscardi School

Social Studies Course Descriptions

Social Studies – 6th Grade
Students will focus on the studies of ancient civilizations in the Eastern Hemisphere. Students will be learning about the development of cultures, civilizations, empires, and the interactions between societies and how they influenced modern society.
Social Studies 7 – U.S. History – 7th Grade
This is 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.
Social Studies 8 – U.S. History – 8th Grade
This is the second year of a two-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.

Henry Viscardi School

Science Course Descriptions

Science – 6th Grade

Students will be exploring the world of Life Science. Practical skills and hands-on experiences are emphasized. Topics we will be covering include Classification, Cells, Tissues and Organs, Genetics and Heredity, Plants, Animals, Adaptations and Ecology. The topics covered in this class are guided by the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards.

Science – 7th Grade

Life Science

This year-long course is a continuation and an expansion of material presented previously in 6th Grade.

The topics covered in this class include:

- Structure, function, and information processing
- Matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems
- Interdependent relationships in ecosystems
- Growth, development, and reproduction of organisms
- Natural selection and adaptations
- Human impacts

The topics covered in this class are guided by the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards.

Science – 8th Grade

The topics covered in this class include:

Physical Science

- Structure and Properties of Matter
- Chemical Reactions
- Forces and Interactions
- Energy
- Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation

Earth Science

- Space Systems
- History of Earth
- Earth's Systems
- Weather and Climate
- Human Impacts

The topics covered in this class are guided by the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards.

The New York State Intermediate Level Science Test is given in the Spring.

Henry Viscardi School

Spanish Course Descriptions

Spanish – 8th Grade

This year-long course is an introductory course to the Spanish language. Instruction focuses on developing the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, and reading as well as a cultural understanding of various Spanish-speaking countries and famous Hispanic people. Various strategies, collaborative activities, and materials are employed. Lessons are conducted in Spanish and English. Examples of topics covered are greetings, weather vocabulary, family vocabulary, noun/adjective agreement, and regular verbs in the present indicative tense.

This course is required in order to gain High School credit for Spanish 9.

Henry Viscardi School

Physical Education & Health Course Descriptions

Physical Education – 6th, 7th, 8th Grade

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 New York State Learning Standards.

Health – 6th & 8th Grade

This 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 topics covered in this course are:

- Physical, Mental, Emotional & Social Health
- Promoting safe and Healthy relationships
- Human Body
- Nutrition
- Anti-Bullying
- First Aid
- Personal & Dental Hygiene
- Tobacco

This course meets the New York State Learning Standards.

Henry Viscardi School

The Arts Course Descriptions

Music – 6th & 7th Grade

In this 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.

Art – 6th & 7th Grade

This is a one-semester course. Students will understand and create works of art using a variety of mediums. In working with and manipulating a variety of mediums, students will also develop a deeper understanding of the elements and principles of art and design. The students will explore what it means to be an artist and communicate through their artwork. Students will be exposed to various cultures around the world and are encouraged to explore their own cultures as well as those of others within the class, as it applies to the creative process of visual arts. Students will also be given access to various world art history content throughout the course and should have a basic understanding of key art movements and figures at the conclusion of the course. This course meets the New York State Learning Standards.

Henry Viscardi School

Technology Course Descriptions

Aviation Science (Special STEM Course) – 6th Grade

This course focuses on developing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) skills necessary for future success in many subject areas. Emphasis is on problem-solving, collaboration, and communication while working on STEM projects. This STEM class meets one to two periods a week.

Topics include:

- Investigation, Problem-Solving, Scientific Method
- Principles of Flight, Creating and Testing Models
- History of Aviation, Space Exploration, Related Current Events
- Exploring Concepts in Physical Science, Earth and Space Science

STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics challenges students to improve their problem-solving skills. The topics covered in this class include:

- Asking Questions and Defining Problems
- Developing and Using Models
- Using Mathematics and Computational Thinking
- Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
- Analyzing and Interpreting Data
- Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Engaging in Argument from Evidence
- Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information

Technology and engineering education uses concepts of science and mathematics to guide students in the understanding, design, and development of systems, devices, and products to serve human needs and wants. The topics covered in this class are described in the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards.

Technology – 7th Grade

In an ever-changing world of technology, this course is designed to help students with their computer literacy skills needed to succeed in and out of school. This class aims to help students succeed in all areas of their studies. The students learn how to use the computer safely online and learn how to be good digital and global citizens. This class is project-based and focused predominantly on Microsoft products such as PowerPoint, Word, and Book Creator. The curriculum is adapted to meet the individual needs of each student and promotes independence. This curriculum follows the International Society of Technology Education (ISTE) student standards.

Technology – 8th Grade

This is a continuation of the 7th Grade media technology course. Students continue to grow their computer literacy using more advanced programs. This course is project-based, and students will be able to express more of their creative sides using more advanced programs such as Photoshop and Corel Draw. Using the more advanced programs, the students grow their independence skills on the computer and their advocacy skills. The curriculum is adapted to meet individual needs and promote independence. This curriculum follows the International Society of Technology Education (ISTE) student standards.

Henry Viscardi School

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

SEL advances educational equity and excellence through authentic school-family-community partnerships to establish learning environments and experiences that feature trusting and collaborative relationships, rigorous and meaningful curriculum and instruction, and ongoing evaluation. SEL can help address various forms of inequity and empower young people and adults to co-create thriving schools and contribute to safe, healthy, and just communities.

SEL competencies are taught, modeled, and practiced throughout the school day, leading to positive outcomes that are important for success in school and life.

SEL Competencies:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision Making

Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS)

Under the umbrella of SEL is Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is an evidence based multi-tiered framework. It is a way to support everyone to create the kinds of schools where all students can be successful.

HVS Common Language

Be Kind
Be Respectful
Be Responsible
Be Safe

Tier 1: Universal Prevention (All)

- Tier 1 impacts everyone across all settings. It establishes the foundation for delivering regular, proactive support and preventing unwanted behaviors. Tier 1 emphasizes prosocial skills and expectations by teaching and acknowledging appropriate student behavior.

- **Examples of Tier 1 Supports:** Clear Expectations, Posting Classroom Rules, Consistent Positive Reinforcement

Tier 2: Targeted Prevention (Some)

- Tier 2 provides targeted support for students who are not successful with Tier 1 supports alone. The focus is on supporting students who are at risk for developing more serious problem behavior before those behaviors start. Tier 2 supports often involve group interventions. The support at this level is more focused than Tier 1 and less intensive than Tier 3.
 - **Examples of Tier 2 Supports:** Boys and Girls Group, Non-Mandated Counseling, Child Study Team Meeting

Tier 3: Intensive, Individualized Prevention (Few)

- At Tier 3, students receive more intensive, individualized support to improve behavioral and academic outcomes.
 - **Examples of Tier 3 Supports:** Mandated Counseling, Child Study Team Meeting, FBA, BIP