



RED OAK MIDDLE SCHOOL



2017-2018

6th - 8th grade

Course Selection & Planning Guide

REDOAKISD.ORG

OUR STUDENTS' SUCCESS
IS OUR SUCCESS!



USING THE 2017-2018 6th - 8th GRADE ROISD COURSE GUIDE

In this guide you will find information that will help guide you as you plan your course sequence from sixth through eighth grades as well as information to help guide you through college readiness. Each year it is recommended that you spend time in the current course guide for your campus to identify course options, note any changes to the graduation program requirements, and to help you in your decision-making process as you register for the upcoming year. Additionally, it is recommended that you view the websites for any colleges, certifications, or post-graduation programs you may be interested in to pinpoint their specific requirements.

The staff of Red Oak ISD encourages you to spend time in the course planning process as an investment in your future.

- Read the course descriptions for your campus.
- Note the content and any requirements for the core and elective classes that are available.
- Review the suggested course sequence options and information to prepare for college and career pathways.
- Feel free to make an appointment with your campus counselor to discuss any questions regarding the course guide.

Information contained in this course guide is subject to change by The Texas Education Agency action and subsequent to approval by the ROISD Board of Trustees.

SUGGESTED COURSE SEQUENCES

Following are the recommended sequences for courses in the four core areas based on the student's level of ability and performance. These course sequences are only suggested; a student is not locked into a sequence once it is started. For example, a student may take regular English and Reading in 6th grade, then English Pre-AP in 7th grade. In most cases, students may not select a sequence of courses which would result in a loss of grade-level instruction in a content area. Advanced 6th and 7th grade courses in ELAR and Math are designed to include content from higher grade levels so that all 6th – 8th learning standards are covered prior to the high school credit course in the 8th grade.

English Course Sequence Options

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|
| 6th Grade | 6 th Grade English Language Arts | 6 th Grade Pre-AP or GT English Language Arts | 6 th Grade Pre-AP or GT English Language Arts |
| 7th Grade | 7 th Grade English Language Arts | 7 th Grade Pre-AP or GT English Language Arts | 7 th Grade Pre-AP or GT English Language Arts |
| 8th Grade | 8 th Grade English Language Arts | 8 th Grade Pre-AP or GT English Language Arts | English I Pre-AP High School Credit |

Math Course Sequence Options

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 6th Grade | 6 th Grade Math | 6 th Grade Pre-AP or GT Math | 6 th Grade Pre-AP or GT Math | 6 th Grade Pre-AP or GT Math |
| 7th Grade | 7 th Grade Math | 7 th Grade Pre-AP Math | 7 th Grade Pre-AP Math | Algebra I Pre-AP High School Credit |
| 8th Grade | 8 th Grade Math | 8 th Grade Pre-AP Pre-Algebra | Algebra I Pre-AP High School Credit | Geometry Pre-AP High School Credit |

Social Studies Course Sequence Options

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 6th Grade | 6 th Grade Social Studies | 6 th Grade Pre- AP or Honors Social Studies |
| 7th Grade | 7 th Grade Social Studies | 7 th Grade Pre- AP Social Studies |
| 8th Grade | 8 th Grade Social Studies | 8 th Grade Pre- AP Social Studies |

Science Course Sequence Options

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 6th Grade | 6 th Grade Science | 6 th Grade Pre- AP or Honors Science |
| 7th Grade | 7 th Grade Science | 7 th Grade Pre- AP Science |
| 8th Grade | 8 th Grade Science | 8 th Grade Pre- AP Science |

TESTING

STAAR (State Assessments of Academic Readiness)

State testing consists of assessments in the academic core areas– Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Reading/Writing. Students in grade 8 must meet standard expectations on Reading and Math in order to promote to the next grade level.

Students enrolled in high school Algebra I and/or English I must meet standard on the End of Course (EOC) exam(s) which are also required elements for high school graduation.

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)

The PSAT is a three-hour examination similar to the SAT. It is offered in October of each school year on the Red Oak High School campus. Students in specific advanced middle school classes as well as every high school sophomore and junior are offered the opportunity to take the PSAT. Advantages of taking this test are a familiarity with the format of the SAT, and also performance reports that will help inform future test preparation.

Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP)

Seventh grade students who meet Duke TIP academic qualification are highly recommended to register for the program and take the PSAT at an earlier grade level. This allows advanced students to better understand areas of strength and areas they wish to further develop. Participating in the Duke TIP program also opens a variety of opportunities for enrichment such as summer camps, book clubs, and college-readiness publications. Please see a Counselor for information about Duke TIP eligibility.

ADVANCED ACADEMICS

GIFTED & TALENTED PROGRAM

Middle school students identified as GT may be served through either GT or Pre-AP class sections of core academic subjects. Pre-AP and Pre-AP/GT students may frequently be in the same class section. GT-specific class sections are equivalent to the rigor of Pre-AP class sections. GT students will receive additional differentiation through the use of instructional techniques and curriculum options including, but not limited to, cross-curricular projects and units of deeper study. Unless approved for a temporary furlough (one grading period or shorter), students must take at least one advanced course to remain in the ROISD GT Program. See the ROISD GT Handbook for additional details.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT (PRE-AP)

What are Pre-AP courses?

Pre-AP classes are very challenging and rigorous, and are designed to better prepare students for future AP coursework (but are not a requirement for enrolling in AP courses). Courses frequently incorporate learning objectives from a higher grade level to prepare for the option of taking high school courses. Pre-AP course selections are not “all or nothing.” Students may take from one to all of their core classes as Pre-AP.

Are Pre-AP courses right for my student?

A student successful in Pre-AP courses typically

- will have experienced success in related coursework.
- is interested in the subject.
- works to develop and maintain good study skills and habits.
- plans and works ahead on long term projects.
- asks questions and participates in class.
- asks for assistance when needed.
- carefully considers time commitments and balances academic load with family life or outside commitments.
- perseveres when faced with challenging material.

What are the requirements for placement in pre-AP courses?

ROISD supports the College Board's statement: "The College Board is committed to the principle that all students deserve an opportunity to participate in rigorous and academically challenging courses and programs. All students who are willing to accept the challenge of a rigorous academic curriculum should be considered for admission to AP courses."

For optimum success, it is recommended that student meet the following criteria.

Parents of students who do not meet these criteria will be required to attend a Pre-AP orientation night in order to be permitted to enroll in Pre-AP courses.

Pre-AP Course Enrollment Criteria:

Pre-AP English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR):

- STAAR scores that meet the Level III standard in Reading
- A final grade in the last ELAR course of 90 or higher (if Pre-AP or Honors, 80 or higher)

Pre-AP Math:

- STAAR scores that meet the Level III standard in Mathematics
- A final grade in the last math course of 90 or higher (if Pre-AP or Honors, 80 or higher)

Pre-AP Science:

- STAAR scores that meet the Level III standard in Mathematics
- A final grade in the last science course taken of 90 or higher (if Pre-AP or Honors, 80 or higher)

Pre-AP Social Studies:

- STAAR scores that meet the Level III standard in Reading
- A final grade in the last social studies course taken of 90 or higher (if Pre-AP or Honors, 80 or higher)

Once enrolled in a Pre-AP course, can a student get a schedule change?

Once enrolled in a Pre-AP course, a student may only request a schedule change with permission from the school principal. A conference including the student, parent, teacher, counselor, and campus administrator will be held to make a determination regarding the student's request. Schedule changes will generally not be permitted mid-semester.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSEWORK TAKEN PRIOR TO ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL

ROISD provides multiple opportunities for students to take high school-level coursework prior to starting the 9th grade. These courses are equivalent in rigor to courses taken at Red Oak High School, and students will be held to any state testing requirements associated with the course. High School courses taken are the beginning of a student's official high school transcript, and care should be taken to select coursework that is appropriate to the student's maturity and academic readiness. Beginning in 2015-2016, high school courses taken prior to the 9th grade do begin to accumulate Grade Points towards the high school Grade Point Average (GPA).

