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WOODROW WILSON
JUNIOR HIGH
Dayton ISD

8TH GRADE
COURSE CATALOG
2018-2019

For questions regarding 8th grade course selection, please contact
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“Building Future Broncos”

LANGUAGE ARTS GRADE 8

English Language Arts (ELA) emphasizes the basic language skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, viewing and presenting. The course includes studies of various literary genres: short story, poetry, novel, drama, and non-fiction. The course focuses on the development of critical reading skills in preparation for English 1 at the high school level.

LANGUAGE ARTS ADVANCED GRADE 8

This ELA course emphasizes the basic language skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking, viewing and presenting. The course includes studies of various literary genres: short story, poetry, novel, drama, and non-fiction. The course focuses on the development of critical reading skills in preparation for English 1 at the high school level. The Pre-AP sections include a more hands-on practical application of the subject content. This includes higher level thinking, additional exercises and practices, as well as out-of-class projects and assignments.

INNOVATIVE READING GRADE 8

This course is designed to help students achieve success on grade level reading by focusing on reading improvement while supporting and reinforcing the ELA 8 TEKS. Lessons offer regular reviews and practice exercises to reinforce learning and help students apply new knowledge. Students are assessed on material learned, progress made and readiness to move forward. Enrollment in this course is determined based on teacher recommendation and prior assessment scores.

MATHEMATICS GRADE 8

This course is dedicated to the introduction of many concepts of Algebra and Geometry that the student will then explore further in high school courses. Some concepts to be covered include calculating surface area and volume, using Pythagorean Theorem, identifying functions, understanding $y=mx+b$, and determining simple and compound interest. Eighth grade math is a required course that will ready students for Algebra I as freshmen.

INNOVATIVE MATH GRADE 8

This math course is for remediation of concepts from previous Mathematics courses as well as introduction of many concepts of Algebra and Geometry that the student will then explore further in high school courses. Students receive differentiated instruction and small group instruction to help improve overall math performance. Enrollment in this course is determined based on teacher recommendation and prior assessment scores.

ALGEBRA I GRADE 8

CREDIT: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

The main goal of this course is to provide students with a thorough and extensive study of linear and quadratic functions and graphing on the coordinate system. By the end of this course, students will have all the knowledge necessary to solve and graph equations and inequalities and apply this knowledge to other areas of math, such as word problems, ratios and proportions. The course begins by reviewing basic algebraic concepts, such as variables, order of operations, exponents and problem solving skills. Students will gain a thorough introduction to functions, the basis of all of Algebra and higher mathematics, such as calculus. They will learn how to solve linear equations, including multi-step equations, equations with multiple variables and equations involving decimals, as well as write a linear equation based on the graph of a line. The end of the course takes the students' knowledge of Algebra I one step further by introducing them to some basic concepts of geometry.

THEATER GRADES 7/8

This is a beginning drama and performance emphasis class. It will culminate with a class play in which all students will perform for the public. Basic aspects of acting and theater will be covered.

THEATER PRODUCTION GRADE 8

Activities will promote learning in the areas of basic acting, artistic discipline, imagination, voice control, theatre etiquette, memory, listening, terminology, history of theater, theatre appreciation, and interpretation of literature. Theater must have been taken as a prerequisite class in order to be eligible for Theater Production. Competition: UIL One Act Play.

SCIENCE GRADE 8

Eighth grade science is a course which will focus on earth science with an integration of chemistry, physics, and life science. Concepts which are found in common with other sciences will be emphasized in themes covering environmental interactions, systems and structures, energy and changes over time. This course will show relevance to student learning and understanding of science.

SCIENCE GRADE ADVANCED 8

This is an accelerated course designed for the student who has demonstrated the ability and interest in science above and beyond that which is offered in the regular eighth grade science. Use of laboratory equipment, safety rules, measurement techniques, graphing and recording analysis, and interpretation of data will be stressed. Eighth grade advanced science will focus on earth science with an integration of chemistry, physics and life science. Concepts which are found in common with other sciences will be emphasized in themes. Preparing the student to enter advanced high school sciences will be emphasized.

US HISTORY GRADE: 8

Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The content in US History 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on and the Declaration of Independence, landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court, biographies, autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, diaries, poetry, songs, and artworks.

