

# **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## Course Description Guide



2020 – 2021



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# PART I - Frequently Asked Questions

**Which classes earn High School Credits?** High school credit courses do not count toward your student's high school grade point average (GPA). The grade will be recorded on your student's high school transcript, but it will not count toward GPA. **Note exceptions\***

7 <sup>th</sup> grade only	.5 credit	Keyboarding
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	.5 credit	Spanish 1B
8 <sup>th</sup> grade only	1 credit	Spanish 1
Language	1.0 credit	Spanish II H*, Spa. III Pre-AP*
Math	1.0 credit	Algebra I Pre-AP*, Geometry Pre-AP*
8 <sup>th</sup> grade	.5 credit	PE Foundations, Communication Applications

\* Honor or Pre-AP classes (Algebra I Pre-AP, Geometry Pre-AP, Spanish II H, Spanish III Pre-AP) are exceptions; these classes WILL count toward your student's high school GPA.

## **What are the requirements for Spanish 1B?**

For the 2020-21 School year, Spanish 1B will be offered. Only 8th grade students who have completed or have credit for Spanish 1A will be allowed to take Spanish 1B. This will allow students to complete their full high school credit for Spanish 1.

## **NEW CLASS: SPANISH I. What are the requirements for Spanish I?**

If an 8th grade student did NOT take Spanish 1A in 7th grade, but would like to take Spanish 1 in 8th grade, they must meet the district requirements: Must be in 8th grade, MAP Math percentile of at least 46 and Reading percentile of 49.

## **Does a student have to be in the Athletics class to play a sport?**

This will depend on the sport. Students must have a physical on file in order to participate in the athletics class or in any sport.

## **Do all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students have to sign up for Keyboarding?**

Yes, all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students must sign up for Keyboarding. If a student takes Keyboarding in the summer before 7th grade or via correspondence, an alternate elective will be scheduled.

## **Do all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have to sign up for Computer Literacy?**

Yes, all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students must sign up for Computer Literacy. If they pass the Computer Literacy Proficiency Exam or take Computer Literacy in the summer, an alternate elective will be scheduled.

A student can test out of computer literacy by demonstrating proficiency on a Computer Literacy Exam that will be given in Spring. This test is available to current 7<sup>th</sup> graders only.

## **Can a student take a Musical Fine Arts and Athletics at the same time?**

Yes. Musical Fine Arts include Band, Orchestra, or Choir.

**Which classes are available in summer school through CSISD?**

Keyboarding (7<sup>th</sup> graders only), Computer Literacy (8<sup>th</sup> graders only), and Health. CSISD summer school registration typically begins in April (fee required).

**Can a student take a Music Fine Arts, Athletics, and AVID at the same time?**

Yes, but the student MUST complete each of the following:

1. Take Keyboarding in the summer between 6th grade and 7th grade through CSISD or via Texas Tech Correspondence.
2. Take Health in the summer between 6th and 7th grade via CSISD Summer School.
3. Take Computer Literacy in the summer between 7th and 8th grade via CSISD Summer School or pass the Computer Literacy Proficiency Exam.

**Can a student take Part I and Part II of a class the same year.**

No. For example, Art I and Art II can not be taken during the same year.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade Advanced classes:**

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students meeting advanced class criteria will be considered for advanced classes as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader.

Advanced 7th Grade Math: To enter this course, students must meet district criteria which includes average of 90 or above for the for the 1st - 4th six weeks in the 6th grade advanced math course and score at the 85th percentile or higher on the Winter *MAP Growth Math Assessment*. All students who take 7th grade advanced math will be required to take the 8th grade STAAR Math test.

*Please Note:* Students who don't receive at least "Approaches" on the Grade 6 Math STAAR will be registered for on-level Grade 7 Math courses even if they meet the criteria above.

Advanced English: All 6th grade students meeting Advanced English criteria will be considered for advanced classes as an 7th grader.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade advanced classes:**

Algebra 1 Pre-AP: Students interested in participating in Algebra 1 Pre-AP must have participated in 7th grade advanced math, have an average of 85 or above for the for the 1st - 4th six weeks and score at the 80th percentile or higher on the Winter *MAP Growth Math Assessment*.

*Please Note:* Students who don't receive at least "Approaches" on the Grade 8 STAAR will be registered for the on-level Grade 8 Math courses even if they meet the criteria above.

Advanced English: All 7th grade students meeting Advanced English criteria will be considered for advanced classes as an 8th grader.

