

2026-27 PECK JR/SR HIGH COURSE CATALOG

Language Arts

Course	Course Description
English 6	English 6 is a year- long course that builds upon students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and the mechanics of writing, and includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. These courses may emphasize the use of language for different effects, in different contexts, and for different purposes. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.
English 7	English 7 is a year- long course that focuses on language, writing, speaking and listening. Students will learn the command of the conventions of standard English grammar. They will write to show relationships among ideas while expressing their thoughts precisely and concisely. In literature, students will analyze various elements of a story as well as how an author develops and contrasts points of view of different characters. When writing, students will support claims with logical reasoning and relevant evidence using accurate, credible sources. Throughout this course, students will engage in collaborative discussions, acknowledge new information expressed by others and modify their own views.
English 8	English 8 is a year-long course that focuses on language, literature, writing, speaking and listening. Students will continue to develop their command of the conventions of the standard English language. They will also apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading. In literature, students will determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text. Concerning writing skills, students will develop their ability to support claims, use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion, establish and maintain a formal style and develop a topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details and quotations. Throughout the course, students will make strategic use of digital media and visual displays to express information and engage in a range of collaborative discussions on various topics, texts, and issues.
English I	This course of study exposes the student to the various forms of literature from all parts of the world and deals with the universal problems of human nature. The student is expected to master various forms of communication. He/she also develops knowledge of essay coherence, sentence skills and organization, and skills of analytical and descriptive writing. The culminating writing activities are embedded in writing a well-documented MLA research paper.

English II	The primary purpose of this course is to improve students' composition and literary analysis skills. Students will study a variety of reading material from a wide range of authors to familiarize them with American, English, and World Literature. They will be asked to write in a variety of forms in response to that material. In addition, students will be required to complete Book Talk presentations. This course is designed to develop and enrich students' reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills in English.
English III	Literature and Composition is an integrated English course that utilizes the Michigan framework and incorporates both the Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts and Peck Community School's Academic Standards for English/Language Arts. The course is a study of language, literature, composition, and oral communication with a focus on exploring characterization across universal themes, such as the American Dream. Students use literary interpretation, analysis, comparison, and evaluation to read and respond to representative works of historical or cultural significance. Classic and contemporary literature are balanced with nonfiction--but the major focus is on American literature and non-fiction texts. Students examine and compose various types of writing, but rhetorical analysis is the major thrust. The ability to access, analyze, and evaluate both printed and online sources is paramount. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for rigorous senior-level courses focused in critical reading and effective written expression.
English IV	This course is designed to expose students to an overview of major works in World, American, and English Literature starting with ancient Greece and ending with the contemporary world. Through involvement in World Literature, students will develop a familiarity with some major works and develop an appreciation for the culture, aesthetics and history of other societies. Students will learn to relate this knowledge to their own society and personal growth. In addition, students will be focusing on their writing skills through various required writing applications while also preparing for post-secondary school and career fields through a final portfolio assignment.
Foundational English	Supplemental courses, designed to be taken in addition to or in coordination with other English language and literature courses, provide instruction to assist students in acquiring English language arts skills so that students attain necessary grade-level skills or reach a desired competency level.
Languages	
American Sign Language	Designed to introduce students to American Sign Language language and culture, American Sign Language I courses prepare students to communicate authentically in American Sign Language by interpreting (reading/viewing), exchanging (signing and reading), and presenting (signing)

	information on a variety of topics. They introduce the relationship among the practices, perspectives, and cultures of deaf people and communities.
History	
Social Studies 6	Social Studies (grade 6) courses provide a greater understanding of social studies disciplines, including history, geography, civics and government, and economics. These courses often focus on the history, culture, and government of various specific world societies. Typically, students develop skills used in the social studies disciplines. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.
Social Studies 7-Eastern Hemisphere	Social Studies (grade 7) courses provide continued development of understanding and skills in the social studies disciplines: history, geography, civics and government, and economics. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 7.
Social Studies 8-American History	Social Studies (grade 8) courses provide continued development of understanding and skills in the social studies disciplines: history, geography, civics and government, and economics. Typically, these courses focus on single disciplines at a time (e.g., state-specific history and government, U.S. history, world history, or civics) to develop discipline-related skills. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 8.
World History	World History—Overview courses provide students with an overview of the history of human society from early civilization to the contemporary period, examining political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments. World History—Overview courses may include geographical studies, but often these components are not as explicitly taught as geography.
Modern American History	This Modern American History class will use Supreme Court case studies, biography projects, and primary sources to learn about American history since the 1970s. Students will dive into these important topics in a more project based and collaborative environment than a traditional history class.

