

Marion Middle School



Course Information
Guide

2019-2020

Dear Parents and Students,

Marion Middle School serves students in grades 6-8 providing middle school students a well-balanced, rigorous curriculum that meets and exceeds the requirements set forth by the Texas Education Agency. This information booklet has been designed to provide information that will help you plan for the 2019-2020 school year.

Included in this booklet are brief descriptions of the advanced and elective courses offered, including any prerequisites for each course. All elective classes will be offered according to the number of students interested and the availability of staff. For this reason, it is very important to indicate alternative choices on the Student Registration Form. **Please take your time when choosing electives because schedule changes will take place only when deemed necessary by the school.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Townsley, Counselor at 830-914-1073 or ktownsley@marionisd.net.

It's a great day to be a Bulldog!!!! We're excited to have you.

Sincerely,

Marion Middle School Faculty and Staff

General Information

Marion ISD (MISD) Middle School serves students in grades 6-8. MISD provides middle school students a well-balanced, rigorous curriculum that meets and exceeds the requirements set forth by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

A key focus of the MISD middle school academic program is to make certain all students are prepared for the high school curriculum by focusing on the attainment of the essential skills in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. It is also a requirement that MISD students take one semester of Technical Applications, one semester of Career Investigations, two years of Physical Education, and one year of Fine Arts. In addition to certain required courses, students may choose optional courses (electives) in fine arts, languages other than English, technology, agriculture courses, and physical education.

College and Career Readiness

The instructional program delivered at the middle school is based on the official standards defined by the state, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), developed in collaboration between TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). These learning standards are designed to represent a full range of knowledge and skills that students need to succeed in entry-level college courses, as well as in a wide range of majors and careers. By implementing these required standards, our schools will advance the mission of Texas to develop college and career ready students.

Middle School Advanced

Advanced courses are designed to challenge students beyond grade-level academic work and to prepare them for success in future advanced-level coursework. A special focus is made to incorporate the subject-specific activities a student will later encounter in a related high school Advanced courses. Marion ISD recognizes the value of advanced academic coursework and encourages all students to graduate high school with at least one advanced academic course, such as Advanced Placement or dual credit.

While Marion ISD offers inclusive enrollment for advanced courses, parents and students should carefully weigh the decision to enroll in advanced coursework. It is important to ensure that the student demonstrates the habits of mind that are likely to lead to success in academically rigorous classes. Students who experience success in advanced courses typically exhibit the following personal and academic characteristics:

Personal Characteristics:

- Reads on or above grade level
- Strong study skills and self-motivation
- Proficient oral and written communication skills
- Self-discipline to plan, organize, and carry out tasks to completion

- Interest and self-directedness in a particular subject

Academic Characteristics:

- Grade of 90 or higher in the previous content related course
- Grade of 80 or higher in the previous advanced content-related course
- Advanced scores on most recent course-related state mandated performance assessments (STAAR)

Entry Guidelines for Middle School Advanced

Students are likely to be successful in advanced coursework if they have demonstrated mastery (Advanced Level Performance) on the most recent course-related, state mandated performance assessments (STAAR).

Parents of students who do not meet the criteria for enrollment may still elect to enroll their students in an advanced course, understanding that students may require additional support to be successful in these courses.

High School Credit Opportunities

The expectation of the district is that each middle school student will leave 8th grade with a minimum of 1 high school credit. High school courses offered at the middle school include Art I, Theater Production I, Algebra I, Spanish I, and Foundations of Personal Fitness. **Grades earned in these classes will not be calculated in the student's GPA, and will be transferred as credit only.**

Grading and Evaluation

Report cards will be issued every nine weeks throughout the school year. In addition to report cards, the school will distribute interim progress reports every three weeks.

Home School/Non Accredited Private School

A student returning to public middle school from home schooling or a non-accredited private school will need to demonstrate mastery of basic skills up to the grade level to which he/she is assigned. Students will be given a credit by exam assessment to determine grade level placement. A non-refundable payment may be required.

Promotion Policy

To be promoted from Grade 6 to Grade 7, Grade 7 to Grade 8, and Grade 8 to Grade 9, students must meet all the following criteria:

1. Earn a yearly average of 70 or above in each of the subjects of English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science or Social Studies.
2. Earn an overall average of 70 when all subjects taken are averaged together.
3. Meet the 90 percent state mandated requirement for attendance.
4. 8th graders must pass STAAR Math and Reading for promotion.