# PART II - ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

## ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

This material has been compiled to assist students and parents in planning course selections for grades seven and eight. The required courses are listed below and a wide range of elective courses are offered. A description of each course is included in this document. This course information should prove helpful to you, but please feel free to contact the counselor at your school should you have any questions.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course requirements mandated by the Texas Education Agency are reflected in the courses listed below. **Elective course offerings may vary depending on student interest and enrollment.**

Based on the provisions outlined by the State of Texas, students shall be enrolled in 16 units including the following:

English/Language Arts (2 units)	Keyboarding ( ½ unit)
Mathematics (2 units)	Computer Literacy ( ½ unit)
Science I (1 unit)	Wellness/PE Foundations (1 unit)*
Science II (1 unit)	*Athletics will substitute but Health
Texas History (1 unit)	( ½ unit) must also be taken.
U.S. History (1 unit)	Electives (to fill schedule)
Advisory (2 units)	

Students who can demonstrate mastery of essential elements on the Computer Literacy Proficiency Exam may be exempted from taking the one semester computer literacy course. The exam is offered in the spring, and students will be informed of sign up dates at that time.

## MINIMUM CLASS SIZE FOR ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses listed in the Course Selection Guide will be scheduled during the following school year provided a minimum of 15 students preregister for the course. If preregistration exceeds the 15 student minimum, then drops below 15 prior to final scheduling, the course will be dropped.

## CLASSES WITH LIMITED ENROLLMENT

In certain classes, enrollment must be limited because of facilities and/or equipment. Enrollment priority will be given to 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will be scheduled into their alternate choices if space is not available in their first choice class.

## ALTERNATE SELECTIONS/ELECTIVES

Students must select alternate electives in order to ensure a complete schedule. Every attempt will be made to honor students' first choices; but due to physical limitations, maximum class sizes may need to be imposed. If an alternate course is not selected, the counselor's office will select one for the student.

## SCHEDULE CHANGES

Course selections during preregistration are considered final. Any request for a change in course requests after spring preregistration must be made in writing to the counselor no later than June 1. Once classes have started, students are expected to stay in the courses they have selected. If for any reason a student wishes to make course change, that request must be submitted to the counselor's office within the first three weeks of school. Changes are only made based upon approval and availability

## **CREDIT BY EXAM INFORMATION**

Credit by exam (CBE) testing is available to a student for academic subjects in which the student has received no prior instruction. These exams are free of charge and given only during specific dates. The district does not conduct CBE testing at any time other than those dates. Application and more information may be obtained at [csisd.org](http://csisd.org). Once you are at [csisd.org](http://csisd.org), you can search for "Credit by Exam" in the search bar at the top right for the specific webpage.

## **STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF ACADEMIC READINESS (STAAR)**

The STAAR test is given to all middle school students. Mathematics, reading, and writing are tested at grade seven. Mathematics, reading, science, and social studies are tested at grade eight. Students in Advanced Math 7 will take the 8<sup>th</sup> grade STAAR Math test. Students taking a high school level math course in middle school must take the corresponding STAAR End Of Course exam. Eighth graders are required to pass the math and reading portions of the STAAR test for grade promotion.

## **END OF COURSE EXAMS (EOCS)**

During the summer of 2013, House Bill 5 (HB 5) requires end-of-course assessment instruments for secondary-level courses in Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II, and United States History (does not apply to 8th grade US History).

The purpose of the end-of-course (EOC) assessments is to measure students' academic performance in core high school courses and to become part of the graduation requirements. Middle school students who take Algebra will participate in an EOC for the class.

## **ADVANCED CLASSES**

The academically advanced student who qualifies may consider enrolling in the following classes:

English 7 Adv, English 8 Adv, Math 7 Adv, \*Pre AP Algebra I, \*Pre AP Geometry, \*Spanish II Honors, and \*Spanish III Pre-AP.

Students must meet specific placement criteria for each course. This placement is decided by the sending school. For information regarding criteria, see the campus counselor. Advanced classes taken in middle school cannot be waived for U.I.L. eligibility.

*\*Course taken for high school credit.*

## **COURSES TAKEN FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT**

Students taking high school courses while enrolled in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade earn credit toward the 26 credits required for high school graduation. Each semester of these courses is treated on a stand-alone basis. In other words, if one of the semesters is not passed, only that semester is repeated. Each semester will be recorded as a ½ credit on the high school transcript separately. The final in these courses counts twenty percent of the semester average.

With the exception of Honors and Pre-AP Courses, high school courses taken in middle school are Pass/Fail. A passing grade will only count as credit and not towards high school grade point average.

All Honors and Pre-AP courses are recorded on a student's high school transcript *and* are applied toward the student's GPA. These classes include: Algebra I Pre-AP, Geometry Pre-AP, Spanish II H, Spanish III Pre-AP.

# PART III - COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS**

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **(1 UNIT)**

Seventh grade English Language Arts will integrate the elements of literature, composition and language usage through the writing process and research skills. Using, interpreting, and evaluating the various forms of media and technology (visual aids, film, computers, etc.) will be taught as appropriate. In addition to the state adopted texts, students will read at least one novel as a class. They will engage in self-selected reading on a regular basis.