Mathematics	
Math 6	Mathematics (grade 6) courses typically emphasize skills in numerical operations (including basic operations and their proper order); measurement; patterns; simple functions; geometry; and concepts of data analysis, including statistics and probability. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.
Math 7	In seventh grade, students draw, construct, and describe geometric figures. They use knowledge of angles and writing equations to describe relationships between figures and to solve problems. Students continue developing knowledge of the number system as they extend their previous understandings of operations with fractions to add, subtract, multiply, and divide positive and negative rational numbers. For the first time, students are introduced to probability. They investigate chance processes and develop, use, and evaluate probability models. Students continue analyzing one variable statistics and use random sampling to think about data sets and use mathematical tools to compare two data sets
Math 8	Building on their study of proportionality in the previous course, students begin to develop the concept of functions and how to explore and represent them with tables, equations, and graphs. They analyze linear functions and solve linear equations. These equations include those with infinitely many solutions, no solutions, or one solution. Also, linearity is extended to include systems of linear equations. Understanding of linearity and functions is further developed by examining nonlinear functions including exposure to inverse variation, exponential patterns of changes, and quadratic patterns of change. Exploring exponential functions also prompts the use of scientific notation and rules of exponents.
Algebra I	Building off the notions of function first introduced in middle school, Algebra I begins with a general exploration of functions and tools that students use to study specific functions in more depth throughout the course. Students model linear, exponential, quadratic, and polynomial functions. In the process of modeling, students use tables, graphs, and equations to solve problems like compounding interest, and projectile motion. The course concludes with a culminating unit on bivariate statistics where students not only study categorical data but also use scatter plots and their knowledge of functions to fit functions to data. As in all mathematics courses, the Standards for Mathematical Practice are the “processes and proficiencies” by which all other mathematics standards are taught.
Geometry	High School Geometry affords students opportunities to build facility with reasoning and proof and use geometric methods to model the world around them. The course begins with explorations that acquaint students with definitions, constructions, and features of geometric language (e.g., if/then statements) that they use throughout the course. They engage with familiar coordinate contexts

	(e.g., slope, perimeter) to prove geometric theorems algebraically. Next, students study transformations that, along with the first unit, lay a foundation for proof and reasoning that is developed and applied contextually in subsequent units on triangles, quadrilaterals and circles. Students also use ideas of transformations to define trigonometric ratios which, with the Pythagorean theorem, are used to solve for unknown angles and side lengths. The culminating unit provides students an opportunity to apply geometric concepts in modeling three dimensional figures.
Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus courses combine the study of Trigonometry, Elementary Functions, Analytic Geometry, and Mathematic Analysis topics as preparation for calculus. Topics typically include the study of complex numbers; polynomial, logarithmic, exponential, rational, right trigonometric, and circular functions, and their relations, inverses and graphs; trigonometric identities and equations; solutions of right and oblique triangles; vectors; the polar coordinate system; conic sections; Boolean algebra and symbolic logic; mathematical induction; matrix algebra; sequences and series; and limits and continuity.
Calculus	Calculus courses include the study of derivatives, differentiation, integration, the definite and indefinite integral, and applications of calculus. Typically, students have previously attained knowledge of pre-calculus topics (some combination of trigonometry, elementary functions, analytic geometry, and mathematic analysis).
Math Lab	Supplemental course, designed to be taken in addition to or in coordination with other mathematics courses, provide instruction to assist students in acquiring mathematic skills so that students attain necessary grade-level skills or reach a desired competency level.
Foundational Math	Mathematics—Supplemental courses, designed to be taken in addition to or in coordination with other mathematics courses, provide instruction to assist students in acquiring mathematic skills so that students attain necessary grade-level skills or reach a desired competency level.
Science	
Science 6	Science (grade 6) courses typically include subject matter from several strands of science, including earth/space sciences, physical sciences, and life or environmental sciences, and may organize material around thematic units. Specific content depends upon state standards for grade 6.
Science 7	Science 7 is composed of all the sciences, primarily units based on photosynthesis; ecosystems; relationships between living and nonliving things; Earth’s dynamic interior and surface; and the solar system.

Science 8	Science 8 is composed of all the sciences, primarily units based on structures and properties of matter; motion, force, and energy; electricity and magnetism; and evolution, reproduction, heredity, and genetics.
Anatomy	Anatomy courses present an in-depth study of the human body and biological system. Students study such topics as anatomical terminology, cells, and tissues and typically explore functional systems such as skeletal, muscular, circulatory, respiratory, digestive, reproductive, and nervous systems.
Chemistry	Chemistry is a basic course about the various chemical principles and ideas. The students will become familiar with the Periodic Table, chemical formula operations and basic laboratory techniques. Emphasis is placed on identification of characteristics and principles concerning various chemicals. Students will work toward understanding chemistry as it relates to the modern world.
Astronomy	Astronomy courses offer students the opportunity to study the solar system, stars, galaxies, and interstellar bodies. These courses usually introduce and use astronomic instruments and typically explore theories regarding the origin and evolution of the universe, space, and time.
Physical Education	
JH Physical Education	Physical Education (Junior High) courses typically involve the acquisition of knowledge and skills that provide the foundation for sport, a physically active lifestyle, and social development through physical activity. Activities typically include those that increase strength, endurance, and flexibility; reinforce safe technique; teach the rules and conventions of games and sports; and explore the relationship between physical activity and health. Health topics (such as the effects of drugs and alcohol, sexual education, and healthy lifestyles) may also be included. Specific content depends upon state standards for grades 6-8.
Personal Fitness	This class empowers students to develop lifelong healthy habits by exploring the fundamental principles of fitness, wellness, and self-improvement. Designed for all fitness levels, students will learn how to set personal health goals, track progress, and design effective workout routines tailored to their individual needs. Students will learn key concepts, such as the components of fitness, exercise science basics, goal setting and tracking. Students will complete various workouts, including cardiovascular conditioning, strength and resistance training, flexibility and mobility, and active recovery.
Healthy Living	This course includes one semester of physical education, which will include key fitness concepts, as well as various sports and team building games. The second semester will include lessons on