US HISTORY ADVANCED GRADE 8

This course includes the study of the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will gain a deep conceptual understanding of how our nation was founded, the influence of our founding fathers and the founding documents. Primary and secondary source materials, reading and writing skills, technology, and critical thinking will be used to acquire and apply information.

ART GRADES 7/ 8

Art is a full-year course that is based on the TEKS basic strands: perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage, and critical evaluation. This art course is designed to expose students to a variety of art media. Students will develop technical, expressive and creative thinking skills as they produce works of art. Students study application of the basic fundamentals of visual art with a concentration in drawing skills. This course is open to 7th and 8th grade students.

ART I GRADE 8

CREDIT: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

This a beginning course to investigate a variety of media, techniques, and subjects. Students learn how to properly use the elements of art (line, space, shape, form, value, color, texture), and apply the principles of design (balance, unity, emphasis, rhythm, pattern, movement). Students will also learn about art from different cultures, from throughout art history, and several different art styles. A variety of artwork is created throughout the year, including: drawing by sight, acrylic painting, watercolor painting, working with clay and several others. This course serves as an introductory course for the advanced art classes offered. **Fee: \$10** *This fee covers the personal art supplies each student is given (sketchbook, drawing pencils, and erasers), and help to defray the cost of other supplies used such as paint, brushes, clay, glazes, etc.

SPANISH I GRADE: 8

CREDIT: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

This introductory course is designed for students with little or no previous study of Spanish. This course teaches basic language patterns and vocabulary. Repetition and comprehensible input are important components of this course. Focus is on all four language skills listening, speaking, reading and writing. Homework assignments are an integral part of this course; they reinforce concepts/skills introduced and explored in class, which enable students to participate in class in a meaningful way. Completion of homework assignments is a must. Active participation is required. Spanish I is a year-long course and carries a credit toward graduation. Upon successful completion of the year, students will be prepared to enter Spanish II in high school.

GIRLS/BOYS PHYSICAL EDUCATION GRADE 8

Physical Education is an instruction-based, skill-oriented program that emphasizes the importance of physical activity. Students will learn specialized skills and concepts that lead to confidence and competency in a variety of physical activities. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports, aerobic sports and adventure outdoor sports. Students enrolled in physical education will experience activity levels of **moderate intensity**. Students will be expected to run *at least* one mile a week under a set time (number of miles per week and set time at teachers' discretion.) Grades are based on daily participation, a timed mile, and the ability to meet individual class responsibilities, such as dressing out.

BOYS ATHLETICS GRADE 8

PREREQUISITE: PHYSICAL

Woodrow Wilson Junior High is a member of the University Interscholastic League. You, as the students, may participate under the rules of U.I.L. in the following sports.

Football.....Fall.....Athletics required

Basketball.....Fall, SpringPE recommended

Track and Field.....Spring.....Does not require PE or Athletics

Cross Country.....Fall.....Does not require PE or Athletics

Junior High Athletics focuses on the improvement of the individual athlete and more importantly the improvement of Pony team sports.

Only students who play football will be put into the athletic period.

Criteria for participation include a completed U.I.L. Physical, U.I.L. mandated paperwork, and athletes must maintain a seventy average in all classes. In addition, athletes can expect to make gains in strength, speed, skills, sportsmanship, and student academics throughout their athletic careers.

**Athletes who are chosen for a team will be required to commit to after school practices and games.

GIRLS ATHLETICS GRADE 8

PREREQUISITE: PHYSICAL

Woodrow Wilson Junior High is a member of the University Interscholastic League. You, as the students, may participate under the rules of U.I.L. in the following sports.

Girls Athletics is a prerequisite for high school athletics. All athletes who choose to take athletics will be expected to display responsibility, effort, a positive attitude, and mental/physical toughness. Athletes will also be expected to set an example in the classroom and outside of school, as well as on the court.

This is a class for **competitive athletes** who would like to try out for volleyball or basketball ONLY. In order to take this class, students must have a current physical examination by the first day of class. This class will consist of **high-intensity conditioning**, skills, and challenges that will improve volleyball and basketball play. Weekly grades are determined by participation, dressing out, and a timed aerobic activity. Athletes will earn 1 credit towards physical education on passing of the class.

Athletes will be issued athletic clothes and a locker that is their responsibility to keep up with. Misplacement of any issued athletic clothing will result in a fine. It is also the athletes' responsibility to maintain a passing grade in all of their classes in order to participate in UIL sports.