GRADE POINT STRUCTURE

Red Oak High School employs a weighted grading system. Generally, classes with more rigor and which require more outside work receive a higher number of points on the grading scale. When a student transfers grades for properly documented and eligible courses, the District shall assign weight to those grades. Beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2014–15 school year, grades used for computing the GPA shall be converted to grade points in accordance with the following structure. Please see the specific course description for GPA level designation.

| Grade | Level I | Level II | Level III |
|-------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 100 | 5 | 7 | 9 |
| 99 | 4.9 | 6.9 | 8.9 |
| 98 | 4.8 | 6.8 | 8.8 |
| 97 | 4.7 | 6.7 | 8.7 |
| 96 | 4.6 | 6.6 | 8.6 |
| 95 | 4.5 | 6.5 | 8.5 |
| 94 | 4.4 | 6.4 | 8.4 |
| 93 | 4.3 | 6.3 | 8.3 |
| 92 | 4.2 | 6.2 | 8.2 |
| 91 | 4.1 | 6.1 | 8.1 |
| 90 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 89 | 3.9 | 5.9 | 7.9 |
| 88 | 3.8 | 5.8 | 7.8 |
| 87 | 3.7 | 5.7 | 7.7 |
| 86 | 3.6 | 5.6 | 7.6 |
| 85 | 3.5 | 5.5 | 7.5 |
| 84 | 3.4 | 5.4 | 7.4 |
| 83 | 3.3 | 5.3 | 7.3 |
| 82 | 3.2 | 5.2 | 7.2 |
| 81 | 3.1 | 5.1 | 7.1 |
| 80 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 79 | 2.9 | 4.9 | 6.9 |
| 78 | 2.8 | 4.8 | 6.8 |
| 77 | 2.7 | 4.7 | 6.7 |
| 76 | 2.6 | 4.6 | 6.6 |
| 75 | 2.5 | 4.5 | 6.5 |
| 74 | 2.4 | 4.4 | 6.4 |
| 73 | 2.3 | 4.3 | 6.3 |
| 72 | 2.2 | 4.2 | 6.2 |
| 71 | 2.1 | 4.1 | 6.1 |
| 70 | 2 | 4 | 6 |

CLASS RANKING

Class standing shall be determined by accumulated grade points divided by the number of courses for which final grades were given. Class standing and grade point averages (GPAs) shall include all such 9th -12th grade coursework, with the exception of courses listed in the section below. Beginning in the 2015–16 school year, the District shall also include in the calculation of class rank semester grades earned in all high school credit courses taken before grade 9 unless excluded below. For information on class ranking of early graduates, eligibility for valedictorian and salutatorian, and local graduation honors, please see a counselor or refer to the ROISD Student Handbook or Board Policy EIC (Local).

COURSES THAT DO NOT COUNT TOWARD GPA

In a number of cases, courses will count as credit toward graduation but the grades from those courses will not be included in the student's high school GPA calculations. The calculation of class rank shall exclude grades earned in or by:

- Credit by examination, with or without prior instruction
- Summer school
- Credit recovery
- Distance learning credit
- Credit for which a pass/fail grade was given
- Credit for courses not recognized by TEA
- Credit awarded in a nonaccredited instructional setting
- Courses earned as an aide (office, counselor, etc.)

INFORMATION FOR THE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT

HELP FOR COLLEGE READINESS AND SUCCESS

College is affordable, and planning is essential. For information about careers after high school as well as college planning (admissions and financial aid), check out these important websites.

Career Planning Help

- www.careercruising.com Career Cruising
- www.collegefortexans.com - Everything a Texan needs to know about preparing for, applying for, and paying for college or technical school
- www.texasgearup.com - Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEARUP) has information for students and parent by grade level.
- www.collegenet.com - An internet college search and admission process provider; includes scholarship information
- www.collegeview.com - Explore careers, colleges, and financial aid
- <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/> - Aids in the college search by containing very detailed information
- www.mynextmove.org – Career search tools
- www.collegeboard.com - Has a lot of useful information and is also where you can sign up to take the SAT
- www.act.org - Has a lot of useful information and is also where you sign up to take the ACT Career Exploration Information
- www.careeronestop.org - Allows investigation of careers with detailed information
- www.mappingyourfuture.org - Planning a career, selecting a school, and paying for school
- www.mappingyourfuture.org/espanol - Same as above in Spanish
- www.careersandcolleges.com – General information for college-bound students
- www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state - Complete listing of all universities
- www.theprincetonreview.com – General college information • www.aacc.nche.edu – American Association of Community Colleges
- www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX - Common application for Texas colleges and universities Financial Aid and Scholarships
- www.fafsa.ed.gov - Free Application for Federal Student Aid – what to do before, during, and after filling out the form. The most important federal financial aid application. Many state grants and scholarships require the FAFSA to be submitted.
- www.everychanceeverytexan.org - Information including The Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation compendium of Texas Colleges and Financial Aid Calendar (under “Texas Schools Info”)
- www.aie.org - Adventures in Education (AIE) is a site for college and career planning with monthly calendars
- www.fastweb.com - A scholarship and grant search site
- www.gocollege.com – General information for college scholarships
- www.college-scholarships.com – Free college scholarship and financial aid searches, SAT and ACT test preparation tips, and listing of colleges
- www.texascollegeandcareer.org - Planning a career, selecting a school, scholarships, SAT and ACT practice tests
- www.edudaris.com – college readiness and scholarship planning

