

Tredyffrin/Easttown School District  
Middle School Advisory Committee Meeting  
September 24, 2024

The Middle School Advisory Committee met on September 24, 2024. The meeting served as continuation of the middle school schedule review that began at the end of last school year. The impetus for the involvement of the Middle School Advisory Committee was the determination that additional instructional time beyond Science class will be needed to address the new state standards in Science, Technology and Engineering, Environmental Literacy, and Sustainability (STEELS) starting in the 2025-2026 school year. The new STEM course, which will cover identified state standards, precipitates a schedule change for our middle schools.

The meeting began with a recap of the June 5, 2024 meeting. The goals and needs were reviewed as follows:

- schedule 30 sessions of a STEM class per Grade level 5-8 as part of a Special Areas (SA) rotation starting in the 2025-2026 school year
- implement a new STEM course in Grades 5 & 6 as part of the SA rotation
- redesign the current Grades 7 & 8 Technology Education course into a STEM course

The Committee's initial input from the June 5, 2024 meeting was summarized, which included the priority of maintaining the breadth of Special Areas courses. In addition, the role of Advisory in Grades 5 and 6, integrated physical education and health, and use of time associated with homeroom, Activity period, and Grades 7 & 8 Advisory Initiatives were part of that discussion.

Schedule options were examined over the summer. A schedule model emerged that includes a STEM course, as well as the following features:

- daily Advisory in Grades 5 & 6
- restructured Advisory Initiatives in Grades 7 & 8
- support mechanisms and enrichment opportunities in Advisory Grades 5-8

The proposed schedule along with a redesign of the Special Areas courses was presented to the Committee. While the projected Special Areas rotation changes the number of sessions over the course of a school year, it includes preserving all of the current subject areas offerings as well as the addition of STEM. World Language (Spanish or French) would become optional in Grades 5 and 6 in lieu of Advisory time two times per six-day cycle for a school year. Physical Education and Health would move to an integrated course in Grades 5-8 while retaining a reduced number of separate Health classes for specified lessons.

The proposed changes to the middle school schedule will be shared with parents/guardians at upcoming PTO meetings in October/November 2024. Then, the Middle School Advisory Committee will plan to meet again to discuss operational details of the schedule. A presentation to the Education Committee is planned for January 9, 2025. Upon approval, the new schedule will be implemented in the 2025-2026 school year.