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **(1 UNIT)**

In addition to regular 7<sup>th</sup> grade English activities, a greater variety of literature, writing assignments, and higher level thinking skills will be implemented in the advanced classes.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **(1 UNIT)**

Eighth grade English Language Arts will focus on literature, composition through the writing process, language usage and research skills. In addition, using, interpreting, and evaluating the various forms of media and technology (visual aids, film, political cartoons, computers, etc.) will be integrated into units of study as appropriate. They will engage in outside (of class) reading on a regular basis.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **(1 UNIT)**

The course description given for 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts is true for Advanced Language Arts. However, the units of study will be covered at a faster pace, be more in-depth, will involve more writing assignments, and may require a great deal more outside effort.

### **ENGLISH SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL)**

#### **(1 or 2 UNITS)**

Students qualify for ESL based on the results of the Oral Language Proficiency Test and a standardized reading exam. Depending on the tests results, the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee recommends appropriate ESL placement. The course emphasizes the English Language Proficiency Standards of Reading, Writing, Listening, and Speaking as well as the standard TEKS for middle school English. Parent permission is required for participation in this program.

## **SCIENCE**

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCIENCE (1 UNIT)**

The primary content focus of grade 7 science is organisms and environments. Matter and energy; force, motion and energy; and earth and space are also taught but to a lesser degree. Scientific investigation and reasoning are integrated with the content. At least 40% of the instructional time is devoted to laboratory and field investigations.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCIENCE II (1 UNIT)**

The primary content focus of grade 8 science is earth and space science. Matter and energy; force motion, and energy; and organisms and environments are also taught but to a lesser degree. Scientific investigation and reasoning are integrated with the content. At least 40% of the instructional time is devoted to laboratory and field investigations.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATHEMATICS (1 UNIT)**

Seventh grade mathematics covers the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as prescribed by the Texas Education Agency. These skills include mastering computational skills, with fractions, decimals, and integers. Students explore proportionality and are introduced to variables, expressions, and simple equations in a concrete manner. Foundations are extended in geometry, measurement, and data interpretation

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ADVANCED MATHEMATICS (1 UNIT)**

Prerequisite: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Mathematics.

Advanced mathematics in 7th grade follows from 6th grade advanced mathematics where selected seventh grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) have been taught. The remainder of the 7th grade TEKS and all 8th grade TEKS will be taught in this class. The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills of 7th and 8th grade mathematics will be addressed including variables, expressions and the solving of equations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and rational numbers. Proportionality, geometry, measurement and data interpretation are extended to include critical thinking. Students will be expected to participate not only in expository but also exploratory learning. Students need to understand math concepts such as decimals, fractions and integers, and apply appropriate problem-solving strategies prior to entering the course. Students are expected to be mature enough to handle a rigorous and fast paced schedule of class activities which require higher order thinking skills. To enter this course, students must meet district criteria which includes average of 90 or above for the for the 1st - 4th six weeks in the 6th grade advanced math course and score at the 85th percentile or higher on the Winter MAP Growth Math Assessment. All students who take 7th grade advanced math will be required to take the 8th grade STAAR Math test.

Please Note: Students who don't receive at least "Approaches" on the Grade 6 Math STAAR will be registered for on-level Grade 7 Math courses even if they meet the criteria above.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATHEMATICS (1 UNIT)**

Eighth grade mathematics covers the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as prescribed by the Texas Education Agency. Topics covered include rational numbers, proportion and percent applications, critical applications of displaying and interpreting data, probability, and critical applications of geometry, area and volume while integrating the use of equations.

## **ALGEBRA I PRE-AP (1 Unit - 1.0 high school credit)**

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Advanced Mathematics

Algebra I Pre-AP is a high school honors level course. To enter this course, students must meet district criteria which includes average of 85 or above for the for the 1st - 4th six weeks in the 7th grade advanced math course and score at the 80th percentile or higher on the Winter MAP Growth Math Assessment. It adheres to high school Advanced Placement guidelines in the following ways: No retests, six week grades are 75% academic achievement grades, 25% academic practice grades, and semester exams are 20% of the semester grade. Upon successful completion, the students will be awarded an honors high school credit. This grade will be applied toward your student's high school grade point average (GPA). This course covers the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Algebra I with extensions that require high order thinking skills. This is an academically rigorous, fast-paced course requiring daily preparation and a substantial amount of work outside the classroom. Students take the Algebra I End of Course Exam (EOC).

Please Note: Students who don't receive at least "Approaches" on the Grade 8 STAAR will be registered for the on-level Grade 8 Math courses even if they meet the criteria above.