In addition, Red Oak ISD is pleased to partner with many postsecondary institutions, including:

- Texas State Technical College
- Navarro College
- University of Texas at Arlington

Please speak with a Counselor for information about student opportunities through these partnerships.

6th – 8th GRADE COURSE INFORMATION

One course must be selected from each discipline (two electives should be selected). Please see the course sequence maps on p. 2 to understand how choices made will affect options in high school.

| Discipline | 6 th Grade Courses | 7 th Grade Courses | 8 th Grade Courses |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| English Language Arts/Reading (ELAR) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade ELAR 6th Grade Pre-AP or GT ELAR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Grade ELAR 7th Grade Pre-AP or GT ELAR | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade ELAR 8th Grade Pre-AP or GT ELAR English I Pre-AP † |
| Math | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade Math 6th Grade Pre-AP Math | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Mathematics 7th Mathematics – Pre-AP Algebra I – Pre-AP * † | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Mathematics Pre-Algebra – Pre-AP Algebra I – Pre-AP † Geometry – Pre-AP * † |
| Social Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade Social Studies 6th Grade Pre-AP Social Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Grade Social Studies 7th Grade Pre-AP Social Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade Social Studies 8th Grade Pre-AP Social Studies |
| Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Grade Science 6th Grade Pre-AP Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Grade Science 7th Grade Pre-AP Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade Science 8th Grade Pre-AP Science |
| Required Courses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education or Pre-Athletics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Career Portals (one sem), and Career Explorations (one sem) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical Education or Athletics |
| Electives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art Band Choir Language and Literacy Theatre 6th Grade Technology Applications <p><i>Choose enough for two class periods for the whole year. For example, if a choice is a one-semester class, choose another one-semester class to go with it, as well as a full-year class. Or choose two full-year classes. Unless otherwise noted, courses are a full year. Please be aware that some courses may not be available to all students due to scheduling conflicts and available space.</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7th Grade Art Athletics- Boys (Football, Basketball, & Track/Field *) Athletics- Girls (Volleyball, Basketball, & Track/Field *) Athletics- Tennis Band (Symphonic, Concert, Jazz)* Career Explorations (one sem.) Introduction to Spanish (one sem) Technology Applications (one sem) Cheerleading * Choir/Beginning Choir * Civil Air Patrol 7th Grade Dance Drill Team * Introduction to Journalism Language and Literacy * Nutrition and Wellness (one sem.) Photography I (one sem.) Photography II * (one sem.) Robotics and Automation (one sem.) Soar Math* Theater Arts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade Art Art I * † Athletics- Boys (Football, Basketball, & Track/Field*) Athletics- (Girls Volleyball, Basketball, & Track/Field*) Athletics- Tennis Band (Symphonic I, Symphonic II, Concert, Jazz) * Career Explorations (one sem.) Career Portals (one sem.) Career Portals: AV Technology (one sem.) Cheerleading * Choir/Beginning Choir * Civil Air Patrol 8th Grade Dance Dance I/Aerobic Activities * † Drill Team * Introduction to Journalism Language and Literacy * Leadership* Nutrition and Wellness (one sem.) Photography I (one sem.) Photography II * (one sem.) Robotics and Automation (one sem.) Soar Math* Spanish I † Theater Arts Theater II * Yearbook * |

* Courses require try-outs, auditions, Counselor approval, or other departmental selection process

† Courses have high school credit and will count toward graduation requirements and GPA

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Core Academic Courses

English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) Grades 6-8

English Language Arts and Reading places an emphasis on reading a variety of texts, using writing conventions, and mastering vocabulary. Multiple forms and genres of reading and writing are included. Each student is challenged to read a variety of texts such as poetry, drama, informational, narrative, expository, and other types of texts.

