

2021-2022



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



West Ada
SCHOOL DISTRICT

1303 E Central Drive • Meridian, ID 83642

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Introduction

The following course description handbook encompasses all course curriculum offered at the middle school level throughout the West Ada School District.

The handbook covers grades 6th-8th, giving students, parents, and guardians the opportunity to plan for your student's middle school journey and prepare for high school.

Some things to note, when transitioning students from the elementary level to the secondary level, student course choices increase with each grade year:

- 6th grade students will choose 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 more information on the middle school curriculum is desired, please contact your student's middle school counseling office for more information.

The Middle School Philosophy

The West Ada School District strives to provide students with a middle school experience that meets the unique needs of each student, grades 6th-8th. Middle school is a time of great physiological, psychological and social adjustments. District faculty and staff realize the importance of creating a setting that provides student-centered programs and support for students during this season of life.

The years between elementary and high school are filled with great changes and new life experiences for students. The West Ada middle school program is designed to provide a supportive environment where students will have the opportunity to develop new skills and explore a variety of new learning experiences in order to have a successful transition 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.
- Collaboration and communication between parents and the school.
- A challenging curriculum and pace of learning to meet individual levels and understanding.
- Opportunities for intervention and acceleration when needs are identified.

The West Ada School District believes these goals can be achieved when staff, students, parents and guardians collaborate and assume responsibility for their part in helping students achieve. Students will make every effort to attend school regularly, maintain a positive attitude and work hard to achieve their goals. Parents and guardians are expected to support and encourage their student and district staff along the education journey. West Ada educators will approach the education of students with professionalism and strive to meet the individual needs of each unique student.

Middle School Credits

Credit Requirements

Each 7th and 8th grade student must achieve 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.

One (1) unit of credit shall be granted for successful course work completion for each semester. One (1) semester equals one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) of the year.

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:

7th Grade

Course	Credit
Writing Composition	2
Math	2
Life Science	2
Literature & Strategies	2
World Civilization	2
Total	10

8th Grade

Course	Credit
English 8	2
Math	2
Physical Science	2
Physical Education	2
Western Geographical Perspectives	1
Health	1
Total	10

Credit Recovery

All 7th and 8th grade students who do not meet the minimum credit requirements will be given the opportunity to recover credits or complete an alternate mechanism in order to become eligible for promotion to the next grade level. Credit recovery options include, but are not limited to, lab classes, scheduled intervention, summer school, online courses, correspondence courses, and after school intervention

For more information on middle school credits, please visit District [Policy 603.3](#) found on the West Ada School District website.

Schools of Choice and Alternative Schools

Schools of Choice

The West Ada School District believes in offering students and families a variety of educational opportunities that allow students to pursue an educational setting that matches their interests. A School of Choice is designed around a unique instructional approach, special area of emphasis, or student population. The West Ada School District offers Schools of Choice in art-based, STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), literacy and world language content areas. Middle schools continue elementary school of choice programs based on the feeder system. Detailed information on Schools of Choice is found on the West Ada website, located in the district policy manual, [Policy 604](#).

Arts Based Schools of Choice

Christine Donnell School of the Arts (K-6)

Idaho Fine Arts Academy (6-12)

Lowell Scott Middle School Primera Program

STEM Based Schools of Choice

Galileo STEM Academy (K-8)

Alternative Schools

Alternative middle schools offer 6th-8th grade students an environment that is smaller, provides one-on-one attention and more hands-on activities. These schools serve approximately 150 students, with student needs deriving 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.

Participating Alternative Schools

Pathways Middle School

Crossroads Middle School

Gifted and Talented Program

Eligibility Requirements

The West Ada School district uses formal and informal measures to assess eligibility for the 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).

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. An option will be 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.

For more information on eligibility, please contact your student's school GT facilitator. Full district policy information can be found on the West Ada website under [policy 602.6](#).

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 are 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 are 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 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)

Accelerated Courses

General Information

Middle school honors courses are designed for students who are self-motivated and enthusiastic about challenging themselves academically. Many of the students who complete honors courses perform academically in the top 10%, nationally, in their chosen subject area. These courses follow the district curriculum, proceeding at an accelerated instructional pace and depth of content. Honors courses are graded on a four-point grading scale.

When taking honors courses, students can anticipate spending five (5) or more hours per week on take-home assignments, per honors course. Students will be most successful in honors courses by attending school regularly, participating in class, and completing all homework assignments to the best of their abilities. Curriculum will not be adjusted to decelerate the instructional pace or reduce 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.

Student Self-Assessment

If your student has achieved high test scores and grades, they may benefit from taking a middle school honors course. While current scores indicate this may be an appropriate option for your student, placement is determined after application materials are received. Students are encouraged to apply for honors classes during the Spring registration process.

