

**Pine-Richland Middle School
Parental Override for Student Placement:
Current to Compacted/Extended**

PRMS carefully screens all students to ensure appropriate academic placement. However, some parents choose to override the school's recommendations for placement. Completion of this form will initiate this process. Please keep in mind, Compacted/Extended courses are the most rigorous courses we offer to our students. These demanding courses require faster pacing, in-depth understanding of complex concepts, critical reading, writing, thinking, and analysis, and a commitment of significant time to the course outside of class.

Agreement of Understanding

Please read and initial each statement below

_____ I understand that the placement of my child in a course, where they do not meet required prerequisites, is not recommended by the school and that I choose to override this placement decision.

_____ I request that my child be placed in the desired course because:

_____ I understand that if my child is not successful in the desired course, a schedule change back to the originally recommended course will be considered based only at the start of second semester.

Course title recommended by PRMS _____

Course title requested by parent/student _____

Student Name (please print) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____

(Turn over for descriptions of Current and Compacted/Extended courses)

Course Descriptions for Current and Compacted/Extended classes

American History & Culture 8 Current The eighth grade American History course is based on the academic learning standards put forth by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It focuses on United States History and Pennsylvania History from 1607 to 1790. During the aforementioned period, the students study the historical, political, geographic, social and economic events of the United States with special emphasis on how these events impacted the state of Pennsylvania. The curricular themes of study are based on the outline of our textbook and aligned with specific Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

American History & Culture 8 Compacted/Extended The Compacted/Extended class will use the same curriculum as the American History & Culture Current class. The Compacted/Extended class will explore curriculum topics more in-depth and students will be expected to be more independent in and out of class. Primary & secondary document analysis will be emphasized and enrichment opportunities will be provided.

English 8 Current English 8 focuses on both literature and composition. Students read and respond to a variety of literature including informational texts, poetry, essays, short stories, and novels. Emphasis is placed on critical reading and writing through shared responses and class discussion. Students write in the areas of poetry, description, narration, argumentation, and exposition. The development of analytical skills is also a key focus of the eighth grade English curriculum. Correct grammar usage and a formal approach is stressed daily in writing and speaking.

English 8 Compacted/Extended The Compacted/Extended class will use the same curriculum as the English 8 Current class. The Compacted/Extended class will explore curriculum topics more in-depth and students will be expected to be more independent in and out of class. The focus of the class will be on literary analysis and becoming proficient in the modes of writing (informational, narrative, and argumentative).

Physical Science 8 Current The 8th grade Physical Science course is designed to be a hands-on experimental course. Through this approach, students will develop critical thinking and analysis skills. In addition, students will understand how science influences and affects their everyday life. There are three main disciplines of science covered: 1) Nature of Science; 2) Chemistry; and 3) Physics. The nature of science – scientific method, describing matter, measurement, etc. – will be emphasized throughout the entire year. In the chemistry strand, students will examine the following topics: the atom and the Periodic Table, chemical bonding, physical and chemical changes of matter. The physics curriculum will include the following: electricity and magnetism, forces involved in motion and work, the conservation of energy.

Physical Science 8 Compacted/Extended The Compacted/Extended class will use the same curriculum as the Physical Science class. The Compacted/Extended class will explore curricular topics more in-depth and students will be expected to be more independent in and out of class. Exploratory and discovery activities will be emphasized and enrichment opportunities will be provided.