State of Texas Academic Readiness (STAAR)

The STAAR test includes 3rd – 8th assessments and 5 high school end-of-course assessments required for graduation. STAAR tests are significantly more rigorous than previous tests and measure performance, academic growth and readiness for the high school level and beyond. The following tests are required at each grade level:

Grade 6: Reading, Math

Grade 7: Reading, Writing, Math

Grade 8: Reading, Math, Social Studies, Science

Students in grades 5 and 8 must pass the math and reading STAAR test in order to be promoted to the next grade level. MISD has established several interventions to assist students who do not meet the passing standard on these assessments. A grade placement committee (GPC) consisting of the principal or designee, the student's parent or guardian and the teacher of the subject area failed by the student, will prescribe the accelerated instruction that the district will provide the student during the summer before the statewide assessment is administered a third time (June). If the student fails a third time, the student is automatically retained at the same grade level. The parent or guardian may appeal this retention to the student's grade placement committee (GPC), and the committee may place the student in the next grade level if it determines by unanimous decision that, in accordance with local school board standards it is likely the student will perform at grade level given accelerated instruction upon placement. The final decision of this committee cannot be appealed.

Math and/or Reading Block

All students who fail to meet pre-set standards for the Math and /or Reading STAAR test may be placed in a Math and/or Reading Lab. Students may also be placed in a Math and /or Reading Acceleration class based on teacher recommendation.

P.E. Requirement

State law requires that students complete at least 4 semesters (or 2 years) of Physical Education in grades 6-8.

#-Administrative decision based on STAAR results and teacher recommendation.

6th Grade Course Options

All 6th grade middle school students will attend the following classes daily:

English Language Arts (ELA) or Advanced ELA
Math or Advanced Math
Science
Social Studies
Physical Education (PE) or Pre-Athletics (PA)
Technology Applications / Youth Leadership

2 Electives

- Art
- Beginning Band-- Brass, Woodwind, or Percussion based on band director recommendation
- Choir
- Theater

7th Grade Course Options

All 7th grade middle school students will attend the following classes daily:

English Language Arts (ELA) or Advanced ELA
Math or Advanced Math
Science
Texas History
Physical Education or Athletics
3 Electives--from the following:

- Ag Mechanics I
- Art
- Choir I or II
- Computer Science Discoveries I
- Exploring Agriculture
- Symphonic Band
- Theater Arts I or II
- Wildlife and Fisheries/Plant Production
- Reading and/or Math Block#

8th Grade Course Options

All 8th grade middle school students will attend the following classes daily:

Career Investigations – 1 Semester Required
English Language Arts (ELA) or Advanced ELA
Math or Algebra I (High School Credit)
Science
US History

3 Electives from the following:

- Art 1 (High School Credit)
- Art 8th
- Athletics
- Choir
- Theater Arts
- Theater Production (High School Credit)
- Symphonic Band
- Journalism –Yearbook Production
- Exploring Agriculture
- Ag Mechanics I (First in Sequence)
- Ag Mechanics II (Ag Mech I required)
- Ag Leadership
- Foundations of Personal Fitness (High School Credit)
- Spanish I (High School Credit)
- Reading and/or Math Block#

½ Semester Electives – 2 courses = 1 full year

- Art
- Gardening and Plant Exploration
- Skills for Living
- Student Success Skills
- Wildlife and Fisheries Exploration

Core Course Descriptions

Sixth Grade

English Language Arts (ELA)

English Language Arts (ELA) Full Year

Prerequisite – None

This course is designed to provide students with a strong foundation of genre-based reading and writing. Students will strengthen their understanding of reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of the English language by developing skills in critical, analytical and creative thinking, close reading, grammar, and composition. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis and keep a portfolio of work.

Advanced English Language Arts (ELA)

Full Year

See entry guidelines on page 3

Advanced ELA is a course designed for high-achieving 6th grade students demonstrating advanced English language arts skills, who will receive instruction leading to subsequent Advanced ELA courses. The class will cover all 6th grade essential knowledge and skills. Emphasis is placed on developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis.

Mathematics

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

The primary focal areas in Grade 6 are number and operations: proportionality; expressions, equations and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students use geometric properties and relationships as well as spatial reasoning to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of

technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Advanced Mathematics

Full Year

See entry guidelines on page 3

Advanced math is a course designed for high-achieving 6th grade students demonstrating advanced mathematical skills, who will receive instruction leading to 8th grade algebra and subsequent advanced mathematics courses. The class will cover all 6th and 7th essential knowledge. This course will compact TEKS within the 6th and 7th grade curriculum.

Science

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Science for 6th grade is a course designed for all students that utilizes specific instructional strategies designed to enhance the development of critical thinking skills. Through the incorporation of laboratories and project based learning, students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on physical science. Topics of study include elements, compounds and mixtures, energy resources, potential and kinetic energy, energy transformations, force and motion, solar system and space exploration, taxonomic classifications and levels of organization in ecosystems.

