

West Ada School District

Preparing today's students for tomorrow's challenges.

Middle School Philosophy

West Ada School District subscribes to a philosophy that the unique needs of students in grades 6 through 8 can best be met in a middle school setting that provides a student-centered program and recognizes that the students of this age are undergoing greater physiological, psychological, and social re-orientation than at any other period in their lives.

The overall purpose of the middle school is to meet the educational, developmental, and social needs that emerge during this transitional period. The middle school program will provide a supportive and flexible environment so students will have opportunities to develop skills and explore a variety of learning experiences while making the transition from elementary to high school.

In keeping with this philosophy, the middle school will establish and provide:

- A core curriculum of language arts, math, science, and social studies.
- Exploratory programs and activities in all areas of the curriculum to help students discover and extend interests and abilities.
- An extensive advisory and counseling program.
- A supportive environment for the physical and social development of every student.
- A gradual transition in programs from the self-contained classroom of the fifth grade to the departmentalized structure of high school.
- An intramural and activity-oriented program to accommodate the needs of the early adolescent.
- A positive climate that fosters self-esteem, self-discipline, and student responsibility.
- Knowledgeable educators who are committed to the middle school design.
- An ongoing program of training and professional skills based on the characteristics and needs of the adolescent.
- Close contact and communication between parents and school.
- A challenging curriculum and pace of learning to meet individual levels and understanding.
- Opportunities for intervention and acceleration when needs are identified.

We believe these goals will be reached when the student, parents/guardians, and the teacher assume responsibility. The student will attend school regularly, maintain a positive attitude, and make an effort to achieve these goals. Parents/guardians will be supportive of the school system and encourage the student in learning. The teacher will strive for an optimal, professional approach to meet the individual needs of each student. When these responsibilities are met, maximum learning will be achieved.

Introduction

The following Course Description Book includes the entire curriculum offered at your middle school.

Even though you are currently looking at only one grade level's courses, we have included information on all three-grade levels. This is to provide you with opportunities for long-range electives planning.

In keeping with the philosophy of transitioning students from the elementary setting to the secondary setting, student choices increase each year:

- 6th grade students are limited to a decision between general music, choir, band, or orchestra.
- 7th grade students may choose either two semester electives or one year-long elective.
- 8th grade students may choose four semesters of elective classes for the year. Some of the courses are year-long courses, while others are semester courses.

If you would like further information about the middle school curriculum or specific courses, please call the counseling office at your child's middle school.

**All courses are graded courses
unless otherwise noted.**

MIDDLE SCHOOL CREDITS

Each 7th and 8th grade student must attain a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of the total credits attempted in order to be eligible for promotion to the next grade level. Each 7th and 8th grade student must earn at least eight (8) out of a possible ten (10) credits.

To be eligible for promotion to the next grade level, each 7th and 8th grade student must earn at least one credit from each of the year-long classes.

<i>8th Grade Classes</i>	<i>Credits</i>		<i>7th Grade Classes</i>	<i>Credits</i>
English 8	2		Writing Composition	2
Math	2		Math	2
Physical Science	2		Life Science	2
Physical Education	2		Literature & Strategies	2
Western Geographical Perspectives	1		World Civilization	2
Health	1			
<i>Total</i>	<i>10</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>10</i>

All the 7th and 8th grade core classes have been assigned credit. Policy 603.3, Middle School Credits, may be accessed online at www.westada.org. A copy may also be obtained from your middle school.

Middle School Schools of Choice and Alternative Schools

Schools of Choice

Schools of Choice, or a school within a school, are designed around a unique instructional approach, area of emphasis, or student population. For example, the West Ada School District offers art-based, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), literacy and world language elementary school choices. Middle schools continue elementary school of choice programs based on the feeder system.

Schools of Choice List

Arts

Christine Donnell School of the Arts
Lowell Scott Middle School "Primera" Program

STEM

Galileo STEM Academy School

Grades K-6 School

Christine Donnell School of the Arts

Grades K-8 School

Galileo STEM Academy School

Grades 6-12 School

Idaho Fine Arts Academy

Alternative Schools

Our alternative middle schools offer 6th, 7th and 8th grade students an environment that is smaller, provides one-on-one attention and more hands-on activities.

The need for these alternative schools comes from a variety of sources. For some children, adapting to a larger school environment in 6th grade is simply overwhelming. Others may have certain personal issues that make school a greater challenge, thus needing more one-on-one attention from a teacher. Others may simply need more individualized instruction to spark their interest in learning. Therefore, the student body is comprised of the entire range of students from those who have previously struggled to those who are identified as gifted academically.

The program at these schools is designed to help students meet grade level expectations and then excel in their academic pursuits. Students generally go on to attend one of the district's traditional high schools, although a smaller percentage continues in an academy program in high school.

These schools serve approximately 150 students. Transportation is provided via shuttle buses from their traditional middle schools.

Alternative Schools List

Crossroads Middle School

Pathways Middle School

Gifted and Talented Program Middle School

Eligibility Requirements for Gifted and Talented Classes:

Both **formal and informal measures** are used to assess eligibility for the West Ada School District Middle School Gifted and Talented (GT) Programs.

Formal Measures: Students must have qualifying scores in at least two of the following areas: academic achievement, cognitive function, and/or intellectual function (IQ). Please contact your school's GT facilitator for further information on qualification.

Informal Measures: Students must qualify in the Extreme Need Range on the GT Core Matrix in one of four areas. The areas are creativity, motivation, leadership, and learning as rated by parents, or teachers, or others.

Students who have previously participated in the **GT Core** program at the elementary level can register for the middle school program when registering for middle school. A box is provided on the registration form indicating requested placement.

Students who have previously participated in the **GT Workshop program** (visual arts, creativity, theater, leadership, etc.) at the elementary level are *not* eligible for placement in GT at the middle school level based on their workshop eligibility. They must go through testing to qualify for the GT program at the middle school.

Middle School GT Programs:

West Ada School District offers self-contained cohorts for students who qualify for placement in the program. The program is offered at every middle school and consists of gifted and talented courses in English/Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science.

