PVMS Addendum to Program of Studies

1. Disciplinary Literacy to replace WIN
    a. **Course Description**: Disciplinary Literacy, which all students will take as a 9-week rotation integrated across their four core content areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. This course goes beyond general reading and writing skills, focusing instead on how an expert in a specific discipline—such as a scientist, historian, mathematician, or literary expert—uses specialized knowledge and abilities to read, write, think, and communicate. Disciplinary literacy skills are unique to each subject; this course presumes that different kinds of texts require distinct strategies, meaning students will not just learn about a discipline, but will actually learn to read, write, speak, and listen the same way the experts do. By receiving dedicated instruction within each of these four core areas during the 9-week rotation, students will be equipped with the advanced, specialized literacy tools necessary to think deeply and communicate effectively throughout the entire curriculum.
    b. **Rationale**: As students progress into advanced coursework, specific reading routines and strategies are needed to navigate the highly specialized texts found in secondary education. This 9-week Disciplinary Literacy rotation addresses this challenge by explicitly teaching students how to read, write, speak, and listen like experts within the four core content areas. By embedding explicit instruction within English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, students learn to actively map complex text structures, organize specialized data, and generate higher-level questions tailored to each subject. This approach transforms students from passive readers into strategic, independent thinkers. Ultimately, this course equips students with the tools necessary to improve their literacy skills across the entire curricula.
2. STEM replacing Exploring Technology 6, 7, 8
    a. **Course Description**: Designed for middle school students in grades 6-8, this highly engaging 9-week STEM course delivers inquiry-based instruction that immerses students in the engineering design process from concept to creation. Working in an inclusive, collaborative learning environment where safety is paramount, students gain hands-on experience utilizing cutting-edge digital fabrication technologies—including 3D printers, laser cutters, robotics, and foundational industrial tools—to solve real-world problems. Fully aligned with Pennsylvania Academic Standards and the new Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability (STEELS) standards, the curriculum emphasizes critical thinking, spatial reasoning, and collaborative design. Through hands-on prototyping and technical skill-building, students foster an innovative mindset while developing the foundational competencies essential for college and career readiness in high-demand STEM fields.
    b. **Rationale**: In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, middle school represents a crucial window for engaging students in hands-on STEM disciplines before academic and career pathways begin to solidify. This STEM course fulfills a vital need in modern education by transitioning students from passive consumers of technology to active creators and problem solvers. By providing early access to advanced fabrication tools like 3D printers, laser cutters, and robotics, the course demystifies complex technical concepts and bridges the gap between theoretical science and practical application. Furthermore, it directly addresses critical workforce demands by aligning with PA STEELS standards to instill spatial reasoning, technical safety, and collaborative resilience. Ultimately, this course equips young learners with the confidence and

high-order skills required to thrive in high-tech high school programs and future college and career avenues.

3. Band and Chorus:
    a. **Remove**: Band and Chorus at the middle school meet during the grade-level WIN (What I Need) period, with instruction provided on a rotating basis to accommodate other academic commitments. These programs are designed for students with prior experience at the intermediate level, as well as those who are new to the music program. No auditions are required for participation, and students are expected to attend both rehearsals and performances. Band and Chorus members will perform at least two after-school performances during the school year, offering valuable opportunities for musical growth and community involvement.
    b. **Note**: Please note that while the core curriculum and structure of the Band and Chorus programs remain unchanged, we are updating how music courses are scheduled to better support student learning.
    c. **Addition**: Scheduling Band and Chorus 6, 7, 8
        i. Band and Chorus will now be offered as full-year courses taken during an elective period, allowing participating students to engage in music without missing valuable core instruction in English Language Arts, Math, Science, or Social Studies. Students who wish to participate in both Band and Chorus can do so through their scheduled elective blocks, on a rotating basis. Importantly, all students will continue to take their required elective courses in Health, Physical Education, Art, and Computer Technology, ensuring a well-rounded academic experience.