	the human body, reproduction, communicable diseases, decision making, adolescent development, relationships and abstinence, marriage and parenthood, and pregnancy and childbirth.
Fine Arts/Technology	
Google Suite	A Google suite course teaches cloud-based productivity and collaboration tools. Students learn how to use Gmail, Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Calendar to create files, share work in real time, and manage daily tasks efficiently.
Publications	Publications provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to produce the school newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, or other printed publication. Students may gain experience in several components (writing, editing, layout, production, and so on) or may focus on a single aspect while producing the publication.
Band	The HS Band Program aims to refine your instrumental skills, expand your musical knowledge, and strengthen your abilities as an independent and collaborative ensemble musician. We will explore a variety of musical genres while focusing on advanced technique, musical expression, tone quality, ensemble precision, and performance practices. Students will be challenged to take greater ownership of their musicianship and contribute meaningfully to the ensemble, culminating in multiple performances throughout the semester.
JH Band	The JH Band Program aims to develop your instrumental skills, musical knowledge, and confidence as an ensemble musician. We will focus on building strong fundamentals, music reading, technique, tone production, and ensemble skills through a variety of musical styles. Students will grow as individual musicians while learning to collaborate, listen, and perform as part of a group, culminating in multiple performances throughout the semester.
Enrichment/College & Career Readiness	
AVID	AVID courses encourage students to pursue college and career readiness (and eventual enrollment/employability). Typically, the courses offer activities that enable students to learn organizational and study skills, enhance their critical thinking skills, receive academic assistance as necessary, and be motivated to aspire to higher education.
JH Exploration	Exploratory courses provide a brief introduction to a variety of topics, typically elective subject areas, often in the form of discrete units or modules. Students may choose to take courses later

	that allow them to pursue the topics introduced in more depth. Topics may vary widely and span multiple subject areas within one course.
JH Writing	Writing—General courses involve content that is not grade differentiated and may apply to a range of consecutive grades (e.g., “by third grade, students should know and be able to do…”). These courses include content that may be applicable to states or localities that do not employ grade-level content standards. [These courses provide broad content that is not organized as described elsewhere (i.e., Writing, early childhood education through grade 8).]
Google Suite	A Google suite course teaches cloud-based productivity and collaboration tools. Students learn how to use Gmail, Google Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Calendar to create files, share work in real time, and manage daily tasks efficiently.
Film as Literature	These courses have the same aim as general literature courses (to improve students’ language arts and critical-thinking skills), focusing on one or several genres, such as poetry, essay, biography, short story, drama, film, and so on. Students determine the underlying assumptions and values within the selected works and also examine the structure, techniques, and intentions of the genre being studied. Oral discussion is an integral part of these genre-oriented courses, and written compositions are often required.
Leadership	The Leadership Elective is designed to help students develop the skills they need to be effective leaders. Students will learn about communication, organization, teamwork, time management, and responsibility. Throughout the term, students will have opportunities to practice these skills, work with others, and build confidence as leaders.
Intro to AI	This 9-week elective introduces students to artificial intelligence through hands-on use of today’s leading AI tools — ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and an AI image generator — with no coding experience required. Each week pairs a discussion of a key AI concept (how these models work, bias and hallucination, AI agents, ethics and society) with in-class practice using the tools themselves, culminating in a short weekly project.
Home 101	To cultivate a generation of self-reliant, resilient, and socially responsible adults who possess the tools to achieve financial stability, professional success, and personal well-being.
Instructional Exploration	Instructional Exploration courses offer students the opportunity to assist instructors in preparing, organizing, or delivering course curricula or to assist other staff members in fulfilling their duties. Students may provide tutorial or instructional assistance to other students.
Refereeing	Provide students with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to serve as a referee, umpire, judge, or other official for a sports contest, emphasizing rule interpretation and the proper mechanics of officiating.

Study Skills	Resource support. Course topics may vary according to the students involved, but typically include reading improvement skills, such as scanning, note-taking, and outlining; library and research skills; listening and note-taking; vocabulary skills; and test-taking skills. The courses may also include exercises designed to generate organized, logical thinking and writing.
Online Learning via Subject AI for Credit Recovery and Enrichment	
Dual Enrollment	
CTE Programs	