6th Grade – GT Core program will replace the reading/writing block in the sixth grade schedule. The reading and writing curriculum is compacted and additional curriculum topics are added to the year-long program. GT Science and GT Social Studies replace the general education equivalent.

7th Grade – GT Core program will replace the reading/writing block in the seventh grade schedule. The reading and writing curriculum is compacted and additional curriculum topics are added to the year-long program. GT Science and GT Social Studies replace the general education equivalent.

8th Grade – GT Core program at eighth grade is divided into two parts. One half is GT English, which fulfills the 8th grade ELA requirement. The other part fulfills the regular geography requirement through an enriched geography curriculum, and has GT enrichment built in.

Gifted and Talented Middle School Course Offerings

Students must meet GT qualifications in order to register for these courses.

(All courses are year-long unless otherwise noted.)

6th Grade
GT Literature & Strategies 6
GT English Writing & Composition 6
GT Science 6
GT World Civilizations 6
7th Grade
GT Literature & Strategies 7
GT English Writing & Composition 7
GT Life Science 7
GT World Civilizations 7
8th Grade
GT English 8
GT Physical Science 8
GT Western Geographical Perspectives (1 semester)
GT Capstone Workshop 8 (1 semester)

Middle School Definitions for Honors

General Information for Honors

Self-motivated and independent learners who are excited about challenging tasks and ideas in a subject area will succeed in these classes. Students should be prepared to spend five or more hours per week on outside-of-class assignments per course. Students may find earning an "A" to be more difficult than in other courses. Students interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should make the most of their educational experience by attending school regularly, participating in class, and following through on homework assignments. No curriculum adjustments will be made to slow the instructional pace or limit the level of instruction of the course. If necessary, a student who is not successfully performing in a course will be moved to a regular course of similar subject matter.

These courses follow the district curriculum but proceed at an accelerated instructional pace and include more instructional depth. Students who are successful in honors courses usually perform academically in the top 10% nationally in their chosen subject area. These courses are graded on a four-point grading scale.

Self-Assessment Letter for Honors Courses

Notice to Parents/Students:

If your student has achieved high test scores and grades, he/she may benefit from taking an Honors course. We encourage you to consider applying for the coming school year during the registration process in February/March. Students cannot be placed without applying by the proper deadlines. While current scores indicate this may be an appropriate option for your student, placement is determined only after applications are received.

An Honors course may be more interesting and challenging for your student. Students interested in taking advantage of this opportunity should make the most of their educational experience by attending school regularly, participating in class, and following through on homework assignments.

Use this self-assessment to evaluate your readiness for an Honors course. Circle where you are on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being highest.

1. I am intellectually curious.	1	2	3	4	5
2. I enjoy reading.	1	2	3	4	5
3. I enjoy writing various types of papers.	1	2	3	4	5
4. I am willing to do an average of an hour of homework each night per Honors course.	1	2	3	4	5
5. I am willing to read over the summer.	1	2	3	4	5
6. If I feel that if I am learning, a grade lower than an "A" is acceptable.	1	2	3	4	5
7. I find many classes move too slowly for me.	1	2	3	4	5
8. I like to be challenged.	1	2	3	4	5
9. I do my work on time.	1	2	3	4	5
10. I have the maturity to be responsible for my learning.	1	2	3	4	5
11. I have the ability to manage my time well.	1	2	3	4	5
12. I am punctual and rarely miss class.	1	2	3	4	5

*If you have two or more areas that you have rated less than four, you may want to rethink registering for an Honors course.



West Ada

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Rigor Commitment Form for Language Arts and Science Honors Courses

For _____
(Print Student's Name)

Dear Parent of Middle School Honors Student:

Honors courses are taught at an accelerated pace and at an advanced level of instruction. The text, writing, and format of the courses are all at a higher level and require an increased time commitment to homework and study.

No curriculum modifications will be made to slow the pace or limit the level of instruction in the course. Exemplary attendance is critical in these courses because class work cannot be duplicated outside of the classroom.

Having read the above requirements and expectations, I agree to the accelerated pace and rigorous curriculum of the honors course listed below. I agree to do the extra outside class work and/or extra projects as assigned. I have passed the prerequisite course required, and I will not ask for curriculum modifications.

Please list all Honors classes for which you are registering:

Honors Course #1 _____

Honors Course #2 _____

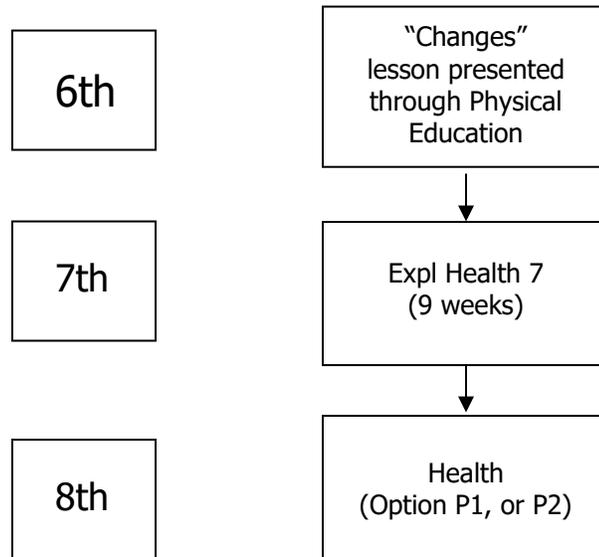
Honors Course #3 _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