English Language Arts and Reading – Pre-AP and Pre-AP/GT Grades 6-8

These ELAR courses are designed to begin an advanced study of literature for academically talented students. In addition to the content of the grade level ELAR class, further emphasis on SAT vocabulary, additional reading expectations, and meaningful projects are a part of the Pre-AP course. Students use higher level thinking skills to analyze as well as compare and contrast literature to increase their comprehension of text. Close reading and annotation techniques are built upon each year for literature analysis.

Note: Pre-AP and Pre-AP/GT students may be in the same class section. GT students will receive additional differentiation through the use of instructional techniques and curriculum options.

English I – Pre-AP and Pre-AP/GT Grade: 8

High school credit: 1

High School GPA Level: II

Prerequisite: Students must have earned at least a 90 in 7th grade ELAR, or a 80 in 7th grade ELAR-Pre-AP. In addition, students must score Level III Advanced on the 7th grade Reading state assessment.

This course places an emphasis on learning the parts of speech, parts of the sentence, proper mechanics, and usage. Literature study includes the reading of short stories, biographies, poetry, and novels. Students are introduced to techniques of writing necessary for various purposes. Reading for thematic connection across genre and in visual media is encouraged.

Note: Pre-AP and Pre-AP/GT students may be in the same class section. GT students will receive additional differentiation through the use of instructional techniques and curriculum options.

Mathematics

Grades: 6-8

Students will build an understanding of numbers and problem solving through a variety of topics. When possible, students will apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace. The primary focal areas in Grade 6 are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. The primary focal areas in Grade 7 are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. The primary focal areas in Grade 8 are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data.

Mathematics – Pre-AP

Grades: 6-7

In addition to the grade level mathematics content, this course is taught at a faster pace, covers more advanced concepts, and includes portions of above grade-level standards.

Pre-Algebra – Pre-AP

Grade: 8

This class provides the students with the skills to master 8th grade math and also prepare for Pre-AP and AP studies in high school. The primary focal areas are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. It also includes algebraic functions and the application of algebraic properties.

Algebra I – Pre-AP**Grade: 7 or 8****High school credit: 1**

High School GPA Level: II

Prerequisite: Students must have earned a grade of at least 90 in the prior grade level of math, or 80 if the prior grade level math was Pre-AP. In addition, students must score Level III Advanced on the prior grade level Mathematics state assessment. In order to enter this course as a 7th grader, students must achieve the standard on an algebra readiness assessment.

Algebra I is a study in the beginning algebraic concepts and techniques used in solving for unknowns. This course deals with basic number concepts in solving problems through simplifying polynomials, radicals, and algebraic functions; the solution of quadratic equations and the application of algebraic properties.

Geometry – Pre-AP**Grade: 8****High school credit: 1**

High School GPA Level: II

Prerequisite: Algebra I must be taken in 7th grade.

This course develops an understanding of the structure of a mathematical system connecting definitions, postulates, theorems, logical reasoning, transformations, proofs, and coordinate geometry.

This course prepares students for future AP mathematics courses.

Note: This course will be taken on the high school campus.

Science**Grades 6-8**

These courses include process-oriented instruction in various scientific disciplines. Students will participate in laboratory investigations, data analyses, and inquiry-based activities. Each grade includes content from across scientific disciplines; however, much of the content focus in grade 6 is on physical sciences, much of the content focus in grade 7 is on organisms and the environment, and much of the content focus in grade 8 is on earth and space science. Human sexuality is included in 7th grade science topics; parents will receive opt-out information prior to instruction in this area. During grade 8, students also review and integrate the concepts learned over grades 6-8.

Science – Pre-AP**Grades 6-8**

In addition to grade-level expectations described above, the students will be expected to perform at high academic levels. The intent of the challenging content is to prepare students for future Pre-AP and AP scientific studies in high school.

Social Studies**Grades 6-8**

Throughout social studies courses, students build a foundation in history; geography; economics; government; citizenship; culture; science, technology, and society; and social studies skills. The content, as appropriate for the grade level or course, enables students to understand the importance of patriotism, function in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation. Each grade level provides a unique focus. In grade 6, students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. In grade 7, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. In grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction.