## **GEOMETRY PRE-AP (1 UNIT – 1.0 high school honors credit)**

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course covers an introduction and basics of plane, solid, spherical, and coordinate geometry. Stress is placed on geometric knowledge of physical space, and deductive and inductive reasoning. Higher level and critical thinking skills addressed by providing opportunities for discovery and more detailed proof writing. Geometry Pre-AP is a high school honors level course. It adheres to high school advanced placement guidelines in the following ways: No retests, six week grades are 75% major grades, 25% minor grades, and semester exams are 20% of the semester grade. Upon successful completion, the student will be awarded an honors high school credit. This grade will be applied toward your student's high school grade point average (GPA) This course covers the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Geometry with extensions that require higher order thinking skills. This is an academically rigorous, fast-paced course requiring daily preparation and a substantial amount of work outside the classroom. Students will take the 8th grade STAAR state test.

## **HISTORY**

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE TEXAS HISTORY (1 UNIT)**

This is the study of Texas history from prehistoric times to the present, this course focuses on key individuals, events, and issues. Geographical regions and their impact on changes in Texas will be examined. The structure and function of Texas government and the responsibilities of good citizenship are studied.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE UNITED STATES HISTORY (1 UNIT)**

This is a study of the historical development of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Political, economic, and social events and issues of this period will be examined. Within this historical context, students will analyze geographic and economic factors that have influenced the development of the United States. Also, they will examine and analyze American beliefs and principles.

## **WELLNESS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE WELLNESS (1/2 UNIT)**

This course combines components from health and physical education to provide the student with a well-rounded approach to overall fitness and is required for students not in athletics. Students are exposed to the fundamentals of selected team and life-time sports, in addition to physical fitness concepts such as cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, and flexibility. Health concepts include Mental Health, Body Systems, Adolescent Growth and Development, Diseases and Disorders, Safety and Basic First Aid, as well as Drugs and Alcohol. Each student's physical fitness is assessed at the onset of the semester with the goal of improving by semester end and to be fit for life.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION – FOUNDATION OF PERSONAL FITNESS (1/2 CREDIT – .5 high school P.E. credit).**

Basic classroom and lab experiences give the foundation needed to live a totally physically fit life. This class includes: fitness, stress, nutrition, consumerism, safety, life-style, quality of life, attitudes and development of a personal fitness program.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1/2 UNIT)**

Join in the fun! All students will be provided the opportunity to develop basic motor skills and knowledge of a variety of individual, dual, and team sports. Semester courses may include such activities as: volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, weight training, and tennis. Each student's fitness will be assessed throughout the semester.

## **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE HEALTH**

**(1/2 UNIT)**

**Class is required for students participating in Athletics class.**

Health is designed to provide the students with the knowledge of achieving and maintaining optimum health. An emphasis will be placed on using this knowledge in order to make responsible and healthy life choices. Students will explore a variety of topics as they apply to their own mental, physical, and social needs. These topics include self-esteem, goal setting, peer pressure, body systems, growth and development, nutrition, drug education, safety and first aid. *Health may be taken through CSISD summer school if the course has sufficient enrollment.*

## **BOYS/GIRLS ATHLETICS**

**(1 UNIT)**

**Prerequisite: Must have physical on file to participate in class.**

Enrollment in the athletic period requires participation in a core activity. Core activities for boys include football, basketball, track, or cross country. Core activities for girls include cross country, volleyball, basketball, and track. Tennis and golf are offered before or after school only and do not require participation in the athletic period. Students in athletic periods must maintain state required eligibility at all times. Students not in season will be in the off-season program (weights, conditioning, agility drills, etc.). It is expected that students will try to improve strength, speed, endurance, agility, etc. throughout the school year. Even though students receive credit for P.E., the athletic period differs from regular P.E. in that the workouts are more intense and rigorous and geared toward developing each athlete for future athletic endeavors. A coach's approval is required for entrance into the 8<sup>th</sup> grade athletics course. ***Students who are academically ineligible or have repeated discipline issues can be removed from the athletics class at the coaches' discretion.***

## **ELECTIVES**

### **REQUIRED ELECTIVES**

#### **KEYBOARDING**

**(1/2 CREDIT - .5 high school elective credit)**

**Required for all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students**

Focuses on developing keyboarding skills using proper technique with speed and accuracy; emphasizes how to format various documents. Students will use and become familiar with the basic functions of a word processing program. It is designed for a beginning typist. This course is required for all 7th grade students. ½ high school elective credit will be awarded upon completion and passing. Keyboarding may be taken through CSISD summer school or by correspondence via Texas Tech University.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE COMPUTER LITERACY**

**(1/2 UNIT)**

**Required for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students**

This course focuses on the production of projects using the latest software as well as Internet programs. The course has four main components: the use of application software, the use of the computer as a problem-solving tool, the impact of technology in society, and the introduction of lifelong skills. The students use hands on learning to create reports, brochures, newsletters, animations, graphics, multimedia presentations using Internet sites, databases, and spreadsheets with graphs and charts. It also covers the important topics of cyber bullying and cyber ethics. It is a fun, fast-paced, and inclusive classroom setting (all projects are done in class).