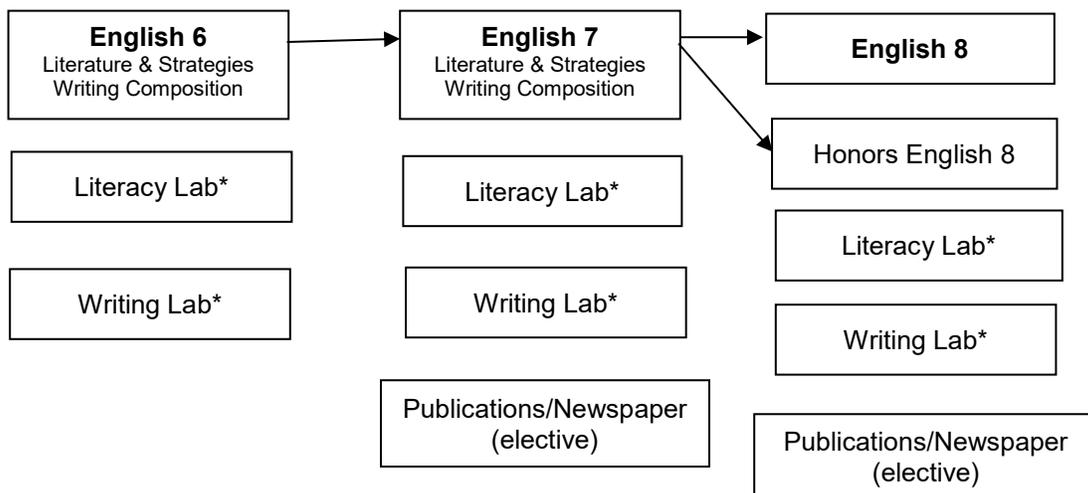
Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

This letter should be returned to the middle school counselor

HEALTH SEQUENCE

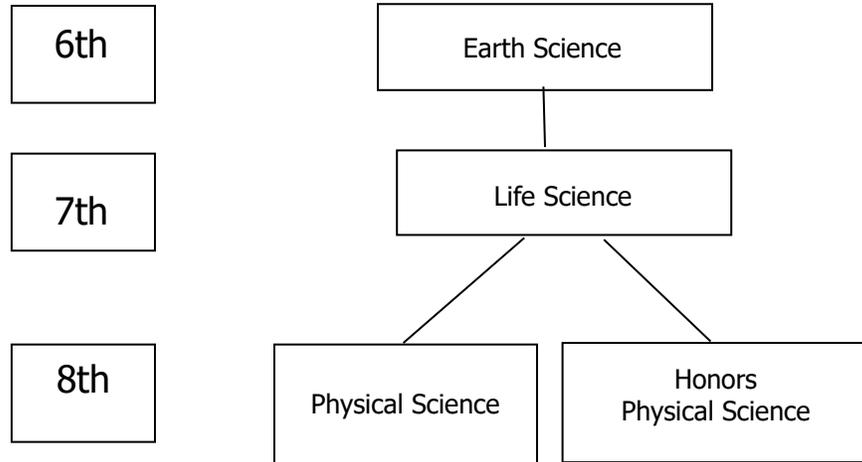


LANGUAGE ARTS SEQUENCE

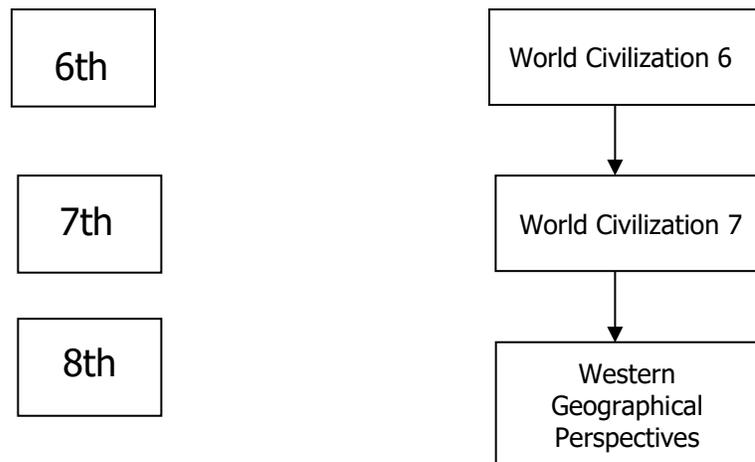


*Literacy/Writing Lab – Quarter or semester long class to be taken in addition to the regular Language Arts class(es). Students are placed in Literacy/Writing Labs based on the recommendation from a building's MTSS team.

