

Stafford Municipal School District

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“The Best Little School District in Texas”

The mission of Stafford Municipal School District is for every student to graduate college or career ready, without remediation.

The mission of Stafford Middle School is to utilize 21st century teaching and learning strategies to provide an atmosphere of high expectations for all students in pursuit of academic achievement, as well as to assist each student in the development of productive citizenship and cultural awareness.

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Stafford Middle School Counseling Department

7th and 8th Grade Counselor: Karla White

STAFFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION GUIDE OVERVIEW

This course program guide has been developed to assist you in planning your middle school course of study. It provides a brief description of courses offered and the criteria for special programs. The middle school course of study allows students to reinforce and extend foundation skills as well as explore and develop interests through elective courses. If you have questions about the course offerings, please contact the counselor or an administrator at the middle school campus.

COURSE DESIGNATIONS

Courses are designated in various ways to meet the skills and interests of the students. Many courses are offered as Academic, PreAdvanced Placement (PreAP), or PreAP/GT. A student's course of study may be a combination of courses with different designations. The students, parents, and school will work together to determine the best combinations for each learner.

- **Academic Courses:** these courses prepare students for college and post-secondary instruction using a variety of teaching strategies, student activities, and assessments. The curriculum requires students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills as well as to master core content.
- **PreAP and PreAP/GT Courses:** these courses are designed to challenge motivated students and prepare them for success in college-level coursework in high school and in college. *These advanced or above grade-level courses typically move at a faster pace, are more academically challenging, and require more independent learning and homework than Academic courses.* Students who participate in services designed for gifted/talented students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performances that reflect individuality and creativity and are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment.

WHEN CHOOSING A COURSE OF STUDY, REMEMBER:

- SMSD's Academic curriculum is college-bound curriculum.
- While PreAP and PreAP/GT courses are designed to better prepare students for Advanced Placement (AP) courses in high school, PreAP courses are NOT a requirement for enrolling in AP courses in high school.
- Students may take one or several PreAP courses.
- For most courses, it is possible to move from Academic to PreAP from one year to the next. However, in mathematics, it is more difficult due to the acceleration and compacting of the curriculum in 7th and 8th grade. A student who decides to move from Academic to PreAP mathematics may require additional support in making the transition.

PreAP ENTRY AND EXIT GUIDELINES:

The purpose of the entry guidelines is to provide information to facilitate the placement of students into academically challenging courses. SMSD recognizes the value of student participation in advanced coursework and encourages students to graduate from high school with at least one advanced academic course credit such as Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Credit. Students are encouraged to access the most rigorous curriculum in which they can be successful, generally defined as earning a “C” or better semester average. Student performance in related courses and teacher input are important elements for parents and students to consider in selecting advanced coursework.

STUDENTS CHOOSING TO PARTICIPATE IN PreAP MUST:

- Demonstrate mastery on course-related state mandated performance assessments (STAAR)
- Demonstrate above grade-level performance on ability test(s), such as CogAT
- Receive a recommendation from the current course teacher
- Recognize the long-term benefits of participation, seek assistance when needed, and be committed to staying in the course for a minimum of one semester
- Students and parents must sign a PreAP contract to confirm commitment

EXIT CRITERIA FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL PreAP CLASSES:

- Students may exit only at the end of the first three weeks progress report, the end of the first six weeks grading cycle, or at the end of the first semester.
- A grade in the 70s or 80s at the end of a formal grading period is not considered a valid reason to exit the PreAP program
- Students must conference with the teacher
- Students must complete their course assignments and/or attend recommended tutorials
- Students must gain approval of the building principal or principal’s designee

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES OFFERED TO STUDENTS IN GRADE 8

The Texas Administrative Code states that districts may offer courses designated for grades 9-12 in grades 7 and 8 and will verify that students who take these courses have satisfactorily completed the prerequisite Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The Academic Achievement Record (AAR) will reflect that students have satisfactorily completed the courses in grades 7 and 8 and have been awarded state graduation credit. High school credits earned in middle school will NOT count towards a student’s GPA in high school. For elective courses that reach capacity, priority will be given to those students with fewer or no high school courses.