To evaluate your readiness for an accelerated course, circle where you feel you are on a scale of 1 – 5.

No Sometimes Yes

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I am intellectually curious. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I enjoy reading. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I enjoy writing various types of papers. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I am willing to do an average of an hour of homework each night, per honors course. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I am willing to complete assigned reading over the summer. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | If I feel that I am learning, a grade lower than an “A” is acceptable. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I find many classes move too slowly for me. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I like to be challenged. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I do my work on time. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I have the maturity to be responsible for my learning. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I have the ability to manage my time well. |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | I am punctual and rarely miss class. |

Scoring: If you have rated two or more questions less than four, you may want to select an on-grade level course.

Rigor Commitment Form



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 _____

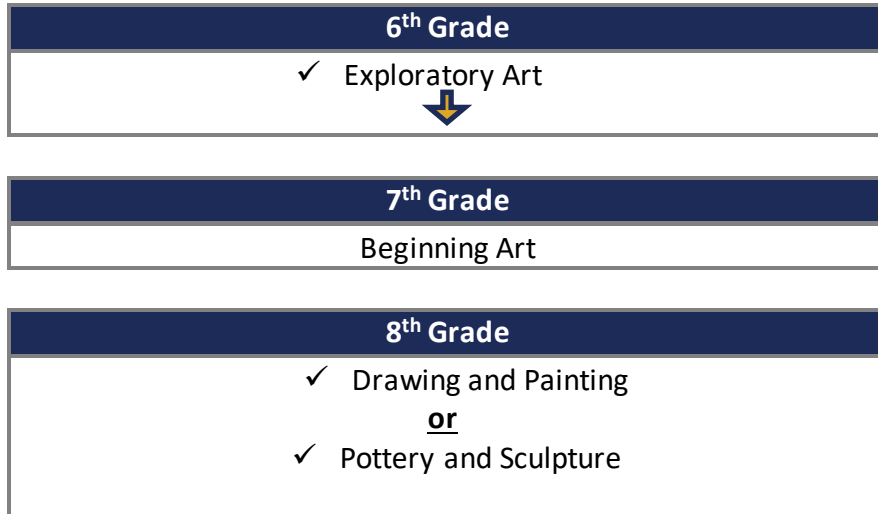
Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

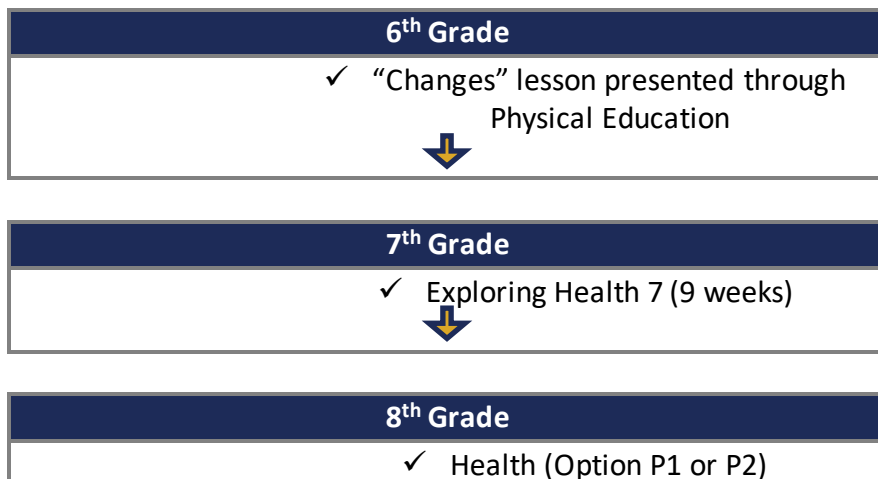
This letter should be returned to the middle school registrar.