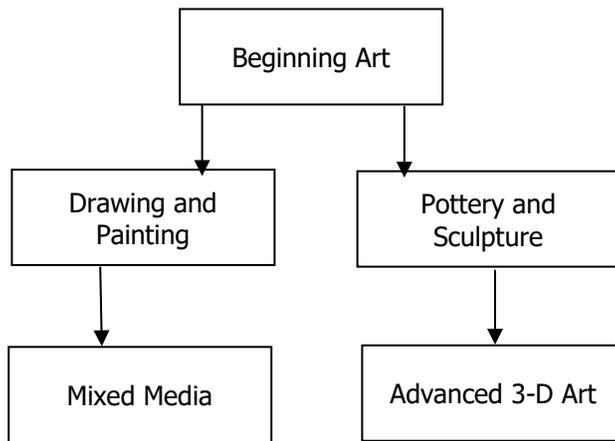
SCIENCE SEQUENCE



SOCIAL STUDIES SEQUENCE

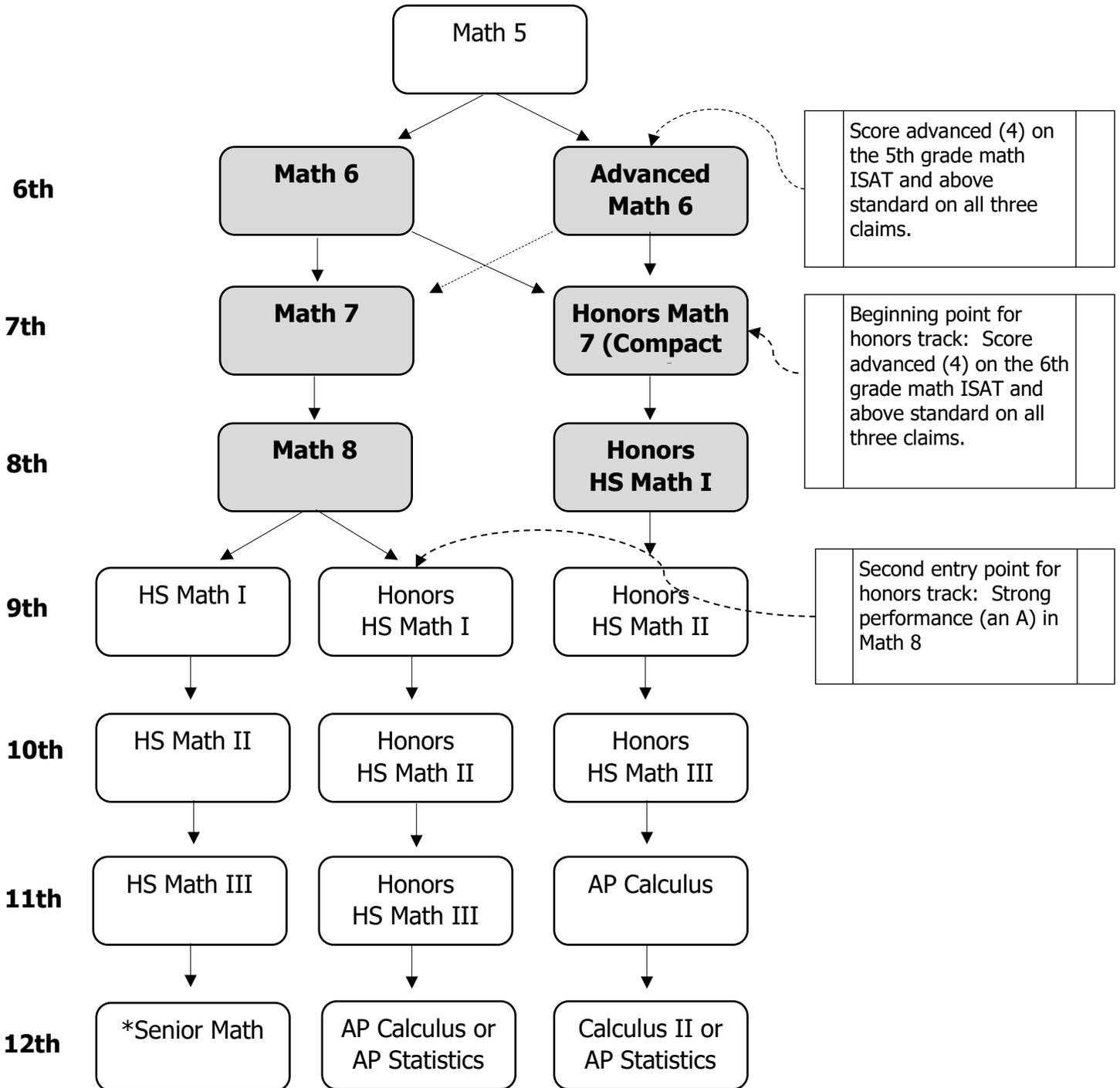


MIDDLE SCHOOL ART SEQUENCE



Note: Not all courses may be available at all schools.

MS & HS Math Sequence



*options:
 Math modeling
 Math in modern society
 Pre-Calculus
 Statistics
 Calculus

Course Descriptions

English
World Civilizations
General Science
Math
Exploratory
PE/Music

6th Grade Required Core Classes

Advisory 6

Course Number(s): 00102G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: Advisory is a twenty-minute daily meeting time for students and their teachers. Advisory serves as a home base for students, offering them the opportunity to develop personal, social, academic, and study skills that will help them make a successful transition from an elementary to a middle school setting. *This is a no-credit course.*

English 6: Lit & Strategies A/B

Course Number(s): 00012G0011, 00012G0012
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: This course focuses on reading strategies and comprehension skills. Students will read from various genres. **Students must take English 6: Literature and Strategies concurrently with English 6: Writing Composition.**

English 6: Writing Composition A/B

Course Number(s): 00012G0021, 00012G0022
Open to: 6
Length: Year
Content: This course focuses on the writing process, modes of writing, writing traits, and language usage. **Students must take English 6: Literature and Strategies concurrently with English 6: Writing Composition.**

Earth Science 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 53001G0031, 53001G0032

Open to: 6

Length: Year

Prerequisite: None

Content: This course follows the new Idaho State Science Standards for Earth Science in middle school. Students will develop an understanding of a wide range of topics in Earth and Space Science that build upon science concepts from elementary school. It will be a balanced approach consisting of three dimensions: supporting content, science practices, and cross-cutting concepts. In particular, students will focus on the Earth as a whole system and the factors that influence it.

Math 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00042G0021, 00042G0022

Open to: 6

Length: Year

Content: This is the Idaho State Standards Math class for 6th grade students. Its focus is to build the requisite conceptual understanding of the number system, rate and ratio, expressions and equations, and statistics and probability for students to be successful in Math 7.

Adv Math 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00042H0031, 00042H0032

Open to: 6

Length: Year

Prerequisite: 5th grade math ISAT Achievement Level 4 and above standard on all three claims.

Content: This class covers the Idaho State Math Standards for 6th grade students. However, it does so at a faster pace. This year of math is crucial in that it solidifies the concepts and skills from the elementary math sequence. Even students with a strong math background who may have covered some of the 6th grade standards in 5th grade need to take it. Students will be given enrichment activities and lessons and will preview many of the concepts from math 7. This class is not officially in the honors math track. Students who take it will still need to qualify for Honors Math 7 with an ISAT Achievement level 4 (and all 3 ISAT reporting categories above standard).

World Civilizations 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00064G0011, 00064G0012

Open to: 6

Length: Year

Content: Students will develop an understanding of their world by studying the geography, history, culture, government, and economy of various people and nations of the world from the Prehistoric Period through the Middle Ages.

6th Grade Exploratory Classes

Exploratory classes are designed to give students experience in areas that are elective choices in 7th and 8th grades.