## **MUSIC FINE ARTS**

### **BEGINNER BAND (1 UNIT)**

This course is designed to introduce instrumental music to middle school students who have no previous band instruction. Students will learn how to read music and play a band instrument (instrumentation is limited to need and director approval). They are expected to practice daily, and are responsible for maintaining a practice record. The expectation is for this class to become members of the concert band near the semester break as they meet at the same time. Private lessons are highly encouraged to help students catch up.

### **CONCERT BAND (1 UNIT)**

The Concert Band is designed for students with one or more years of playing experience. Continued development of fundamentals, technique, and musicality are emphasized. In addition, ensemble skills will be developed through the rehearsal and performance of full band arrangements in a variety of styles. Concert Band members are expected to participate in the College Station I.S.D. Solo and Ensemble contest as well as all Concert Band performances throughout the school year. The Concert Band may participate in the U.I.L. Concert and Sight reading Contest in April, and/or an additional festival. Concert Band Members will be required to keep a practice record for a major grade.

### **SYMPHONIC BAND (1 UNIT)**

Prerequisite: Teacher approval.

The Symphonic Band consists of students with one or more years of playing experience who have achieved an above-average playing level on their instruments. Students audition for the ensemble and membership carries increased responsibilities and expectations. Emphasis is placed upon the continued development of fundamentals, technique, musicality, and ensemble skills. Students in the Symphonic Band will be expected to participate in All Region Band auditions and the College Station I.S.D. Solo and Ensemble Contest. The Symphonic Band will give several performances throughout the year. The band participates in the U.I.L. Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, and at least one other contest or festival. Also, the band will perform for a number of school-related functions such as school pep rallies, P.T.O. Dinner, and various requests by the Principal. Members will be required to keep a practice record for a major grade.

### **CHOIR (1 UNIT)**

This is a year long, performance-based course, designed for students interested in singing. Students will learn the fundamentals of vocal production, sight-reading, and music theory. Students will also learn choreography, performance techniques, and performance etiquette. Requirements of this course include performing at rehearsals, concerts, and contest which are held both during the school day and after school hours. Girls Honor Choir requires an audition. Recommendations from previous music teacher are also considered when placing students in Choir. Each member will be expected to pay a uniform fee.

## **ORCHESTRA (1 UNIT)**

This is a full year course for violin, viola, cello and bass players who have some knowledge of advanced positions, bowing techniques, sight-reading skills, and music theory. Rehearsals and performances outside of school are considered co-curricular, are required, and affect the students' grades. The school will provide cellos and string basses for school use if possible, but every student is required to own or rent their own instrument and accessories. Students are encouraged to audition for Region Orchestra. Performances require a specific uniform which you will be required to purchase. The upper-level orchestra class is by audition for students who demonstrate advanced skills and are willing to commit to more intense preparation and performance challenges.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **ART I (1/2 UNIT)**

Students will study the elements of art and principles of designs emphasizing creative artistic problem solving using a variety of media, the student will incorporate art history, aesthetics and constructive criticism into their artwork.

### **ART II (1/2 UNIT)**

Prerequisites: Art I – Teacher approval

This class builds on the knowledge from Art I using a variety of media to incorporate art history, aesthetics and constructive criticism into their artwork with an emphasis on creation and quality of artwork.

### **THEATER ARTS I (1/2 UNIT)**

Theater Arts I is an introductory class designed to familiarize students with the wide variety of creative opportunities available to them in theatre, such as acting and design. This class focuses on creative drama and is designed to help students build self-confidence. Theatrical Methods will encourage students to use voice and movement as effective tools for communication and self-expression. Students can discover ways to control stage fright while performing such things as pantomimes, monologues, and scripted and improvised scenes.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE THEATER ARTS II (1/2 UNIT)**

Prerequisites: Theater Arts I and teacher approval.

This course is designed for students who have taken Theatre Arts I and are interested in advanced theatre activities. In this interactive class, students will explore the roles of the director, actor, and designer. Students will develop their acting skills by working with improvised and scripted scenes. Performing scenes and experience with improvisation will help students add depth to characters. As designers, students will design historical costumes for a given story. Students will have opportunities to perform in front of audiences.

## **OTHER ELECTIVES**

### **EXPLORING CAREERS**

**(1/2 UNIT)**

This course is designed to provide students with the ability to make informed decisions concerning the world of work and how it relates to the world of learning. Students will take interest and ability assessments to better guide them in their career development, investigate the 16 career clusters, complete their high school graduation plan, discover the job hunting process, and learn how to succeed at work.

### **INTRODUCTION TO JUVENILE JUSTICE**

**(1/2 UNIT)**

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge of various careers in the criminal justice field and their educational requirements as well as a basic understanding of criminal law as it pertains to juveniles and adults. It will also cover a study of the classifications of these crimes with the elements of the crimes and the penalties using the Texas Statutes as illustrations in addition to criminal responsibilities. This course serves as a good preparation for Criminal Justice courses in high school.