Student Course Sequences

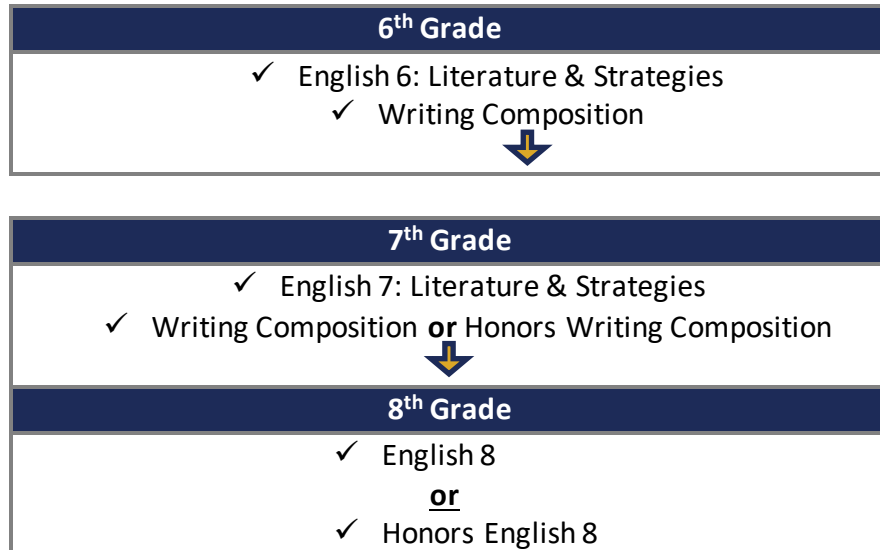
Art



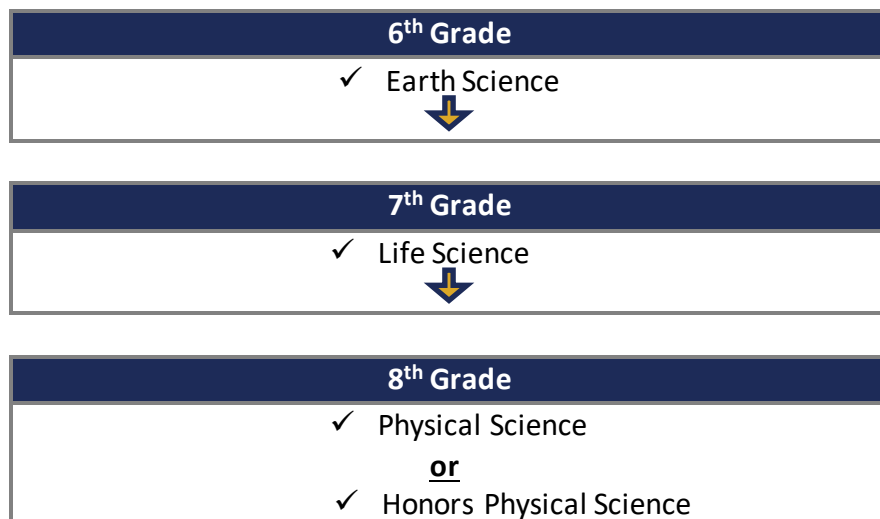
Health



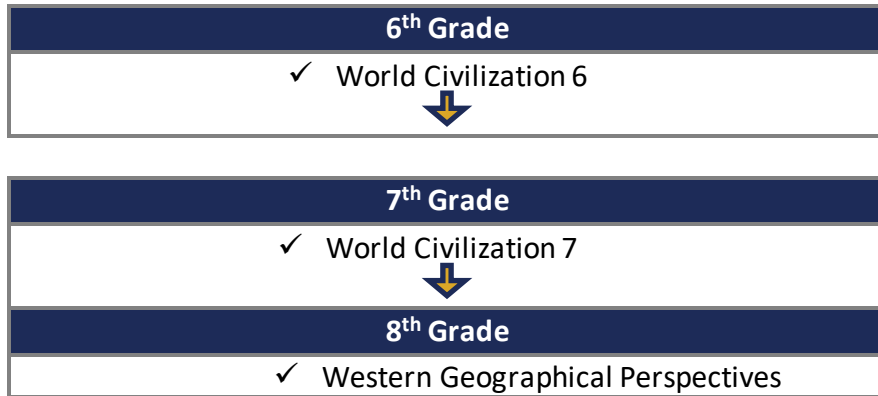
Language Arts



Science



Social Studies Sequence



Mathematics

	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Traditional Pathway	Math 5	Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	HS Math I	HS Math II	✓ One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate Algebra • HS Math III • College Math III • Stats Reasoning in Sports 	✓ One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math Modeling • Math in Modern Society • HS Math III • College Trigonometry • Stats Reasoning in Sports
Honors Pathway	Math 5	Math 6 or Advanced Math 6*	Math 7	Math 8	Honors HS Math I***	Honors HS Math II	✓ One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Math III • College Precalculus 	✓ One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Trigonometry • Calculus or AP Calculus • Statistics or AP Statistics
Accelerated Pathway	Math 5	Math 6 or Advanced Math 6*	Honors Math 7**	Honors HS Math I	Honors HS Math II	College Precalculus	✓ One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculus or AP Calculus • Statistics or AP Statistics 	✓ One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculus II • AP Statistics

*For Advanced Math 6, students need to score an advanced (4) on the 5th grade mathematics *Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)*, and an above standard on all three claims.

**Honors Math 7 is the beginning point for the honors mathematics track. Students will need to score an advanced (4) on the 6th grade mathematics *Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)*, and an above standard on all three claims.

***Honors HS Math I is a second entry point for the mathematics honors track. This course requires a strong performance (A-grade) in Math 8.