Expl Art 6

Course Number(s): 00036G0011
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students are introduced to the basics of the study of art, emphasizing the elements of design. The course includes drawing, painting, sculpture, art history. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Expl Digital Tools 6

Course Number(s): 62005T0012
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students will be able to integrate technological tools utilizing cloud-based applications to communicate and work collaboratively to complete various assignments and projects. Students taking this digital course will develop skills to be able to present information, manage their files, assignments and tasks using different digital tools including Microsoft 365. Students will become digital citizens and learn how to practice safe, ethical, legal, and responsible use of information and technology. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Expl Family & Consumer Science 6

Course Number(s): 00098T0011
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students explore developing positive friendships, clothing care, healthy food choices, kitchen safety and sanitation practices, proper use of kitchen equipment, and measuring techniques. Hand sewing basic skills will be used while creating a project. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Expl Keyboarding 6

Course Number(s): 62005T0011
Open to: 6
Length: Quarter
Content: Students taking Keyboarding will develop typing skills using the QWERTY Keyboard and district approved keyboarding software. Students will refine and apply their keyboarding skills using project-based learning with Microsoft Word. This course is a pre-requisite for Computer Explorations I 7/8. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

**6th Grade
Physical Education and Music Classes**

Students are required to take both physical education and music. The classes are on an every-other-day basis (music one day, physical education the next) throughout the year. Students have their choice between band, music, choir, and orchestra.

PE 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00052G0011, 00052G0012
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: Students are introduced to a variety of activities and sports that develop physical motor skills. Emphasis is placed upon acquiring basic skill and fitness levels. Maximum student participation is stressed and physical fitness tests are given. Students will participate each day and will need to wear attire that will allow them to safely and appropriately participate in physical activity while following dress code guidelines. Clothing such as shorts, t-shirts, sweats, and athletic-style footwear allows students to participate to the fullest and safest extent possible. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

General Music 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00032G0011, 00032G0012
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: General music classes will focus on the study of music theory and history through singing, games, listening, and writing activities. Various styles and genres of music will be introduced, including ballet, opera, sacred, secular, pop, spirituals and music from famous composers. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Band Brass 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00032G0041, 0032G0042
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: Band classes are split into groups Brass, Woodwinds, and Percussion. No previous experience is necessary. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them. **This course is graded as pass/fail.**

Band Woodwinds 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00032G0031, 00032G0032
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: Band classes are split into groups Brass, Woodwinds, and Percussion. No previous experience is necessary. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them. **This course is graded as pass/fail.**

Choir 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00032G0021
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: This course will focus on the study of music, primarily through singing. Music from many historical eras and cultures will be introduced. Students will participate in evening concerts during the year. Students will perform a variety of styles of music which may include pop, sacred, secular, spirituals, and madrigals. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Orchestra 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00032G0051, 00032G0052
Open to: 6
Length: Year, Alternate Days
Content: This class is for students who are beginning to play violin, viola, cello, and string bass. No previous experience is necessary. Students are expected to practice at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them. Class changes are not allowed after the first two weeks of school. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Other 6th Grade Offerings

Drama and Communication 6

Course Number(s): 00012G0031

Open to: 6

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: Audition only

Content: This class is designed for the student who enjoys dramatic presentations. Students will explore drama through performance, communication, criticism, history/culture, and vocational activities. An emphasis is placed on performance and communication. Presentations may include secular and/or sacred pantomime, oral interpretations, Reader's Theater, mini plays, radio theater speeches, and puppetry.

*7TH Grade
Course Descriptions*

English
World Civilizations
Life Science
Math
Exploratory
Electives

*7TH Grade
Required Core Classes*

Advisory 7

Course Number(s): 72102G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: Advisory is a twenty-minute daily meeting time for students and teachers. Advisory serves as a home base for students, offering them the opportunity to further develop the personal, social, academic and study skills introduced to them in the 6th grade advisory program.
This is a no-credit course.

English 7: Lit and Strategies A/B

Course Number(s): 51001G0011, 51001G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This course focuses on reading strategies and comprehension skills. Students will read from various genres. **Students must take English 7: Writing Composition concurrently with English 7: Literature and Strategies.**

English 7: Writing and Composition A/B

Course Number(s): 51003G0011, 51003G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This course focuses on the writing process, modes of writing, writing traits, and language usage. **Students must take English 7: Writing Composition concurrently with English 7: Literature and Strategies.**

Life Science 7 A/B

Course Number(s): 53999G0011, 53999G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This course introduces students to the characteristics of living things. Students study the diversity of life forms from viruses to mammals; learn human body systems, genetics, and ecological relationships. Critical thinking, problem solving, and hands-on inquiry skills are developed through observation, classification, data collection, cooperative learning experiences, and communication through the introduction of technical writing.

Math 7 A/B

Course Number(s): 52002G0071, 52002G0072
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This is the Idaho State Standards Math class for 7th grade students. Its focus is to build the requisite conceptual understanding of the number system, ratio and proportions, expressions and equations, geometry and statistics and probability for students to be successful in Math 8.

Honors Math 7 A/B

Course Number(s): 52002H0071, 52002H0072
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2 Math Credits
Prerequisite: Math 6, ISAT Achievement Level 4 and above standard on all three claims.
Content: This course is the beginning of our highly accelerated Honors track for middle school math. It covers the Idaho State Math Standards for 7th and 8th grade. Students will connect the concepts of unit rate, ratio, proportions and functions to describe and solve real world problems using linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students will extend their understanding of geometry to solve real world and mathematical problems involving scaling, angular measures, surface area and volume for all two and three dimensional figures. Students will extend their prior knowledge of statistics to sample, describe and compare two populations mathematically and build probability models. Entry into the middle school honors math track will result in the student starting their high school math transcript in their eighth-grade year.

World Civilizations 7 A/B

Course Number(s): 54052G0011, 54052G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: Students will develop an understanding of their world by studying the changes in geography, history, culture, government, and economic systems of various people and nations of the world from the beginning of the Renaissance through the 20th century.

7TH Grade Exploratory Classes

Exploratory classes are designed to give students experience in areas that are either future **elective** choices or future **core** classes. Students spend one quarter, on a rotation basis, in each exploratory.