THE FOLLOWING COURSES CAN BE TAKEN IN GRADE 8 FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT:

- Algebra 1
- Art 1 (fine art)
- Dance 1 (fine art)
- Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (elective)

- Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance (elective)
- Principles of Health Science (elective, by invitation only)
- Spanish 1
- Spanish Heritage 1 (for Spanish 1 credit)
- Spanish Heritage 2 (for Spanish 2 credit)

STATE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is the state assessment program. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has identified a set of readiness and supporting standards for designated courses which are assessed in the following grades:

- Grade 7 → Reading, Writing, and Mathematics
- Grade 8 → Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

REQUIRED COURSES

THE FOLLOWING COURSES ARE REQUIRED IN GRADE 7:

- 7th Grade English Language Arts/Reading (ELAR)
 - A 90-minute block will be required of students whose performance on the STAAR test is less than proficient
- 7th Grade Mathematics
 - A 90-minute block will be required of students whose performance on the STAAR test is less than proficient
- 7th Grade Science
- 7th Grade Social Studies: Texas History
- A Physical Education course (PE, Athletics, Dance, or Karate)

THE FOLLOWING COURSES ARE REQUIRED IN GRADE 8:

- 8th Grade English Language Arts/Reading (ELAR)
 - A 90-minute block will be required of students whose performance on the STAAR test is less than proficient
- 8th Grade Mathematics or Algebra 1
 - A 90-minute block will be required of students whose performance on the STAAR test is less than proficient
- 8th Grade Science
- 8th Grade Social Studies: United States History
- A Physical Education course (PE, Athletics, Dance, or Karate)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS/READING

7110 7th Grade English Language Arts/Reading (year-long course)

In grade 7, students refine and master previously learned reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in increasingly complex reading selections and written compositions. Students analyze and evaluate a speaker's delivery. Students read a wide variety of texts from all genres. Students use different forms of writing, varied sentence structure, verb tense, grammar, and usage to improve their writing. Students also produce error-free compositions on a quarterly basis, in addition to retrieving data from multiple sources for use in research projects.

**SMSD provides all students with a summer reading list prior to the last day of the current school year. Upon completion of the student's book selection from the summer list, all students are required to complete an AR quiz and writing assessment to their 2018-2019 ELAR teacher by the assigned due date (as listed on the "2018 Summer Reading" list). For additional information, please contact your child's current ELAR teacher or you may visit the campus-level website during the summer months.*

7101 7th Grade PreAP/GT English Language Arts/Reading (year-long course)

This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous English Language Arts/Reading program.

In grade 7, the PreAP/GT student refines and masters previously learned knowledge and skills in increasing complex presentations, classical and contemporary reading selections, research and writing in all genres. Students identify various literary forms and use different forms of writing for specific purposes. Students learn how to edit their writing based on knowledge of grammar, usage, spelling, punctuation, and other conventions of written language. Students organize ideas in timed and untimed writing assignments. Students collaborate with other writers to compose, publish, and analyze published examples as models for writers. Significant blocks of time outside the classroom are required for reading both independent and instructional-level materials for varied purposes. The College Board's official PreAP program, SpringBoard, will be utilized. The differentiated curriculum prepares students for the PreAP program in high school.

**SMSD provides all students with a summer reading list prior to the last day of the current school year. Upon completion of the student's book selection from the summer list, all students are required to turn in a mandatory reading project to their 2018-2019 ELAR teacher by the assigned due date (as listed on the "2018 Summer Reading" list). For additional information, please contact your child's current ELAR teacher or you may visit the campus-level website during the summer months.*

8110 8th Grade English Language Arts/Reading (year-long course)

In grade 8, students refine and master previously learned reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in reading selections and written compositions. Students continue to read a variety of texts from all genres. Students produce multi-paragraph compositions with varied sentence structure

and use their knowledge of grammar and usage to improve their writing and produce error-free compositions on a quarterly basis. Students will also write and present research reports using visuals and media.