Course Descriptions

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.

Exploratory Classes

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.***

Physical Education Classes

PE 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00052G0011, 00052G0012
Open to: 6
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.***

Music Classes

General Music 6 A/B

Course Number(s): 00032G0011, 00032G0012
Open to: 6
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
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
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
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.***

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.

English Honors 7: Writing-Composition A/B

Course Number(s): 51003H0011, 51003H0012
Open to: 7
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Prerequisite: Signed Rigor Commitment Form required
Content: English Honors 7 offers rigorous, accelerated instruction in the writing process, writing applications and writing components. Students will develop advanced narrative, creative, informational, persuasive, research, and literary response writing skills. Students also will develop more complex sentence structures, and apply a thorough knowledge of spelling, punctuation, grammar, and usage.

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.

Exploratory Classes**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.

Expl Geology

Course Number(s): 53001G0021
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: This class explores the geologic forces that shape our planet. Concepts explored include plate tectonics, volcanoes, deposition and erosion, rock and mineral formation, and resource management.

Expl Zoology

Course Number(s): 53051G0031
Open to: 7
Length: Quarter
Content: This course explores the evolution and classification of the animal kingdom. The class focuses on the anatomy, physiology and behavior of invertebrates and vertebrates. Animal dissections will take place in this class.

Elective Classes

Art 7-8

Course Number(s): 55154G0011
Open to: 7, 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. This course fulfills the prerequisite requirement for Drawing and Painting as well as Pottery and Sculpture.

Theatre I 7-8

Course Number(s): 55051G0021
Open to: 7, 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.

Theatre II 7-8

Course Number(s): 55055G0021
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Theatre I 7-8 or instructor recommendation
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.

Theatre III 7-8

Course Number(s): 55055G0041
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Theater II 7-8 or instructor recommendation
Content: This class is an advanced class where students will continue to explore acting and theatre through a wide variety of performances (which may have secular or sacred themes) and class exercises. Emphasis is placed on the actors' imagination, self-awareness, self-control, and observation.

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.

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.

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.

Computer Exploration I 7-8

Course Number(s): 60004T0011
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Expl Keyboarding 6 or Teacher Approval
Content: This course is designed to utilize computers as tools to create word processing, spreadsheet, multimedia presentations and basic desktop publishing. Emphasis will be placed on real-world applications of the software presented, digital citizenship and Internet safety concepts. A review of proper keyboarding techniques will be emphasized for improving the accuracy and speed of work productions.

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 I. 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.***

Publications A/B

Course Number(s): 51103G0011, 51103G0012 (If the teacher is journalism certified, use course number 61101G0011)
Open to: 7, 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.

8th Grade

Required Core Classes

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.

Physical Science Honors 8

Course Number(s): 53159H0011, 53159H0012
Open to: 8
Length: Year
Credits: 2
Prerequisite: Signed Rigor Commitment Form required
Content: This accelerated course covers the same concepts and principles as Physical Science, but in more depth and at a rapid pace. This allows the student to examine current topics of physical science, participate in enrichment activities, research topics more thoroughly, and participate in more hands-on laboratory experiences.

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.

Elective Classes

Art 7-8

Course Number(s): 55154G0011
Open to: 7, 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. This course fulfills the prerequisite requirement for Drawing and Painting as well as Pottery and Sculpture.

Drawing-Painting

Course Number(s): 55154H0011
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Art 7-8
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

Course Number(s): 55154H0021
Open to: 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Art 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.

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.

Theatre I 7-8

Course Number(s): 55051G0021
Open to: 7, 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.

Theatre II 7-8

Course Number(s): 55055G0021
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Theatre I 7-8 or instructor recommendation
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.

Theatre III 7-8

Course Number(s): 55055G0041
Open to: 7, 8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Theater II 7-8 or instructor recommendation
Content: This class is an advanced class where students will continue to explore acting and theatre through a wide variety of performances (which may have secular or sacred themes) and class exercises. Emphasis is placed on the actors' imagination, self-awareness, self-control, and observation.

Computer Explorations I 7-8

Course Number(s): 60004T0011
Open to: 7,8
Length: Semester
Prerequisite: Expl Keyboarding 6 or instructor approval
Content: This course is designed to utilize computers as tools to create word processing, spreadsheet, multimedia presentations and basic desktop publishing. Emphasis will be placed on real-world applications of the software presented, digital citizenship and Internet safety concepts. A review of proper keyboarding techniques will be emphasized for improving the accuracy and speed of work productions.

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.

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.**

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 I. 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.)

Publications A/B

Course Number(s): 51103G0011, 51103G0012 (If the teacher is journalism certified, use course number 61101G0011)
Open to: 7, 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.