Expl Gateway To Tech Pre-Engineering 7

Course Number(s): 71051T0041
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: Students will meet the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) criteria as they fabricate a series of projects. Students will use the Design and Modeling unit from the Pre-Engineering Gateway to Technology curriculum. Students will become familiar with a variety of engineering and related careers through problem-solving projects.

Expl Language & Culture Study – Spanish (Expl Spanish 7)

Course Number(s): 56101G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: This course is an introduction to the culture and language of Spanish speaking countries. Fundamental listening and speaking skills and cross-cultural comparisons will be stressed.

Expl Health 7 - Required

Course Number(s): 72206G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: Students begin this class setting goals, exploring decision-making, self-esteem, character, and organization skills. They will also receive information on conflict resolution, violence prevention, and substance abuse.

Expl Lifetime Sports 7 - Required

Course Number(s): 58001G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: The student will experience a variety of activities that may be enjoyed throughout his/her life. Activities may include football, tennis, soccer, basketball, golf, softball, bowling, badminton, volleyball, personal fitness, dance, archery, orienteering, and fly-casting. Students will participate each day and will need to wear attire that will allow them to safely and appropriately participate in physical activity while following dress code guidelines. Clothing such as shorts, t-shirts, sweats, and athletic-style footwear allows students to participate to the fullest and safest extent possible.

7TH Grade Electives

7th grade students may choose either one full year or two semester electives.

Beginning Art 7

Course Number(s): 55154G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Content: Students will participate in a variety of experiences using the elements and principles of design. The students will explore the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, and art history. Beginning Art fulfills the prerequisite requirement for Drawing and Painting as well as Pottery and Sculpture.

Drawing-Painting 7

Course Number(s): 55154G0011
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Beginning Art 7
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to two-dimensional artwork. Students will learn drawing and painting techniques as well as explore a variety of media and art history.

Pottery-Sculpture 7

Course Number(s): 55154G0021
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Beginning Art 7
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to three-dimensional artwork. Students will learn basic clay building techniques, utilize sculptural media and explore art history.

Band – Brass-Percussion 7 A/B

Course Number(s): 55101G0011, 55101G0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Content: This class is for brass and percussion students with preferably one year of prior band experience. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Band – Woodwinds 7 A/B

Course Number(s): 55101G0021, 55101G0022

Open to: 7

Length: Year

Content: This class is for band and woodwind students with preferably one year of prior band experience. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 100 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Orchestra 7-8 A/B

Course Number(s): 55101G0051, 55101G0052

Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated*)

Length: Year

Content: This class is for orchestra students with preferably one year of prior orchestra experience on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Choir 7-8 A/B

Course Number(s): 55111G0011, 55111G0012

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Year

Content: This class gives students an introduction and foundation in singing two and three-part music of various styles, with emphasis on the enjoyment of singing. Students will perform a variety of styles of music which may include pop, sacred, secular, spirituals, and madrigals. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Drama-Communications 7

Course Number(s): 55051G0011

Open to: 7

Length: Semester

Content: This class is designed for the student who enjoys dramatic presentations. Students will explore drama through performance, communication, criticism, history/culture, and vocational activities. An emphasis is placed on performance and communication. Presentations may include sacred and/or secular pantomime, oral interpretations, Reader's Theater, mini plays, radio theater, speeches, and puppetry.

Adv Drama & Comm 7

Course Number(s): 55055G0031
Open to: 7
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Drama/Communications 6
Content: This class is designed as the next step for the Drama/Communications 6 drama class. It is considered to be an advanced drama class. Without the prerequisite Drama/Communications 6 class, students must go through an audition process in order to participate in this class. Students will continue to explore drama through a wide variety of performances and exercises, which may have secular or sacred text in both non-verbal communication and vocal communication. Emphasis is placed on the actor's imagination, self-awareness, and self-control.

Introduction to Computer Coding

Course Number(s): 60004T0031
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: None
Content: Students will explore computer coding concepts and work on animation and game design skills. They will create a web site presence and delve into generating apps for phones. Students who are interested in enrolling need to possess good keyboarding skills and be proficient in math and math problems.

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) I

Course Number(s): 72201T0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: Students explore personal development, sewing and textiles, resource management, kitchen management, healthy food choices, and family/community relationships. (This course is a prerequisite for FCS II.)

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) II

Course Number(s): 72206T0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful completion of FCS I
Content: FCS II will build on the skills learned in FCS 1. Students explore sewing and textiles, consumer resource management, nutrition and food preparation, caring for others as well as family and personal development. (This course is a prerequisite for FCS III.)

Peer Tutor 7-8

Course Number(s): 88500G0051
Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation is needed.
Content: The peer tutors are involved in assisting students with special needs one-on-one in their mainstream classes. Students must be kind and caring, accepting of other's feelings and have a willingness to take direction in helping other students. The Extended Resource Room teachers supervise peer tutors. A brief, pre-training session is required in addition to a final essay reflecting the peer tutoring experience.
This course is graded as pass/fail.

Library Assistant 7-8 A/B

Course Number(s): 88500G0011, 88500G0012
Open to: 7 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: 1 or 2 semesters
Prerequisite: Counselor/Librarian Recommendation
Content: Students will gain skills in organization, responsibility, and people skills while serving as assistants to library staff members. ***This course is graded as pass/fail.***

Filmmaking I

Course Number(s): 55154G0071

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Semester

Content: This course introduces basic cinematography and scriptwriting concepts needed for all parts of the production processes. With the use of digital video cameras and computer editing software, students are able to complete various projects, such as public service announcements, animation and meaningful storytelling. Common Core writing needs are addressed within the scriptwriting of this class.

Filmmaking II

Course Number(s): 55154G0072

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Filmmaking I

Content: This course builds on the basic cinematography and digital moviemaking techniques learned in Filmmaking I. With the use of digital video cameras and computer editing software, students produce videos that require more advanced editing procedures, such as blue/green screening, simple special effects, and stop motion. Furthermore, students will have to apply more advanced Common Core writing strategies into their scripts by being exposed to more challenging topics.