Social Studies – Pre-AP**Grades 6-8**

In addition to grade-level expectations described above, the Pre-AP course will emphasize more detail and do deeper analysis of concepts. These courses are designed to prepare students for future Pre-AP and AP coursework in high school.

6th Grade Electives Courses*

* Some electives courses are required. See course description for details.

Art

Grade level: 6

Course length: full year

This course will explore visual art through both appreciation and creation of artwork. Students will work to develop visual art skills including drawing, painting, and other techniques. No prior experience is necessary.

Band

Grade level: 6

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Instrument placement audition; no prior experience required

This introductory performance group will focus on the development of musical literacy, instrument technique, rehearsal skills, and group performance.

Choir

Grade Level: 6

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Section placement audition; no prior experience required

Students in beginning choir will be introduced to proper singing techniques, basic music theory, sight reading, and performance skills.

Language and Literacy

Grades: 6-8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Counselor Approval

This elective course is designed to support struggling readers to be successful on the current grade level with an emphasis on comprehension, fluency, and academic vocabulary. Specified sections may include specific supports for students identified with dyslexia or limited English proficiency.

Physical Education

Grade level: 6

Course length: full year

General physical education for boys and girls will develop physical fitness and the learning of skills.

The program provides each student with opportunities to develop skill and understanding in a variety of sports activities, with daily exercise designed to help students develop and maintain physical fitness for their age. Sixth grade students must select either Physical Education or Pre-Athletics.

Pre-Athletics

Grade level: 6

This class will be used to teach basic skills needed in athletics at our schools. The curriculum will include all sports offered in grades 7-8. Coaches will teach these students flexibility, agility, technical skills, and strength and conditioning drills that will get them better prepared for 7th grade athletics. This course may serve as a substitute for the 6th grade Physical Education requirement. Sixth grade students must select either Physical Education or Pre-Athletics.

Technology Applications

Grade level: 6

Course length: full year

This course develops introductory technology skills focusing on word processing, spreadsheets, databases, graphic programs, operating systems, webpage design, and keyboarding.

Theatre

Grade: 6

Course length: full year

This course serves as an introductory overview for Theatre Arts. Students will learn basic acting skills, as well as techniques and history of Theatre. No prior experience is necessary.

7th – 8th Grade Electives Courses*

* Some electives courses are required. See course description for details.

Art

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

This course emphasizes art concepts and introduces the student to the elements and principles of design. Students will receive basic instruction on two-dimensional and three-dimensional art.

Art I

High school credit: 1

High School GPA Level: I

Grade level: 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Departmental selection

Students will continue to explore, appreciate, and analyze the visual arts. They will also develop artistic perception using the elements of art and principles of design. Students will be required to maintain a portfolio of class projects as well as independent studies throughout the year. This course will also require a sketchbook of drawings to be completed outside of class. The intent of this course is to prepare serious art students who later intend to pursue AP Studio Art in high school.

Academic Enrichment

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

This course allows students to work on study skills in the context of enrichment or assigned coursework. Methods for future high school, college, and career success are learned and practiced.

Athletics

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Departmental selection process

Most, but not all, athletics are on the interscholastic competitive level; students are placed in these classes based on tryouts. The following sports are offered: football, volleyball, basketball, tennis, cross-country, and track and field. Practices are scheduled before and after school, in addition to one class period. Track also meets before/after school on a regular basis. Medical exam/physical required. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

Band – Symphonic I Band

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Audition process

The Symphonic I Band consists of accomplished musicians and leaders in the band program who are challenged to perform some of the most artistic literature available for middle school band. Students will perform several times throughout the year including pep rallies, football games, and formal concerts. Each spring this elite competitive ensemble participates in UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest, as well as at other festival performances. Though members of all three bands are encouraged to audition for All-Region Band and participate in Solo & Ensemble Contests, these activities are required for members of this band. Members are expected to take private lessons if at all possible. This class requires time outside of the school day to remain enrolled (concerts, football games, section rehearsals, etc).

Band – Symphonic II Band

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Audition process

The Symphonic II Band is dedicated to continued development of quality students and its focus is primarily on the development of individual instrument technique, the maturation of rehearsal skills, and the academic success of its members. This competitive ensemble participates in the UIL Concert & Sight-reading Contest. Capable students are encouraged to audition for All-Region Band and participate in Solo & Ensemble Contests. This class also requires time outside of the school day to remain enrolled (concerts, football games, section rehearsals, etc). Members are expected to take private lessons if at all possible.