### **INTRODUCTION TO PRACTICAL LAW**

**(1/2 UNIT)**

This course is designed to give the students a practical understanding of law and our legal system. This course will involve the student in problem solving activities using past or current legal case scenarios, which will bring real life and hypothetical situations to the classroom. Topics will focus on legal issues relevant to students' lives and develops knowledge and skills essential in our law oriented society. This course serves as a good preparation for Criminal Justice courses in high school.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE COMMUNICATION APPLICATION**

**(1/2 CREDIT – .5 high school elective credit)**

Prerequisite: must be in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Beginning-level course introduces students to principles of effective communication. Students will gain confidence and develop communication skills through a variety of interpersonal communication activities and oral presentations. Course curriculum will also include listening strategies, non-verbal communications, group dynamics and problem-solving, as well as essential elements of effective professional communication.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE YEARBOOK**

**(1 UNIT) - Application required**

This course focuses on a student-produced yearbook. Students will learn journalistic skills such as layout design, photography placement, writing, and editing. Students will use cutting edge software while working in a team environment to produce the yearbook. Writing skills and creativity are recommended.

## **INTRODUCTION TO STEM: FOUNDATIONS OF DESIGN AND CODING**

**(1/2 UNIT)**

In this course, students will engage in an innovative, hands-on curriculum that provides real-world learning opportunities with an emphasis on the engineering design process and coding. Twenty-first century skills such as communication and teamwork are used daily. In these student-centered experiences problem solving will be rigorous and include relevant real-world applications of STEM concepts. Examples of possible units include: engineering bridges, electricity, robots, flight technology, music and sound, and coding platforms such as Tinker, Scratch, Hopscotch, JavaScript, and Blocks. A student cannot be enrolled in GT STEM and/or Project Exploration at the same time as this class.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE/APP CREATORS**

**(1/2 CREDIT – .5 high school elective credit)**

This course will be offered in the fall semester only.

**Computer Science for Innovators and Makers** - students learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.

**App Creators** - students are exposed to computer science as a means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and conveys the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

## **MEDICAL DETECTIVES/FLIGHT & SPACE**

**(1/2 CREDIT – .5 high school elective credit)**

This course will be offered in the spring semester only.

**Medical Detectives** - Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

**Flight and Space** - Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test an airfoil. Custom-built simulation software allows students to experience space travel.

## **ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID)**

**(1 UNIT) - Application required**

Avid is a nationally recognized program designed to give student who ordinarily would not be in college-preparatory classes the opportunity to take such classes and provides the support necessary for students to succeed in them. The core of the program is the AVID elective class, which focuses on academic instruction, tutorial support, and motivational activities. Students participate in lessons on note-taking skills, study skills, test taking, time management, effective textbook reading, and library research skills. Tutors are provided twice a week during the class period to work with students on their class work. In order to participate in the AVID class students must apply and be approved through an application and interview process.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE AIDE POSITIONS**

This semester course develops the student's ability to function in an office environment. It includes basic fundamentals of general office operation, such as minimal use of office equipment and alphabetical and numerical filing. Professionalism and courtesy in dealing with faculty, staff, students, parents, and the general public are stressed. Students who possess traits such as honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, dependability and punctuality will be chosen for this elective. Only ½ unit can be taken.

## ***GIFTED/TALENTED ELECTIVES***

### **GT STEM (1/2 UNIT)**

Prerequisite: G/T qualification.

This course will be offered in the fall semester only. This course is for GT students interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). In addition to other STEM activities, the class uses teamwork and problem solving to complete projects. The class will involve some after-school and weekend commitments.

### **GT PROJECT EXPLORATION (1/2 UNIT)**

Prerequisite: G/T qualification.

This course will be offered in the spring semester only. Students will use their creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking skills in various projects. They will research the project, prepare and perform scenarios, apply the knowledge to current world situations, and learn to make inferences and draw conclusions based on evidence.

## ***FOREIGN LANGUAGE***

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE SPANISH IB - 2020-2021 School Year Only (1 UNIT- .5 high school credit)**

Prerequisite: Spanish IA.

This full-year course is the continuation of Spanish IA. It covers the material taught in the second semester of the high school Spanish I program. Like its counterpart, Spanish IB is presented at the same difficulty level as the high school course. Continued development of speaking proficiency, listening, reading, and writing skills are emphasized in preparation for the high school Spanish II program. High school grading guidelines are followed. Spanish IB end of year average is recorded on the student's high school transcript.

### **SPANISH I - 8th grade ONLY (1 UNIT – 1.0 high school foreign language credit)**

Prerequisite: Must be in 8th grade. Must meet district requirements of MAP Math percentile of at least 46 and Reading percentile of 49. This is a full-year, high school credit course, offered to 8th graders only. Introduction to the Spanish language, people, culture, history, and geography with emphasis on the language skills, listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing.

