

Course Offerings

8th Grade Required Courses

English Language Arts (ELA)

ELA 8 (0830) – 2 Semesters

Eighth grade students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and writing. Students are able to select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes such as to inform, persuade, or entertain. Students read, write, listen, speak, and view to learn more about the world around them and to create, clarify, critique, and appreciate ideas and responses. Significant blocks of time are provided for reading both independent and instructional level material for varied purposes such as collecting information, learning about and appreciating the writer's craft. The student shall be provided the opportunity to integrate computer technology, concepts and skills into the language arts curriculum.

Advanced ELA 8 (0833) – 2 Semesters

Eighth grade students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and writing. Students are able to select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes such as to inform, persuade, or entertain. Students read, write, listen, speak, and view to learn more about the world around them and to create, clarify, critique, and appreciate ideas and responses. Significant blocks of time are provided for reading both independent and instructional level material for varied purposes such as collecting information, learning about and appreciating the writer's craft. The student shall be provided the opportunity to integrate computer technology, concepts and skills into the language arts curriculum. This course is designed to prepare students for advanced courses in high school. This is in addition to

grade-level expectations in regular ELA classes.

Mathematics

Mathematics (0840) – 2 Semester

Transitional course designed to permit the student to move from concrete concepts of arithmetic to the abstract concepts of algebra. Emphasis is placed on fractions, decimal numbers, percents, and problem solving. Introduces basics of algebra - variables, solving equations, and integers.

Advanced Mathematics (0843)

Transitional course designed to permit the student to move from concrete concepts of arithmetic to the abstract concepts of algebra. Emphasis is placed on fractions, decimal numbers, percents, and problem solving. Introduces basics of algebra - variables, solving equations, and integers. This course is designed to extend the math curriculum in preparation for advanced courses in high school.

Math Strategies (0845) – 2 semesters

This course is designed to build math skills of students who do not perform as well on state testing as they should. This course will reinforce concepts that are mastered as well as increase knowledge on concepts that a student may be having difficulty mastering.

Algebra 1 (0844) – 2 semesters, High School Credit The student's math concepts will continue to build as their understanding expands through other mathematical experiences such as: algebraic thinking and symbolic reasoning; function concepts, relationship between equations and functions, tools for algebraic thinking, and underlying mathematical processes. One (1) HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT is awarded if the student earns a grade of 70 or above

average at the end of the school year. Students who have a class average of 78 or below during the first nine weeks will be placed on probationary status. STAAR EOC for Algebra I will count for 15% of final course grade.

Social Studies

U.S. History (0860) - In grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will be able to describe the physical characteristics of the U.S., the impact on population distribution, and the settlement patterns in the past and present. Students are given the opportunity to analyze the various economic factors that influence the development of colonial America and the early years of the Republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. The student shall be provided the opportunity to integrate computer technology concepts and skills into the social studies curriculum and organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps.

G.T. World Cultures (0861) - **This course is designed for currently identified GT students only.** In grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will be able to describe the physical characteristics of the U.S., the impact on population distribution, and the settlement patterns in the past and present. Students are given the opportunity to analyze the various economic factors that influence the development of colonial America and the early years of the Republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. The student shall be provided the opportunity to integrate computer technology concepts and skills into the social studies curriculum and organize and interpret information from outlines, reports, databases, and visuals including graphs, charts, timelines, and maps. In addition to the knowledge and skills taught in grade 8

Social Studies, students are taught the foundation for building academic student learning projects. All students are required to participate in the National History Day Competition.

Science

Science (0850) - Eighth grade students will be able to plan and conduct field and laboratory investigations by using scientific methods, analyze data, critical-thinking, problem solving; and use tools to collect and analyze information. As students learn science skills, they are able to identify roles of both human activities and natural events in altering earth systems

8th Grade Elective Courses

Physical Education

Physical Education (Boys 0870/Girls 0871) - Students in this course will complete field and lab investigations while emphasizing science progress skills and knowledge. They will also complete content including physical, life, and earth sciences.

Girls Athletics (0873)- Two Semesters Unlike physical education, girls' athletics requires high intensity conditioning and physical training with in-depth skills development in volleyball, basketball, and track. This course emphasizes participation in team sports, leadership, and sportsmanship. Involvement is voluntary; therefore, students are expected to follow rules developed by the Athletic Department. In order to participate in any athletic program, the student must have a completed athletic packet on file with a current physical. This course will count toward the P.E. requirement.

Boys Athletics (0872)- Two semesters Unlike physical education, boys' athletics requires high intensity conditioning and physical training with in-depth skills development in football, basketball, and track. This course emphasizes participation in team sports, leadership, and sportsmanship. Involvement is voluntary; therefore, students are expected to follow rules developed by the Athletic Department. In order to participate in any athletic program, the student must have a completed athletic packet on file with a current physical. This course will count toward the P.E. requirement.

Art

Art (089) - One Semester Four basic strands - perception, creative expression / performance, historical and cultural heritage, and critical evaluation - provide

broad, unifying structures for organizing the knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. Students express their thoughts and ideas creatively, while challenging their imagination, fostering reflective thinking, and developing disciplined effort and problem-solving skills. By analyzing artistic styles and historical periods students develop respect for the traditions and contributions of diverse cultures.

