

Junior High School

Course Description

Handbook

2015-2016



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Si necesita Ud. Ayuda en la traducción de este document, por favor llama la especialista de ELL del distrito (Nidia Alcantar) at 608-337-4420.

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Registration

Your counselor assists in this process. The student and parent assume responsibility for the ultimate decisions regarding academic planning and course selection.

Exploratory Classes

7th & 8th Grade Ag Exploratory: This is a mandatory 6-week program for junior high students. The 7th grade students will be given information about what the FFA is and the opportunities that this student organization has to offer. Leadership will be a core value of this unit.

It allows 7th & 8th Grade students to get to know the Ag Instructor, as well as learn various conservation projects involved in both Agriculture and in the rural setting of our area.

Course Code: 68001G

7th Grade Art Exploratory: Students will create art to coincide with the elements and principals of art and design while constructing a gargoye out of clay.

8th Grade Art Exploratory: Students will explore cartooning, optical illusions and origami.

7th Grade Business Exploratory: This course is designed to review and enhance the student's keyboarding skills (already learned in the upper elementary Keyboarding class). The class will also introduce the students to basic computer knowledge and use, including word processing, formatting, and basic spreadsheets.

8th Grade Business Exploratory: This class is designed to give students a chance to explore various topics covered in business and computers. During the six week course they will learn about copyright issues, safe surfing on the web, and how to evaluate websites. They will also have the opportunity to investigate different computer programs including multimedia presentations, movie editing and desktop publishing software.

7th Grade Consumer Sciences Exploratory: This course is designed to give 7th grade students and overview of some of the course offerings in Family and Consumer Sciences Education that they will have the opportunity to take in grades 9-12. Subjects that are covered include food preparation skills and sewing essentials. Life management skills, critical thinking and decision making skills are emphasized.

8th Grade Consumer Sciences Exploratory: This course is designed to give 8th grade students an overview of some of the course offerings in Family and Consumer Sciences Education that will have the opportunity to take in grades 9-12. Subjects that are covered include personality development, relationships, sexuality and childcare. Life management skills, critical thinking and decision making skills are also emphasized.

7th Grade Spanish Exploratory: Students are introduced to a foreign language and begin to understand the alphabet, numbers, colors, months, dates, and the role gender plays in the language. We also learn to discuss activities we like to do and create presentations about the people in our family.

8th Grade Spanish Exploratory: Students will review the material covered in 7th Grade Spanish and then be introduced to basic Spanish vocabulary such as foods, sports, activities you can participate in, and classes and materials for school. We also learn words that are used to describe movement and create a story about a person or place.

7th Grade Technology Exploratory: 7th grade exploratory class is a 6 week course which is an introduction to some design/build principles. Students will cover two main units which include designing and building a bridge made from craft sticks. Students will then learn names of some tools and how to use the woodworking tools which will be used to make a model race car from wood.

8th Grade Technology Exploratory: 8th grade exploratory class is a 6 week course which is an introduction to basic drawings and woodworking principles. Measuring is covered followed by drafting principles where students will learn how to draw plans for a wooden stool. Students will then learn how to use the band-saw and sanders which they will use to make the stool.

English

English 7: Students will become familiar with the various genres of literature through multiple themes. The class is organized and sequenced so that students build literary response and analysis, reading comprehension, writing, vocabulary, speaking and listening skills. Grammar and basic writing skills will be emphasized.

English 8: English 8 will focus on communication in all its forms: Speaking, writing, listening and reading the written word. Since communication is the most important skill needed to successfully perform in the 21 Century work place, our focus in this class will follow suit. We will follow a skills/content approach-where necessary life skills are taught in conjunction with the content of the curriculum. In addition to teaching the basic skills of listening, following directions, written/verbal communication and reading; students will present reports, research, work in teams, problem solve, analyze and persuade as well. In writing, elements of style, cohesiveness, correct form and structure are stressed. Mechanics and usage will be reviewed during the writing process. Expressive writing through journals and other creative modes are incorporated on a regular basis. Both written and oral reports are used frequently as a tool for evaluation.

Literature: Year-long course for students in Grades 7 & 8. Through the study of high-interest fiction and non-fiction works such as short stories, essays, poetry, drama, and novels, students will learn and practice reading strategies to improve their reading and writing fluency and verbal communication skills. This literature-focused course allows for continuous participation and growth, as students are challenged to form and express their own opinions about the literature.

Mathematics

7th Grade Math: Mathematics 7 is a course that builds a solid foundation in basic mathematics. With this foundation, the student will be prepared for higher level math courses and this foundation will help them become more effective problem solvers. Mathematics skills taught include the four operations with whole numbers, decimals, fractions and integers; ratio and proportions, percents, probability and statistics and different graphic representations of data. Problem solving is stressed throughout.

8th Grade Math: Many of the topics of the 7th Grade Math Curriculum are reviewed with the problems being of a higher degree of difficulty. Such topics are the performance of the 4 operations with decimals, fractions, and integers; ratio and proportion, geometric constructions, measurement concepts, and percents. More advanced concepts, some of which may have been touched upon, have to be introduced from the very beginning and then covered in great depth. These concepts are solving equations, types of percent problems, coordinate geometry, symmetry and transformations, square roots, and statistics and probability. Problem solving sections become more challenging but still relate to everyday situations.

Algebra I: Upon teacher recommendation, students in Grade 8 may take Algebra I and earn a math credit on their high school transcript. This class is the basic building block for other high school or technical programs. It also teaches many important concepts needed in everyday living. The main role in Algebra is for students to develop an understanding of the use of variables and then to develop the confidence in using variables to express relationships in various problem-solving situations. Areas in which this idea is covered include numeration, measurement, statistics, geometry, algebra, and discrete mathematics.

Course Code: 02052G

Music Education

Junior High Band: This is a year-long course open to students in grades 7 and 8 who enjoy music and have a willingness and desire to participate in group instruction. Previous experience in elementary band is preferred but not required. Band gives students the opportunity to learn and understand musical notes, symbols, and terms, as well as a chance to develop proficiency on their musical instrument. Students will have the opportunity to perform at band concerts as well as for solo and ensemble and large group competition. Band is a performance class, and therefore students are expected to attend class, and all band performances on a regular basis.

Junior High Choir

This class is for students who like to sing. You don't have to be great soloist in order to be a great choir member. Members will work on improving their skills as individual singers and as group singers. Since this is a performance based class members will be required to participate in all performances throughout the year. The Choir also sings at area nursing homes in May and JH members are often invited to attend the trip that the SH Choir takes every other year. Other musical opportunities that are available to choir members are Solo & Ensemble Festival and Honors Choir.

Physical Education

Physical Education, Grades 7-8: We work on skill work with team games/sports to incorporate sportsmanship. Games featured are: Pickleball, Flag Football, Capture the Flag, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Soccer, Mat Ball, Colony Ball, Steal the Cheese, Floor Hockey, and Global Ball, Golf, Flickerball, Badminton, Ultimate Frisbee, Speedball, Fitness Testing and Stations.

Social Studies

7th Grade Social Studies: In this year-long class, we will be discovering many interesting things about the Western Hemisphere. We will be learning about locations, land forms, the unique history, government, climate, culture, people and natural resources of Canada and Latin America. Throughout the year, we will be learning that all the countries in the Western Hemisphere share many qualities while all of them are also very different and unique in many ways.

8th Grade Social Studies: In the first semester, we will be discussing and looking at our American Government. In the second semester, along with examining our government, we will be looking at three sections of the Eastern Hemisphere which are Asia, Central Asia, and Africa (south of the Sahara).