## **SPANISH II HONORS**

**(1 UNIT – 1.0 high school honors credit)**

Prerequisite: 90 or higher in Spanish I; Teacher recommendation

This course is intended to prepare students for Spanish III Pre-AP. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills will be highly emphasized. The culture, history, and geography of Spanish speaking countries will be integrated into the curriculum. No re-tests at this level.

## **SPANISH III – PRE-AP**

**(1 UNIT – 1.0 high school honors credit)**

Prerequisite: Completion of 6th grade dual language (with assessment), Spanish II Honors, or approval.

Includes advanced grammar and more difficult reading selections. This course provides opportunities to improve speaking and listening skills. Lessons will be taught in Spanish and students are expected to speak in Spanish. No retests at this level.

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## **SAMPLE TWO YEAR PLANS**

Students need to take enough courses to fill a school day for 2 years. The following is an example of typical course selections:

### **7th Grade**

English 7  
Math 7  
Science 7  
TX History  
Wellness 1/Keyboarding

Practical Law/Juv. Justice  
Exploring Careers/Art 1

### **8th Grade**

English 8  
Math 8  
Science 8  
US History  
PE Foundations/Computer Lit.

Theater Arts/Art 2  
Spanish 1

Students who choose to be in **athletics** and play competitive sports both years have less room for electives. Health is a requirement for these students as well. They might have a 2 year plan that looks like this:

### **7th Grade**

English 7  
Math 7  
Science 7  
TX History  
Art/Exploring Careers  
Health/Keyboarding  
Athletics

### **8th Grade**

English 8  
Math 8  
Science 8  
US History  
Spanish 1  
Computer Lit/Comm App.  
Athletics

# Middle School Registration Form 2020-2021

7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please place an X in the space next to the courses you wish to take.  
You must take a total of 7 units.**

<u>Required Core Courses</u>		<u>UNITS</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English 7	1110	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Math 7	2010	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science 7	3010	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Texas History	4010	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Keyboarding *	9053	1/2
<b>Total Required Courses.....</b>		<b>4 1/2</b>

**Foreign Language** UNITS

Spanish 1 will be offered as yearlong course during the 2021-22 school year for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Dual Language Students:

\_\_\_\_\_ Spanish II H\* or Spanish III Pre-AP 1  
(Requires approval via testing)

*Placements into Advanced Math and Advanced English will be determined at a later date.*

**Other Required 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses**  
Must select one of the following:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Option 1** Athletics \_\_\_\_\_ Boys 5260 \_\_\_\_\_ Girls 5240

Athletics - Competitive sport(s) 1

Health 5133 1/2

1 1/2 units

\_\_\_\_\_ **Option 2** Wellness 5113 1/2

**Music Fine Arts**

_____ Orchestra	8310	1
_____ Band ( _____ Beginning)	8210/8200	1
_____ Boys Choir	8110	1
_____ Girls Choir	8120	1

**Other Electives**

_____ Art I	8003	1/2
_____ Theatre Arts I	1303	1/2
_____ Exploring Careers	6053	1/2
_____ Intro. Practical Law	6063	1/2
_____ Intro. Juvenile Justice	6073	1/2
_____ Intro to STEM	8603	1/2
_____ Comp Sci/App Creators		1/2
_____ Med Det/Flight & Space		1/2
_____ PE	5153	1/2
_____ AVID ( <i>Application and Interview Required</i> )		1

**Gifted/Talented Electives**

_____ GT STEM (Robotics)	8501	1/2
_____ GT Project Exploration	8502	1/2

**GT Teacher Signature required:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student must be identified as "Gifted and Talented.")

*(Students enrolled in Athletics can not take PE)*

Comments:

**Total Units..... = 7**

**\* High school credit offered for this course**

**Alternates: If I can't have the electives I chose above, or if I take Keyboarding and/or Health in summer school, I would like to take:**

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, *or* \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature Student Signature Date

**Middle School Registration Form 2020-2021**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS: Please place an X in the space next to the courses you wish to take.**  
**You must take a total of 7 units.**

<u>Required Core Courses</u>		<u>UNITS</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> English 8	1150	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Math 8	2060	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science 8	3050	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> U.S. History	4050	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Computer Literacy	9153	<u>1/2</u>
<b>Total Required Core Courses.....</b>		<b>4 1/2</b>

<u>Foreign Language</u>		<u>UNITS</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish IB * (sign _____)		1
<i>Prerequisite is Spanish IA</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish I*	7210	1
<i>Must meet district requirements. No prior Spanish course.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish II H* (requires approval)		1
<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish III-Pre-AP* (requires approval)		1

*Placements into Advanced Math and Advanced English will be determined at a later date.*

<u>Music Fine Arts</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra	8320	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Band ( <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning)	8220	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Boys Choir	8110	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Girls Choir	8100	1