Band – Concert Band

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: 6th grade Band or prior approval

The Concert Band is dedicated to continued development of quality students; its focus is primarily on the development of individual instrument technique, the maturation of rehearsal skills, and the academic success of its members. The focus of this ensemble is primarily pedagogical and therefore this is not a competing ensemble (though it is still a performing band). Like the other band classes, some time outside of the school day is required. Members are also encouraged to take private lessons if at all possible.

Band – Jazz Band

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Departmental selection process, concurrent enrollment in additional band course

This course would combine advanced instrumental techniques for top band students with a Jazz curriculum in which students would learn the fundamentals of Jazz history, style, and performance. As a performance-based class, students will perform as a Jazz ensemble at a minimum of 3-5 performances per year. Extra time outside of class for performances, contests, and occasional section practice is required.

Career Explorations

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and development of a college and career achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools to explore areas of personal interest and build future high school plans aligned to chosen career paths. This class is required in 7th grade.

Career Portals

Grades 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

This course explores college and career planning within specific career clusters. Students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and become part of a culture of high expectations for success in future studies and careers. This class is required in 7th grade.

Career Portals: AV Technology

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

This course introduces students to the field of audio/visual technology. Students will prepare for success in high school and college/career planning by exploring the field of creative computer technology applications such as graphic design and editing.

Cheerleading

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year (students must participate both semesters)

Prerequisite: Departmental selection process

Participation in cheerleading is considered an extra-curricular activity and it requires not only the ability to show spirit and be an example for our school, but also time outside of the class period. Cheerleading activities are varied throughout the year and include performances at both football and basketball season halftimes. Tryouts are held during the spring and are open to any 6th or 7th grade girl who wishes to be in cheerleading the following year. The week of summer Cheer Camp is mandatory and practice will be held during the school year. Participation in a competition is a requirement. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

Choir - Ladies' Choir

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Section placement audition; no prior experience required

Choir - Men's Choir

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Section placement audition; no prior experience required

Choir - Varsity Choir

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Audition process; previous choir experience

Multiple performance choirs are available based upon students' skill and experience level with vocal music. Students will expand learning in sight reading, musical literacy, and performance skills. The Varsity Choir competes with advanced middle school music and may require time outside the school day to remain enrolled (additional rehearsals, performances, etc.).

Civil Air Patrol (CAP)

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisites: None for first year; departmental selection process for second year

Requirements: \$31 fee; student must have a Battle Dress Uniform (not included in fee) (information will be provided on how to get uniforms)

Civil Air Patrol is an innovative program that enhances a student's self-discipline and sense of team, and teaches the concepts of servant leadership. The cadet program has four parts for each promotion: leadership, character development, aerospace education, and physical training. This class includes an after school program if the cadet wishes to be promoted. Students must meet haircut and grooming standards and wear military style uniforms once each week.

Dance

Grade Level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Beginning- to intermediate-level students learn about and practice various forms of dance. Students are required to provide their own course-specified attire and supplies. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

Dance I / Aerobic Activities

High school credit: 1

High School GPA Level: I

Grade Level: 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: 7th grade Dance or departmental selection process

Continuation of dance skills and activities are conducted at a higher level and faster pace.

Students are required to provide their own course-specified attire and supplies. This course counts as one full year of High School Fine Arts Credit and can also serve as partial fulfillment of the Middle School P.E. requirement.

HighSteppers (Drill Team)

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Departmental selection process

Participation in the Hawkette Highstepper Drill Team is considered an extra-curricular activity and it requires not only marching ability and dancing skills, but also time outside of the class period. Drill Team activities are varied throughout the year, including performances at sports halftime performances and community events. Tryouts are held during the spring for the following year and are open to any 6th and 7th grade girl. The week of Dance Camp in the summer is mandatory and once a week practice will be held in the summer before school starts. This course may serve as a substitute for Physical Education.

Introduction to Spanish

Grade level: 7

Course length: 1 semester

This course will introduce students to a basic overview of the Spanish language. Topics will include: alphabet, syllables, greetings, farewells, verb conjugation, adjectives, telling time, numbers, and much more.