Criteria for participation include a completed U.I.L. Physical, U.I.L. mandated paperwork, and athletes must maintain a seventy average in all classes. In addition, athletes can expect to make gains in strength, speed, skills, sportsmanship, and student academics throughout their athletic careers.

Volleyball.....Fall.....Athletics required

Basketball.....FallAthletics required

Track and Field.....Spring....Does not require PE or Athletics

Cross Country.....Fall.....Does not require PE or Athletics

**Athletes who are chosen for a team will be required to commit to after school practices and games.

TECHNOLOGY GRADE 8

Students will learn about the 4 principles of design and apply them to a variety of projects. This class will use a variety of Web 2.0 tools. Some projects completed during the class are: designing flyers, letterhead, brochures, menus, magazine covers, and postcards. Students will learn how to use advanced features of PowerPoint, as well as Prezi. Students will create stop motion videos, online games, cartoons, and edit digital pictures.

CHOIR GRADES 7/8

This course is students striving to improve vocal talents and learn basic vocal techniques. Students will be regularly engaged in singing, playing various instruments, and moving to music. They will be learning to read and write music, creating music and listening to as well as analyzing and evaluating music and music performances. Students who take this course will be eligible to audition for high school choir his freshman year.

CONCERT CHOIR GRADE 8

This course is students striving to improve vocal talents and learn basic vocal techniques. Students will be regularly engaged in singing, playing various instruments, and moving to music. They will be learning to read and write music, creating music and listening to as well as analyzing and evaluating music and music performances. Students who take this course will be eligible to audition for high school choir his freshman year.

BAND GRADE 8

Eighth grade band is designed to provide students with an advanced experience on band instruments. Curriculum for this course is an extension of skills and concepts introduced in 7th grade band. This band is open to all eighth grade students who have successfully completed 7th grade band or those students that have shown exceptional growth on their instruments during their 7th grade year with approval from the directors through auditions. The student is encouraged to obtain tutoring sessions with a specialist on the student's particular instrument.

PRINCIPLES OF ARTS, A/V TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS GRADE 8

CREDIT: 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

This is an elective in the Arts, A/V, and Communications career cluster. This cluster is focused on careers in designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services. Topics include audio/video production, photography, fashion design, illustration, and animation. This class is for 8th grade students only.

ROBOTICS/INTRO TO AUDIO/VIDEO SEMESTER COURSES GRADES 7/8

Intro to Audio/Video is an entry level class for students to become familiar with audio and video production techniques. Students will learn about sound equipment, lighting, video and still cameras, lenses and accessories. Robotics is an introductory course in robotics. Students will learn programming, creation and set-up of autonomous robots to compete in classroom challenges.

ENGINEERING / INTRO TO ARCHITECTURE GRADE 8

Introduction to Architecture provides students with an overview of the various fields of architecture, interior design and construction management. Students will learn essential skills for career planning, safety, work ethics, communication, information technology applications, leadership, teamwork, employability and legal responsibility. Introduction to Engineering provides students with an overview of the engineering design process, applying math and engineering standards to identify and design solutions to a variety of real problems. Students will work both individually and in collaborative teams to identify, research, test, refine, develop and communicate design solutions using industry practices, standards and tools.

YEARBOOK GRADE 8

Yearbook is an advanced class in which students will gain real world knowledge in running a photography business. The class will cover photography and photo editing tools. In addition students will research careers in photography, marketing, advertising, bookkeeping and customer service. These skills will be used to produce the WWJH yearbook, video projects, and group photos. This class may have after school or weekend assignments.

DEBATE GRADE 8

Debating provides practice in developing sound and logical arguments. It gives students an opportunity to practice speaking in front of an audience and quick thinking skills.

ADVANCED COURSES:

We encourage high-achieving and/or highly motivated students to take advanced-courses in middle school. These courses are designed to prepare students to take future Advanced Placement and/or dual credit college courses. Students in the middle school advanced courses are introduced to the levels of thinking, reading, writing, and problem-solving they will encounter in future advanced classes. If your child has continually met passing standards on Texas state assessments and is consistently successful within any core content area(s), you may consider a placement of advanced coursework in the area(s) of study in which your child excels. If you have any questions, please contact a counselor at [936-258-2309](tel:936-258-2309).