**Other Required 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Courses**  
*Select one of the following:*

**Option 1** Athletics  Boys 5270  Girls 5250

Coach's signature \_\_\_\_\_  
 Athletics \_\_\_\_\_ 1

**Options 2**

PE Foundations (5053) \* \_\_\_\_\_ 1/2

<u>Other Electives</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Art I	8003	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Art II	8053	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts I	1303	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts II	1353	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Comm. Application *	1813	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Exploring Careers	6053	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Intro. Practical Law	6063	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Intro. Juvenile Justice	6073	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Intro to STEM	8603	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Comp Sci/App Creators		1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Med Det/Flight & Space		1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> PE	5153	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Aide _____		1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook ( <i>Application Required</i> )	1500	1
<input type="checkbox"/> AVID ( <i>Application and Interview Required</i> )		1

<u>Gifted/Talented Electives</u> (sign _____)		
<input type="checkbox"/> GT STEM (Robotics)	8501	1/2
<input type="checkbox"/> GT Project Exploration	8502	1/2

*GT Teacher Signature required: \_\_\_\_\_*  
*(Student must be identified as "Gifted and Talented.")*

**\*High school credit received for these courses**

*If I can't have the electives I chose above, or if I take Computer Literacy in summer school, I would like to take:*

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# **PART IV – ORGANIZATIONS, CLUBS & ACTIVITIES**

College Station I.S.D. encourages student participation in extracurricular activities. The following list shows organizations, clubs, and activities in which students may become involved.

## **UIL – University Interscholastic League**

UIL is a series of academic contests designed to extend the basic curriculum taught in the classroom. Subjects include: Maps, Charts & Graphs, Number Sense, Ready Writing,

Science I and II, Creative Writing, Spelling, Dictionary Skills, Social Studies, Calculator Applications, Math, Impromptu Speech, Oral Reading, and Chess.

## **CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS**

Many after-school clubs and organizations are offered at the middle school level. Pay attention to your school announcements to see when and where clubs meet.

## **National Junior Honor Society**

All students who are interested in membership in this national organization should hold themselves to the highest standards throughout their seventh grade year. Students must have an overall average of 93 for the first four six weeks and hand in their paperwork by the designated deadline. Students who meet these requirements will be evaluated by their teachers on the basis of service, leadership, citizenship, and character. Final decisions on membership are made by an NJHS Faculty Council.

### *REQUIREMENTS FOR NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY*

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is both an honor and a responsibility. Students selected for membership are expected to demonstrate the qualities of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character.

To be considered for membership, a student must have a cumulative average of 93.0\* through the fourth six weeks grading period of his or her seventh grade year. Eligible candidates must provide relevant information about their service, leadership, and citizenship qualification through the Student Activity Information Forms. Conduct and character will be reviewed by the Faculty Council.

Student Activity Information Forms will be distributed to student interested in becoming member of NJHS during the spring semester of their 7th grade year. All selected candidates will be notified of the induction ceremony and will be expected to attend.

Chapter meeting will be held monthly as the school calendar permits. Emergency meetings may be called if three days advance notice is given.

*\*Honor and Pre-AP high school credit courses are eligible for an additional 10 points to the course average. Specific course listing will be noted on the Student Activity Form.*

## **Student Council**

### *REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT COUNCIL (StuCo)*

The following eligibility requirements affect students running for Student Council. Students interested in running for StuCo president must be a StuCo member their 7th grade year.

Scholastic Requirements. A student must have an 80 or above after averaging the six weeks grades from all seven classes for the 1st through 4th six weeks (28 different grades) with no individual six weeks grade during the year below 70. Grades received as an aide of any type or in athletics will not be included in the average.

Disciplinary Requirements. A student will be ineligible to run for Student Council if he/she has received a referral to the office during the present school year.

## **Dance Team**

Dance Team exists to promote sportsmanship, citizenship, school spirit and entertainment, and are first and foremost representatives of their school. Dance team members should exemplify both individual and group behavior suitable to their position and in accordance with the rules as stated in the CSISD Student Code of Conduct. Members of this group have a fundamental responsibility to play a leadership role in building teamwork and helping the school achieve its goals and objectives. \*There are membership requirements for dance team. See your school's dance team sponsor for a complete list of requirements.

## **Cheerleading**

Cheerleading is designed to support all school organizations and promote school spirit. Cheerleaders will show their talents, skills, and spirit at various school functions including, but not limited to, football games, pep rallies, basketball games, etc. Cheerleaders should be able to dedicate their time, energy, and effort throughout the cheer season. \*There are membership requirements for cheerleading. See your school's cheer sponsor for a complete list of requirements.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

A student may participate in extracurricular activities by having a passing grade of 70 in ALL subjects and by meeting the other requirements set by local and state policy. Students receiving grade of 60 or above in an Honors, Pre-AP, or AP classes will remain eligible as defined by the Texas Education Code. Specific eligibility dates will be listed on the 2020-21 UIL Academic Eligibility Calendar.