**SMSD provides all students with a summer reading list prior to the last day of the current school year. Upon completion of the student's book selection from the summer list, all students are required to complete an AR quiz and writing assessment to their 2018-2019 ELAR teacher by the assigned due date (as listed on the "2018 Summer Reading" list). For additional information, please contact your child's current ELAR teacher or you may visit the campus-level website during the summer months.*

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This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous English Language Arts/Reading program.

In grade 8, the PreAP/GT student refines and masters previously learned knowledge and skills in increasing complex presentations, classical and contemporary reading selections, research and writing in all genres. Students identify various literary forms and use different forms of writing for specific purposes. Students learn how to edit their writing based on knowledge of grammar, usage, spelling, punctuation, and other conventions of written language. Students organize ideas in timed and untimed writing assignments. Students collaborate with other writers to compose, publish, and analyze published examples as models for writers. Significant blocks of time outside the classroom are required for reading both independent and instructional-level materials for varied purposes. The College Board's official PreAP program, SpringBoard, will be utilized. The differentiated curriculum prepares students for the PreAP program in high school.

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MATHEMATICS

7210 7th Grade Mathematics (year-long course)

In grade 7, students will extend and build upon their foundation of basic understandings of mathematical process standards, number and operations, proportionality, expressions/equations/relationships, measurement and data, and personal financial literacy. Areas of emphasis include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals, fractions, and integers fluently. Students will continue to experience opportunities to use models, manipulatives, and data collection and interpretation with appropriate technology. Problem-solving, communication, connections of concepts (both within and outside mathematics), and informal reasoning will be emphasized.

7201 7th Grade PreAP/GT Mathematics (year-long course)

This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous Mathematics program.

PreAP Math 7 will cover the second half of the 7th grade math curriculum and all of the 8th grade math curriculum while allowing students to use investigations to develop their mathematical thinking skills. Class assignments and activities build on and expand higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and integrate units that promote mathematical connections. Students are provided opportunities for extension and application of content and processes. This course will help prepare students to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade.

8210 8th Grade Mathematics (year-long course)

Students in grade 8 mathematics will continue to extend and build upon their foundation of basic understandings of numerical representations and relationships, computations and algebraic relationships, geometry and measurement, and data analysis and personal financial literacy. The areas of emphasis are using algebraic principles to analyze proportional and non-proportional relationships, solving linear equations, functions, analyzing two and three-dimensional figures and applying Pythagorean Theorem. Students will experience opportunities to explore abstract concepts on appropriate technology. Problem-solving, communication, connections of concepts both within and outside mathematics, and informal and formal reasoning will be emphasized. This course is designed to successfully prepare students for Algebra 1 in 9th grade.

8201 Algebra 1 (for 8th graders only, year-long course)

This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous Mathematics program. To be considered for this course, students must score at least an 80% on their 7th grade Math STAAR assessment and maintain at least a B average for their 7th grade math coursework.

This course serves as a foundation for all higher-level mathematics courses. It focuses on the development for functions and the understanding of functional relationships. Students will investigate algebra through problem-solving in real world situations. Students will participate in developing tables, coordinate graphing, algebraic analysis and computation using appropriate technology. This course will help prepare students to take advanced mathematics courses in high school. High school credit will be awarded for successful completion of this course.

SCIENCE**7350 7th Grade Science (year-long course)**

7th grade science is a course of study coordinating thematic instruction across multiple science disciplines including biology, chemistry, physics, and earth/space science. The curriculum has a balance of content and activities that guide students towards the discovery of basic principles, with a focus on life science (specifically organisms and the environment). The curriculum includes Science Safety, Organisms and the Environment, Cell Structure and Function, Body Systems,

Genetics/Genetic Variations and Adaptations, Flow of Energy, Cycling of Matter, Earth and Space, Factors affecting Earth Systems, and Force, Motion, and Energy Relationships. The study of science includes conducting field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods for analyzing data to make informed decisions.