*8TH Grade
Course Descriptions*

English
Health
Western Geographical Perspectives
Physical Science
Math
Physical Education
Electives

*8TH Grade
Required Classes*

8th grade students have six required classes in the core curriculum.

Advisory 8

Course Number(s): 72102G0021

Open to: 8

Length: Year

Content: Advisory is a twenty-minute daily meeting time for students and their teachers. Advisory serves as a home base for students, offering them the opportunity to review the personal, social, academic and study skills, introduced and developed in the 6th and 7th grade programs. In addition, focus will be placed on career awareness.

This is a no-credit course.

English 8

Course Number(s): 51002G0011, 51002G0012

Open to: 8

Length: Year

Credits: 2

Content: English 8 integrates the skills identified for 8th grade by district and state standards. Four concept-based units are covered. See the West Ada School District website for detailed descriptions. Instruction focuses on reading strategies, comprehension skills, the writing process, modes of writing, writing traits, and language usage. Students will read from various genres.

English Honors 8

Course Number(s): 51002H0011, 51002H0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Prerequisite: Signed Rigor Commitment Form required
Content: English Honors 8 offers rigorous, accelerated instruction in the reading process, reading comprehension and interpretation, the writing process, writing applications, and writing components. Students will complete in-depth studies of literary selections connected to the concept-based units, and develop advanced literary response skills. Emphasis is placed on the research process, longer writing formats, including using writing as assessment, self-selected reading and individualized projects. Successful honors students tend to score in the advanced category on the Reading ISAT, attend class regularly, consistently meet deadlines, and have a willingness to work outside of class.

Physical Science 8

Course Number(s): 53159G0011, 53159G0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: Fundamental physical science principles are introduced through student involvement in hands-on learning activities. A well-balanced introduction to chemistry and physics is provided as students explore the periodic table, chemical reactions, and the laws of motion and energy. Practical application and authenticity are stressed with an emphasis on writing skills, technology, and career investigations.

Math 8 A/B

Course Number(s): 52052G1011, 52052G1012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Content: This is the Idaho State Standards Math class for 8th grade students. Its focus is to build the requisite conceptual understanding of irrational numbers, exponents, functions, geometry, statistics and probability, and the correct application of mathematical expression and equations to describe the above and solve real world problems.

Honors HS Math I A/B

Course Number(s): 52052H1031, 52052H1032
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credit: 2
Prerequisite: Honors Math 7
Content: The fundamental purpose of this course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, organized into units, deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. This course uses properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. The final unit in the course ties together the algebraic and geometric ideas studied. The Mathematical Practice Standards apply throughout each course and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. **This class will be recorded on the student's high school transcript and will be computed in their high school GPA.**

Western Geographical Perspectives

Course Number(s): 54001G0010
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course is designed to give students a comprehensive study of geographical perspectives in the Western World. Emphasis will be placed on an introduction to geographic skills, and the study of how physical geography, history, government, culture and economics within a region impact those living in that region and other countries and people throughout the world. Specific units of study will include: Introduction to Geography, USA and Canada, Central America, South America and Western Europe.

Health 8

Course Number(s): P1: 58051G0011 P2: 58051G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Credits: 1
Content: This class helps young people make independent, informed decisions concerning their physical, mental, and social well-being. It will focus on core concepts while implementing health related skills. It will encourage students to discover their capability and responsibility for developing attitudes and patterns of behavior that promote a full and satisfying life. **Note:** only P1 students will have the option to opt-out of the following portions of the health curriculum: human sexuality, STDs/STIs, and HIV/AIDS. The primary differences between P1 and P2 is the level of questioning that will take place in the classroom. Additionally, instruction in P2 will include methods for preventing STIs/STDs and pregnancy.

Physical Education 8 A/B

Course Number(s): 58001G0021, 58001G0022

Open to: 8

Length: Year

Credits: 2

Content: Physical, mental, emotional, and social health is promoted in this class. This is accomplished by a variety of activities with emphasis on team sports and/or fitness. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their own physical fitness. Students will participate each day and will need to wear attire that will allow them to safely and appropriately participate in physical activity while following dress code guidelines. Clothing such as shorts, T-shirts, sweats, and athletic-style footwear allows students to participate to the fullest and safest extent possible.

8th Grade Electives

8th grade students may choose four semesters of elective classes for the year. Some of the courses are for a year, while others are semester classes.

Beginning Art 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: Students will participate in a variety of experiences using the elements and principles of design. The students will explore the fundamentals of drawing, painting, sculpture, and art history. Beginning Art fulfills the prerequisite requirement for Drawing and Painting and Pottery and Sculpture.

Drawing-Painting 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0031
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Beginning Art 6, 7, or 8
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to two-dimensional artwork. Students will learn drawing and painting techniques as well as explore a variety of media and art history.

Pottery-Sculpture 8

Course Number(s): 55154G0041
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Beginning Art 6, 7, 8
Content: Students will explore the elements and principles of design as they apply to three-dimensional artwork. Students will learn basic clay building techniques, utilize sculptural media and explore art history.

Band 8 A/B

Course Number(s): 55101G0031, 55101G0032
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This class is for band students with at least two years of successful prior band experience. Students are expected to practice a minimum of 120 minutes per week at home. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Jazz Band 8 A/B

Course Number(s): 55101G0061, 55101G0062
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in Band 8
Content: This course involves a group of instrumental musicians who study, rehearse, and perform contemporary and traditional jazz music. Students will be able to play in a variety of genres such as swing, Latin, and rock. They will learn to improvise in a variety of styles using basic harmony. Students will perform in the band as a section player and as a soloist. They will develop the fundamentals of jazz articulation and style. Students will gain a fundamental understanding of jazz music and jazz playing techniques.