Music

Concert and (0780) - Two Semesters Concert Band is a continuation of learning fundamentals of a band instrument (woodwind, brass or percussion) in a concert band setting. Students will increase their understanding and comprehension of playing techniques, music reading and theory, concert etiquette and listening skills. Students may have required musical performances (contest and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. Students are encouraged to demonstrate and audition for placement into the advanced bands.

Symphonic Band (0880) - Two Semesters Symphonic Band is a continuation of learning fundamentals of a band instrument (woodwind, brass or percussion) in a full concert band setting. Students will increase their understanding and comprehension of playing techniques, music reading and theory, concert etiquette and listening skills. Students will have required musical performances (UIL Contest and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. Students will also participate in marching band with the high school band.

Choir (0895)- Two Semesters This choir is a "performing arts" class. The nature of performing arts classes requires time for public performances. Performances are

essential to the learning process. There are some events in which this choir will participate in that are extracurricular. Students are expected to attend performances and rehearsals scheduled outside of class time in order to fulfill the minimum class requirements.

Theater

Theater Arts (0890) – One Semester Students will explore the world of theatre arts in this one semester class. They will become familiar with various acting techniques, as well as a broad spectrum of theatre styles. This is a performance-based class.

Advanced Theater Arts (0988) – One Semester Students enrolling in Advanced Theater will learn both acting and directing techniques, for both film and stage productions. Students will study Elizabethan theatre, puppetry, playwriting, and stage combat fencing and quarterstaff. They will also learn how to put together a demo reel, resume, and head shot.

Technical Theater Arts (0889) – One Semester In Technical Theatre I, students are introduced to the basics of behind-the-scenes theatre. Students will explore scenic painting, lighting, sound and effects, scenery, costumes, makeup and special effects, and stage combat choreography. Backstage safety is heavily emphasized as students learn to find their creative designer.

Family and Consumer Science

Career Portals (0891) – One Semester Achieving proficiency in decision making and problem solving is an essential skill for career planning and lifelong learning. Students use self-knowledge, educational, and career information to set and achieve realistic career and educational goals.

Computer

Computer Technology Applications (0882) – One Semester This class develops technology skills with applications to personal and business situations focusing on word processing. This class will prepare students for the 8th grade computer competency test.

Other

Student Aide (0893/0899) – One Semester Students are allowed to be student aides for the front office or library. Students who would like to sign up for Student Aide positions need to have passing grades and conduct grades no lower than Satisfactory. Students must have satisfied all other course requirement before they may be allowed to register for a student aide position. In other words, students must have room in their schedule for the class - student aides. Special circumstances will be considered individually.

Entrepreneurship (0813) – One Semester Students will learn the basics of planning and launching a business as well as attracting investors, marketing, and managing a business. Students will be required to create a new business, complete a business plan, and use business management tools to maintain their business.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) (0822) – Two Semester **To participate in this program a student must apply and be accepted into the AVID program.** The AVID elective courses introduce students to the AVID philosophy. Students' progress from one grade level to the next and develop awareness of the values accompanying academic goals and success. The courses focus on building self-confidence and communication skills in working with peers and adults. Students are exposed to reading strategies and as they

progress from one grade level to the next, students broaden their writing practice. Students transition from active learners to leaders. They will expand their knowledge of note-taking, in relation to studying and test preparation. Students will be exposed to different field trips, guest speakers, and research to increase their knowledge of college and career options. Instructional Material: Materials provided through contract with AVID Center Prerequisites: Application to and Acceptance into the AVID Program. This class is required to participate in AVID in 9th Grade.

Principles of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources (0820)- Two Semesters High School Credit This is the basic introductory agriculture course that each student is required to take before advancing on to another agriculture course. Students will learn about the importance of agriculture, food and natural resources, and how their lives are affected by these aspects. Students will learn the basics of animal science; plant and soil science; natural resources; and agriculture mechanization, as well as be exposed to the many career possibilities in each of these fields. Students will also learn and demonstrate how to run meetings properly using parliamentary procedure, and practice developing various leadership and communication skills. Students will also learn about the FFA - the student organization for agriculture students, which provides endless opportunities for its members to develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success. One high school credit is awarded if the student earns a grade of 70 or above for this course.

Yearbook (0888) -Students learn and develop the skills needed to produce a yearbook: evaluating news, fact gathering, photography, writing of headlines and captions, graphic design and layout, proofing, editing, advertising, basic publication management skills, and creative writing. This course requires considerable

time outside school hours as well as leadership and teamwork abilities.

Robotics- Students will be introduced to the concepts of robotics by transferring academic skills into component of design in a project –based environment. Student will learn numerous concepts that may include the building of prototypes to use simulation software to test their design. Additionally, career exploration, employer expectations, and educational needs will be discussed.

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. (JROTC) (0898)- The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)/ is a program put forth by the United States Armed Forces in junior high schools across the nation to train students in Leadership and Military Science. The program prepares junior high students for leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as an American citizen. It provides instruction and rewarding opportunities which will benefit the student, community and nation. Cadets wear uniforms at regular intervals and are responsible for the daily duties of cadet administration. Extracurricular activities include: Color guards, community parades, drill and rifle teams, Techniques of Communication, Leadership, Cadet Challenge, Leadership Lab, First Aid, Map reading, History, Citizenship, and the role of the US Army.