7351 7th Grade PreAP/GT Science (year-long course)

This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous Science program.

PreAP 7th grade science covers the 7th grade science curriculum and integrates the 8th grade science curriculum which allows students to construct their own understanding through an inquiry-based approach while encouraging advanced skills in-depth discussions, more comprehensive lab work, and increased independent study. Class assignments and activities build on and expand higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation and integrate units that promote scientific connections and connections with other disciplines. Students are provided opportunities for extension and application of content and processes. Special projects are assigned during the year, which require individual research on the internet or at a local library. Classroom presentations are expected. The course will help prepare students to take PreAP Science 8.

8350 8th Grade Science (year-long course)

8th grade Science is a course of study coordinating thematic instruction across the four science disciplines biology, chemistry, physics and earth/space science. The curriculum has a balance of content and activities that guides students towards the discovery of the basic principles with a focus on earth and space science and the processes involved. The curriculum includes properties of Science Safety, Atoms, and the Periodic Table, Chemical Formulas, Reactions, Force and Motion, Newton's Laws, Earth Changing Forces, Climate, Earth Cycles, The Universe, Living Systems, Student Designed Investigations. The study of science includes field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods for analyzing data to make informed decisions.

8351 8th Grade PreAP/GT Science (year-long course)

This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous Science program.

PreAP 8th grade science covers the 8th grade science curriculum and integrated Physics & Chemistry (IPC) which allows students to construct their own understanding through an inquiry-based approach while encouraging advanced skills, in-depth discussion, more comprehensive lab work and increased independent study. Class assignments and activities build on and expand higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and integrate units that promote scientific connections. Students are provided opportunities for extension and application of content and processes. Special projects are assigned during the year, which require individual research on the internet or at a local library. Classroom presentations are expected. This course will help prepare students to take PreAP science courses in high school.

SOCIAL STUDIES

7300 7th Grade Social Studies: Texas History (year-long course)

Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the history of Texas from Native Texas and its People through the 20th century. Students will concentrate on the themes of economic, social, political and geography as applied to the growth and development of the history of Texas. Reading, writing, projects, critical thinking, and discussions will be utilized to analyze the events and contributions of people that shaped the foundation of Texas.

7301 7th Grade PreAP/GT Social Studies: Texas History (year-long course)

This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous Social Studies program.

Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the history of Texas from the Native People and settlements through the 20th century. Students will concentrate on the themes of economic, social, political and geography as applied to the growth and development of the history of Texas. Reading, writing, projects, critical thinking, and discussions will be utilized to analyze the events and contributions of people that shaped the foundation of Texas. Students will utilize more primary and secondary sources as applied to document based questions and assessments. Students will be required to participate in a research based project outside of the classroom. Outside reading will be required.

8300 8th Grade Social Studies: United States History (year-long course)

Students will study the history of the United States from European Exploration through Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will focus on the themes of economic, social, political, and geography as applied to the events and people of this time period. Students will examine the American beliefs and principles as reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Reading, writing, projects, critical thinking and discussions will be utilized to analyze the events and contributions of people that shaped the foundation of our democratic society in the United States.

8301 8th Grade PreAP/GT Social Studies: United States History (year-long course)

This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in a rigorous Social Studies program.

Students will study the history of the United States from European Exploration through Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will focus on the themes of economic, social, political, and geography as applied to the events and people of this time period. Students will examine the American beliefs and principles as reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Reading, writing, projects, critical thinking and discussions will be utilized to analyze the events and contributions of people that shaped the foundation of our democratic society in the United States. Students will utilize more primary and secondary sources as applied to

document based questions and assessments. Students will be required to participate in a research based project outside of the classroom. Outside reading will be required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE OPTIONS

7410 7th Grade Boys and Girls Physical Education/First Aid (year-long course)

8410 8th Grade Boys and Girls Physical Education/CPR (year-long course)

The Physical Education program provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a comprehensive program consisting of skill development, lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. It is based on physical activities undertaken in an active, caring, supportive and nonthreatening atmosphere in which every student is challenged and successful. The students receive instruction in rules, skills, and strategies associated with the different sports as well as learning experiences involving physical conditioning activities and lifelong physical activities. The program promotes the spirit of cooperation, leadership, fair play, and friendly competition.