Introduction to Journalism

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

This course will focus on important journalistic skills including news, feature, sports, opinion, review, and headline writing for online publication, photojournalism, and broadcasting. A grade of 70 or above in Introduction to Journalism or Photography I qualifies a student to apply for yearbook staff.

Language and Literacy

Grades: 6-8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Counselor Approval

This elective course is designed to support struggling readers to be successful on the current grade level with an emphasis on comprehension, fluency, and academic vocabulary. Specified sections may include specific supports for students identified with dyslexia or limited English proficiency.

Leadership

Grade: 8

This selective course is available by invitation only for veteran Student Council students and/or class officers. Students learn strategies to further their personal leadership skills.

Nutrition and Wellness

Grades: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

Students learn ways to enhance and maintain personal health throughout the life span. Behaviors and choices that influence wellness are explored, and students are exposed to various options to promote individual health.

Photography I

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

Photography I is a digital photography class that gives students a background and basic history of photography and teaches them the parts and functions of a digital camera. The course focuses on techniques such as the rule of thirds, perspective, and lighting to create a photograph that the student can be proud of. It is recommended that students have a digital camera, but not required. A grade of 70 or above in Introduction to Journalism or Photography I qualifies a student to apply for yearbook staff.

Photography II

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Photography I and departmental selection process

Photography II will build upon skills from Photography I and expose the student to the uses of photographs in print media, journalism, and other multimedia software programs. Each student must provide his/her own digital camera and memory card

Physical Education

Grade level: 8

Course length: full year

General physical education for boys and girls will develop physical fitness and the learning of skills. Each student has opportunities to develop in a variety of sports activities, with daily exercise designed to help maintain physical fitness for their age. The student is evaluated on the basis of skill, knowledge and strategy, rules, history, and terminology in each sport, and behavior in terms of participation, health, and safety practices. Suiting out and daily participation is imperative. All 8th graders must choose either Physical Education or a substitute course. See course descriptions for substitution options.

Robotics and Automation

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 semester

This robotics course will focus on the application, design, production, and assessment of products, services, and systems utilized for the development of intelligent robotics. Students will also examine a variety of algorithms for the control of autonomous mobile robots, exploring issues such as robotic behaviors, sensing, navigation, planning, and localization. The course will be project-oriented, with an emphasis on students learning STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) as related to Industrial Robotics. Students will have the opportunity to work independently and with other teammates. The course will also focus on the development of an intelligent robot to perform the necessary functions as required by national competitions.

Soar Math

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Counselor Approval

This course is designed to support grade-level achievement in mathematics by students who have previously demonstrated the need for additional support and intervention.

Spanish I**High school credit: 1**

High School GPA Level: I

Grade: 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Grade of 85 or higher in the

Introduction to Spanish course

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language. Emphasis is placed on acquiring basic listening, writing, reading, and speaking skills.

Students become actively involved in the appreciation of the culture, customs, and geography of Hispanic countries. Basic grammar, present, regular preterit, and substitute future tenses are studied.

7th Grade Technology Applications

Grade level: 7

Course length: 1 semester

This is an overview course designed to increase the student's understanding of computer basics, digital citizenship, computer terms, and computer applications. The course includes technology applications: keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet, database, presentations, bitmap drawing, and desktop publishing.

Theatre Arts

Grade levels: 7-8

Course length: full year

The objective of this course is to provide the student with a general overview of all the different areas in theater and to create an appreciation for live theater.

Course units include voice and diction, improvisation, pantomime, acting, theater history, stage make-up, and technical theater.

Advanced Theatre Arts

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Theatre Arts and/or departmental selection

This course continues the study of theatre established in Theatre Arts. It is designed to further investigate the area of acting. Instructional units include classical styles, children's theatre, play writing, stylized make-up and theater awareness. Emphasis will be placed on acting and directing; all projects will be performance-oriented. Specified sections will require that students audition successfully to be a part of One Act Play, which requires time outside of the school day to remain enrolled.

Yearbook

Grade level: 7 or 8

Course length: full year

Prerequisite: Introduction to Journalism or Photography and/or departmental selection process

Students communicate in a variety of forms such as print, digital, or online media for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students are expected to plan, draft, and complete written and/or visual communications on a regular basis, carefully examining their copy for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English. In addition, students will apply journalistic ethics and standards. Assignments are individual and require lengthy attention from the student.