



# Henry Viscardi School at The Viscardi Center

**Course Booklet  
Middle School  
Grades 6-8  
2023-2024**



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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, Superintendent

*Jessica Caggiano*

Jessica Caggiano, Principal

*Shoshana Wagman*

Shoshana Wagman, Assistant Principal

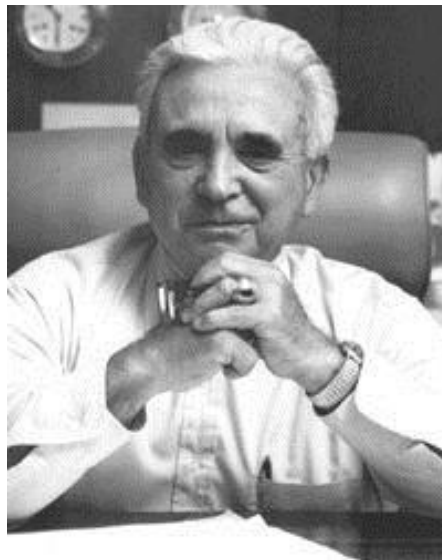
## Mission Statement

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

| <b>Administration</b> |                     |  |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--|
| Angelo Zegarelli      | Superintendent      | <a href="mailto:azegarelli@henryviscardischool.org">azegarelli@henryviscardischool.org</a> |
| Jessica Caggiano      | Principal           | <a href="mailto:jcaggiano@henryviscardischool.org">jcaggiano@henryviscardischool.org</a>   |
| Shoshana Wagman       | Assistant Principal | <a href="mailto:swagman@henryviscardischool.org">swagman@henryviscardischool.org</a>       |

| <b>Guidance</b>    |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Victoria DeLorenzo | Guidance Counselor/<br>Transition Coordinator | 516-465-1698<br><a href="mailto:vdelorenzo@henryviscardischool.org">vdelorenzo@henryviscardischool.org</a> |

# Henry Viscardi School

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses

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

# Henry Viscardi School

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses

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

# Henry Viscardi School

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses

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



# Henry Viscardi School

## English Language Arts Course Descriptions

### English Language Arts – 6<sup>th</sup> 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 – 7<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 – 8<sup>th</sup> 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> 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 and probability.

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

#### Mathematics – 7<sup>th</sup> 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 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

This is a year-long course. Students will be introduced to algebraic concepts in preparation for high school mathematics courses. Concepts included are solving equations, simplifying exponential expressions, graphing linear relationships and writing equations for linear relationships, functions, solving systems of equations, angle relationships and other geometric principles. A variety of problem-solving techniques and technology will be used when applying these concepts, which will enable students to solve real life problems. Students use the TI-34 scientific calculator which is provided to them. 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

|   |
|---|
|   |
| <b>Social Studies – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>  |
| 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.  |
|   |
| <b>Social Studies 7 – U.S. History – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>   |
| 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 Next Generation 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.          |
|   |
| <b>Social Studies 8 – U.S. History – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>   |
| 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 Next Generation 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Intermediate Science – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Life Science

This year-long course is a continuation and an expansion of material presented previously in 6<sup>th</sup> 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
- Genetics and hereditary

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

### Intermediate Science – 8<sup>th</sup> 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

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 – 8<sup>th</sup> 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 numerous 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

#### Adapted Physical Education – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> 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 volleyball, tennis, soccer, baseball, football, hockey, and basketball. The fitness skills that are developed through team sport activities are as follows: cardiovascular endurance, musculoskeletal endurance, flexibility, team building, situational concepts, safety, sportsmanship, leadership, and self-confidence. Additional activities include outdoor track, strength training, and leisure activities that will help educate students to lead a healthy lifestyle. This course meets the New York State Learning Standards.

#### Health – 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 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 – 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 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

#### STEM – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

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 – 7<sup>th</sup> 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 – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

This is a continuation of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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