7400 7th Grade BOYS Athletics (year-long course)

8400 8th Grade BOYS Athletics (year-long course)

A physical examination is required PRIOR to the start of the school year. Try-outs and coach approval are required to participate in each of the following sports: Football, Basketball, Track, Tennis, and Cross Country. Since Athletics is a year-long course, students MUST participate in at least two sports. They may choose one sport in the fall and one sport in the spring.

The following competitive athletic programs are designed for those who are highly motivated to participate in team or individual UIL athletics. Participants are expected to meet all UIL regulations and must maintain academic standards while devoting a great deal of time outside of the school day towards these programs.

7401 7th Grade GIRLS Athletics (year-long course)

8401 8th Grade GIRLS Athletics (year-long course)

A physical examination is required PRIOR to the start of the school year. Try-outs and coach approval are required to participate in each of the following sports: Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Tennis, and Cross Country. Since Athletics is a year-long course, students MUST participate in at least one sport.

The following competitive athletic programs are designed for those who are highly motivated to participate in team or individual UIL athletics. Participants are expected to meet all UIL regulations and must maintain academic standards while devoting a great deal of time outside of the school day towards these programs.

7450 7th Grade Dance (year-long course)

This course deals with specific knowledge of human skeletal and muscular anatomy and its relationship to movement and postural alignment. This course is performance-based and students

must embody discipline and self-control when learning movement. Students will learn the basic dance movement for jazz, ballet, modern, hip hop, and ballroom. There is a performance at the end of the year that require some after school hours.

8450 Dance 1 (8th graders only, year-long course)

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Dance

This course goes into detail on the relationship between dance movement and emotions. This course is performance- based and students must embody discipline and self-control when learning movement. Students will learn movement for jazz, ballet, modern, contemporary, and how to make choreography and manipulate movement. There is a performance at the end of the year that require some after school hours. Upon successful completion of this course, students will earn a high school fine arts credit (one fine arts credit is required for graduation from high school).

7420 7th Grade Karate (year-long course)

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Karate

Karate is used to teach character-building values to students. Studies show that karate gives young people the tools and support needed to resist negative peer pressure, avoid self-destructive behaviors, and make responsible decisions. KICKSTART KIDS will improve children's lives both inside and outside of the classroom by engaging their heart, head, and hands. The goal is to positively influence the whole child for the life of the child and help create safer, healthier, and more productive communities.

8420 8th Grade Karate (year-long course)

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Karate

Karate is used to teach character-building values to students. Studies show that karate gives young people the tools and support needed to resist negative peer pressure, avoid self-destructive behaviors, and make responsible decisions. KICKSTART KIDS will improve children's lives both inside and outside of the classroom by engaging their heart, head, and hands. The goal is to positively influence the whole child for the life of the child and help create safer, healthier, and more productive communities.

LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

If you fit the following profile, you are considered a Heritage Spanish student. Please use this profile to determine which Spanish course is the best fit for you:

- Well-versed in the language of a Spanish-speaking country
- Speakers of prestige variety of Spanish
- Access to bilingual instruction in the United States

- Basic academic skills in Spanish
- Good academic skills in English

7510 Introduction to Spanish (7th graders only, year-long course)

This course serves as an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Basic listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presentation skills are developed. Communication skills are the primary focus of this course. At the end of this course, students will be able to express themselves and engage in simple conversation in Spanish within the limits of their knowledge of vocabulary and structure.

8510 Spanish 1 (8th graders only, year-long course)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Spanish (taken in 7th Grade)

This is the same Spanish 1 course offered in high school. Successful completion of this course earns one credit toward satisfying the units of foreign language required by the state for graduation from high school. 8th grade students who received credit for Spanish 1 cannot repeat this course in high school, but will instead begin in Spanish 2 their 9th grade year.