Orchestra 7-8 A/B

Course Number(s): 55101G0051, 55101G0052
Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated*)
Length: Year
Content: This class is for orchestra students with preferably one year of prior orchestra experience on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will study and perform a variety of styles of music, including pop, sacred, secular, spirituals and other genres. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Choir 7-8 A/B

Course Number(s): 55111G0011, 55111G0012
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Content: This class gives students an introduction and foundation in singing two and three-part music of various styles, with emphasis on the enjoyment of singing. Students will perform a variety of styles of music which may include pop, sacred, secular, spirituals, and madrigals. Students who take this course will have a variety of extracurricular performance and rehearsal opportunities available to them.

Drama-Communications 8

Course Number(s): 55051G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: This class is designed for the student who enjoys dramatic presentations. Students will explore drama through performance, communication, criticism, history/culture, and vocational activities. An emphasis is placed on performance and communication. Presentations may include sacred and/or secular pantomime, oral interpretations, Reader's Theater, mini plays, radio theater speeches, and puppetry.

Adv Drama & Communications 8

Course Number(s): 55055G0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Drama/Communications and instructor approval
Content: This course is an introduction to basic acting techniques and terminology. These may include sacred and/or secular pantomime, improvisation, characterization, memorization, skits, and scenes. Students develop voice, create a character, evaluate a play, and perform in scenes. Students also will learn components of theater history, criticism, and vocational opportunities.

Introduction to Coding

Course Number(s): 60004T0031
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: None
Content: Students will explore computer coding concepts and work on animation and game design skills. They will create a web site presence and delve into generating apps for phones. Students who are interested in enrolling need to possess good keyboarding skills and be proficient in math and math problems.

Gateway To Tech Pre-Engineering 8

Course Number(s): 71051T0051
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Content: Students will meet the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) criteria as they fabricate a series of projects, using the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that technology has on our lives through innovation. Students use industry-standard III D. modeling software to create a virtual image of their designs. Students use a robotics platform to design, build, and program a solution to solve an existing problem.

Visual Design (Photography I)

Course Number(s): 55154G0051
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Content: This course will introduce students to the basic aspects of visual artistic design. Content of the course may include the following: basic elements of design, composition, subjects, understanding exposure, camera operation, lighting and light quality, film speeds and formats, flash pictures, and darkroom black-and-white films.

Peer Tutor 7-8

Course Number(s): 88500G0051
Open to: 7, 8 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Teacher or counselor recommendation needed
Content: The peer tutors are involved in assisting students with special needs one-on-one in their mainstream classes. Students must be kind and caring, accepting of other's feelings and have a willingness to take direction in helping other students. The Extended Resource Room teachers supervise peer tutors. A brief pre-training session is required in addition to a final essay reflecting the peer tutoring experience.
This course is graded as pass/fail.

Assistants

Course Number(s): **Counseling** – 88500G1011 **Office** – 88500G1031
Library – 88500G1021 **Teacher** – 88500G1051
Open to: 8 (*This course can be repeated.*)
Length: 1 or 2 semesters
Prerequisite: Counselor/Teacher/Library Recommendation
Content: Counselor/Office/Teacher – Each school offers students the opportunity to serve as an assistant. They will work with staff, students, and parents.
Library – Students will gain skills in organization, responsibility, and people skills while serving as assistants to staff members. ***These courses are graded as pass/fail.***

Spanish 6-8 I A/B

Course Number(s): 56101G0021, 56101G0022
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Year
Content: This class introduces the student to basic Spanish conversation, vocabulary, grammar, history, and culture. Conversation in Spanish is encouraged. Frequent homework is required. **This class will be recorded on the student's high school transcript and will be computed in their high school GPA.**

Career Discovery 8

Course Number(s): 72151T0010

Open to: 8

Length: Semester

Content: This course is designed to assist students in the discovery of various careers and employability skills. This class encompasses self-evaluation, career exploration, and future planning including how to budget their finances and save and invest their money. The use of group activities, hands-on-projects, and guest speakers is utilized to further enhance awareness of career opportunities.

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) I

Course Number(s): 72201T0011

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Semester

Content: Students explore personal development, sewing and textiles, resource management, kitchen management, healthy food choices, and family/community relationships. (This course is a prerequisite for FCS II.)

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) II

Course Number(s): 72206T0011

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of FCS I

Content: FCS II will build on the skills learned in FCS 1. Students explore sewing and textiles, consumer resource management, nutrition and food preparation, caring for others as well as family and personal development. (This course is a prerequisite for FCS III.)

Family & Consumer Science (FCS) III

Course Number(s): 72201T0031

Open to: 8

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of FCS I and FCS II

Content: This course will build on cooking skills learned in FCS I and FCS II. Students will explore a variety of concepts including consumer choices, personal development, food preparation, nutrition, and career readiness. This experience introduces students to knowledge, basic skills, and attitudes needed for an occupation in a professional-technical education.

Publications A/B

Course Number(s): 51103G0011, 51103G0012
(If the teacher is journalism certified, use course number 61101G0011)

Open to: 8 (*This course can be repeated*)

Length: 1 or 2 Semesters

Content: Students learn the basic forms of journalistic writing, design, and layout. Students should be able to work independently, write with few grammatical errors, take responsibility for their work, and meet deadlines. Publications students will produce a school newspaper and may produce a magazine of student work. Students who successfully complete this course do not need to take Introduction to Newspaper in high school.

Filmmaking I

Course Number(s): 55154G0071

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Semester

Content: This course introduces basic cinematography and scriptwriting concepts needed for all parts of the production processes. With the use of digital video cameras and computer editing software, students are able to complete various projects, such as public service announcements, animation and meaningful storytelling. Common Core writing needs are addressed within the scriptwriting of this class.

Filmmaking II

Course Number(s): 55154G0072

Open to: 7, 8

Length: Semester

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Filmmaking I

Content: This course builds on the basic cinematography and digital moviemaking techniques learned in Filmmaking I. With the use of digital video cameras and computer editing software, students produce videos that require more advanced editing procedures, such as blue/green screening, simple special effects, and stop motion. Furthermore, students will have to apply more advanced Common Core writing strategies into their scripts by being exposed to more challenging topics.