Spanish 1 students will develop their basic listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and presentation skills. Communication skills are the primary focus of this course. At the end of this course students will be able to express themselves and engage in simple conversation in Spanish within the limits of their knowledge of vocabulary and structure.

**Note: Heritage Spanish students should NOT take this course. To determine whether you are a Heritage Spanish student, review the profile above.*

8513 Spanish Heritage 1 (8th graders only, one-semester course taken in the fall)

8512 Spanish Heritage 2 (8th graders only, one-semester course taken in the spring)

Prerequisite: Must fit the Heritage Spanish profile and must be approved by a LOTE teacher

Students who are heritage or native speakers of Spanish may receive credit for high school Spanish 1 and 2 in one year upon successful completion of this course. The main objective of this course is to help students to continue to develop their heritage linguistic and cultural skills in order to become fully bilingual and biliterate so that they will be well-positioned to live and work in an increasingly multilingual environment in the United States. The focus of this course is on increasing students' ability to use Spanish flexibly in both formal and informal situations and on developing their literacy skills, recognizing that the needs of heritage and native speakers are different from those of non-native and non-heritage students of Spanish.

FINE ARTS

7810 7th Grade Visual Arts (one-semester course)

The Visual Arts program offers a comprehensive art education that provides students enriched opportunities for creative expression this course is designed for students who wish to learn to draw, paint, design, and study the great masters of art and develop confidence in their creative expression. Students will learn about materials, concepts, and terminology of the seven elements of art. They will increase their knowledge of art history, production, aesthetics, and criticism. Each student will maintain a sketchbook portfolio. The 7th grade Visual Arts program is a prerequisite for higher level art courses such as Art 1 (for high school credit).

8811 8th Grade Visual Arts (one-semester course)

This course offers an in-depth study of concepts directly related to the elements of art and principles of design. Students will learn in-depth fundamentals of design, drawing, painting, and art history. They will also develop the skills necessary for communicating ideas and emotions through their artworks. The art studio is a creative, fun environment, rich with experiences to personally develop. Each student will maintain a sketchbook portfolio.

8815 Art 1 (8th graders only, year-long course)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th Grade Visual Arts

This high school level course emphasizes drawing and painting and provides a foundation for subsequent art courses. Course work will focus on the elements of art and principles of design through variety of media and creative problem-solving assignments. Art history and critiques are integrated in the curriculum. Students create original art in a variety of media, study art history, aesthetics, and participate in the critique process within this course. Development of a portfolio is required. One full credit (2 sequential semesters) must be earned in Art 1 for entry into a Level 2 art course in high school. Students will receive course information and a list of required supplies at the beginning of the course. Upon successful completion of this course, students will earn a high school fine arts credit (one fine arts credit is required for graduation from high school).

7500 7th Grade Band (year-long course)

8500 8th Grade Band (year-long course)

Prerequisite: Students must audition and have been in band the previous year

Students will be recommended by the band director for the appropriate band: Honors, Concert, or Symphonic. Students must commit to working to benefit the entire band through their efforts during class time and in extra-curricular rehearsals and performances, as planned by the director. They are expected to be physically, mentally, and musically well-disciplined and to embody the highest standards and self-control. Performances by the band will include concerts on and off campus, and subsequent competitive auditions, UIL solo ensemble, and sight-reading contests as well as other activities planned by the director.

7803 7th Grade Choir (year-long course)

8803 8th Grade Choir (year-long course)

This performance-based course provides the opportunity for students to develop their vocal ability as individuals and advance their skills and knowledge of fundamental musicianship. Sight-singing techniques are emphasized as part of music language learning and used to assist in performance preparation, as well as to prepare for UIL Contest participation. A variety of choral literature will be explored in both art music and contemporary styles. This course contains extra-curricular components which require participation in after school hours and weekend activities.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY (CTE)

8624 Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (8th graders only, year-long course)

Students enrolled in this course will learn the basics of Agricultural Science. Units of study include the history of agriculture and the FFA, leadership, and personal development. Students will get an introductory look at food science, animal science, plant science and agriculture mechanics. This is a hands-on class, with several labs to reinforce the curriculum. Additionally, students in this course will have the opportunity to participate in the co-curricular organization, the FFA, where they have the option to participate in various contests. Upon completion of this course, students will earn one high school CTE credit.

8590 Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance (8th graders only, year-long course)

This course allows students to gain knowledge and skills in economics, private enterprise systems, the impact of global business, marketing of goods and services, advertising, and product pricing. Students analyze the sales process and financial management principles. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems and settings in business, marketing, and finance. Upon completion of this course, students will earn one high school CTE credit.

7845 College and Career Readiness (7th graders only, semester-long course)

The career development process is unique to every person and evolves throughout one's life. Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths.

8830 Investigating Careers (8th graders only, semester-long course)

Career development is a lifelong pursuit of answers to the questions: Who am I? Why am I here? What am I meant to do with my life? It is vital that students have a clear sense of direction for their career choice. Career planning is a critical step and is essential to success in their chosen career. The goal of this course is to create a foundation for success in high school, future studies, and careers such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; Business and Industry; Public Service; Arts and Humanities; and Multidisciplinary Studies. The students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment.

8550 Gateway to Technology (8th graders only, year-long course)

This course consists of activities designed to challenge and engage the curiosity and imagination of students. Topics covered include advanced design and modeling, AutoCAD, circuitry and electrical resistance, advances in technology, and simple and complex machinery.

7561 7th Grade Journalism (year-long course)

8561 8th Grade Journalism (year-long course)

In Journalism, students will evaluate various techniques used to create point of view in media and impact on audience. Students will evaluate the role of media in focusing attention on events and informing opinion on issues. In addition, students will plan and write relevant questions for interviews or in-depth research. Students will learn how to evaluate and confirm the validity of background information from a variety of sources such as other qualified persons, books, and reports. Students will incorporate direct and indirect quotes and other research to write in copy. Students will use different forms of journalistic writing such as reviews, news, features, and editorials to inform, entertain, and/or persuade. Students will also work on production of the middle school yearbook, taking pictures, creating layouts, and writing captions for photos.

7570 7th Grade Technology Applications (one-semester course)

This course includes instruction in the use of both hardware and software spreadsheets, word processing, databases, multimedia, telecommunications, and graphic design. Students will learn basic data entry and storage and retrieval of information.

8580 8th Grade Technology Applications (one-semester course)

This course offers extended activity in word processing, databases, spreadsheets, graphic design, multimedia, telecommunications, and emerging technologies. This class is designed for students who demonstrate proficiency in word processing, databases, spreadsheets, and graphics.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

7525 7th Grade Creative Writing (year-long course)

8525 8th Grade Creative Writing (year-long course)

This is a creative writing course concentrating on the literary essay. The class focuses on constructive in-class analysis of personal essays written by students. Students will write and critically examine essays such as memoirs, autobiographies, and reflective essays that have literary or stylistic components. Students will also compose their own fictional story with a minimum goal of 6,000 words. The students will keep a journal and prepare a portfolio of their work. This course can only be taken once in middle school.

8520 Office Aide (8th graders only, year-long course)

8521 Office Aide (8th graders only, one-semester course)

This school service opportunity allows students to work in school offices. Interested students who receive a teacher recommendation will be placed as aides on an as-needed basis.

COURSE SELECTION PRACTICE WORKSHEET

DISCIPLINE	GRADE 7	GRADE 8	GRADE 9
ENGLISH/READING (required)			
MATHEMATICS (required)			
SCIENCE (required)			
SOCIAL STUDIES (required)			
PE COURSE (required)			
LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)			
FINE ART			
ELECTIVE			
ELECTIVE			
ALTERNATE ELECTIVE			
ALTERNATE ELECTIVE			
ALTERNATE ELECTIVE			