Social Studies

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

This course utilizes strategies that develop the skills, habits of mind and concepts needed for higher-level thinking. Students study people, places and societies of the contemporary world, the influence of individuals on events and the differing nature of citizenship. Students will identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. Students will compare institutions and the effects of technology on societies and identify different points of view about events. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

Technology Applications I

**Semester
grade**

Required for 6th

Prerequisite: None

Technology Applications/Multimedia focuses on the use of applications, including word processing, graphics, spreadsheets, databases, and communications, to introduce a broad spectrum of computer fundamentals. Additionally, students will learn to create multimedia presentations, learn the basics of creating and/or enhancing digitized computer art and animation, and accessing needed information from LAN's and the Internet. In this class, students will implement various types of hardware and software to explore computer concepts.

Youth Leadership

Semester

Prerequisite: None

Grade 6

The youth leadership class is a character development course, which is specifically designed to engage middle school students and equip them with important life skills. Peer pressure and bullying are just two of the topics that will be threaded throughout the program. The class will also explore other core issues such as getting along with others, self-esteem, planning and getting organized, and making positive choices. Empathy, sympathy, and compassion will also emerge as ongoing themes, and there will be a strong writing component utilizing daily journal reflections as well as weekly concept reflection. All of these are designed to assist students in improving self-concept, building friendships, resisting peer-pressure, and getting along better with parents and adults, while also providing opportunities for honing their skills at written expression.

Seventh Grade

English Language Arts (ELA)

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to develop students' critical understanding of reading, writing, research, listening, speaking and the oral and written conventions of the English language. Emphasis is placed on developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading discussions, essays, and exams. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis and keep a portfolio of written work.

Advanced English Language Arts (ELA)

Full Year

See entry guidelines on page 3

Advanced ELA is a course designed for high-achieving 7th grade students demonstrating advanced English language arts skills, who will receive instruction leading to subsequent advanced ELA courses. The class will cover all 7th grade essential

knowledge and skills. Emphasis is placed on developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussion, essays, and exams. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis and keep a portfolio of written work. **A summer reading may be required.**

Accelerated Reading Strategies

Full Year

Prerequisite: Campus Recommendation

This course is in addition to the grade level language arts course. It is designed for students who are reading below grade level. The course provides for individualized instruction to meet each student's unique need in decoding, fluency, vocabulary development and comprehension.

7th Grade Mathematics

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

The primary focal areas in Grade 7 are number and operations: proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships, including number, geometry and measurement, and statistics and probability. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all type of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

7th Grade Advanced Mathematics

Full Year

See entry guidelines on page 3

This course covers mathematical knowledge and skills leading to 8th grade algebra I and subsequent advanced mathematics courses at the high school. This course reviews arithmetic procedure and begins a student's investigation of algebraic concepts. Students will use linear equations to represent real world situations, and develop an understanding of slope as rate of change. They will increase fluency in number, operation and

quantitative reasoning; analyze 2- and 3- dimensional space and uses of statistical data; and develop and describe geometric and mathematical patterns all leading to sustainable algebraic thinking.

Accelerated Math Strategies

Full Year

Prerequisite: Campus Recommendation

The course is in addition to the grade level mathematics course. It is designed to assist students who have not performed well on the mathematics portion of STAAR. The course includes reviewing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; decimals; perfect squares; integers; mental math skills; estimation skills; and analysis of word problems.

Science

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for all students and utilizes specific instructional strategies designed to enhance the development of critical thinking skills. Students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on organisms and the environment. Topics of study include the flow and conservation of energy through living systems, force, motion, and energy observed in living systems and the environment, Earth and space phenomena, relationships between living organisms and their environment, genetics, plant and animal cell structures, and human body systems. Students will be engaged in relevant and rigorous hands-on laboratory investigations that emphasize process skills, such as experimental design, and use tools and technology to collect, record, and analyze data.

Texas History

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Students will study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Areas of study will include Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. Students identify the regions of Texas and describe the structure and functions of government. Students will examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens, identify different ethnic groups who contributed to Texas culture, and analyze the impact of science and technology on the development of Texas in various industries. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed in the TEKS.

Eighth Grade

English Language Arts (ELA)

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to increase students' development of critical reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of the English language. Students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. In addition, students will continue to address earlier standards as needed while they attend to standards for their grade level. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis and keep a portfolio of written work.

Advanced English Language Arts (ELA)

Full Year

See entry guidelines on page 3

Advanced ELA is a course designed for high-achieving 8th grade students demonstrating advanced English language arts skills, who will receive instruction leading to subsequent advanced English Language Arts courses. The class will cover all 8th grade essential knowledge and skills. Emphasis is placed on developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis and keep a portfolio of written work. **A summer reading may be required.**

Accelerated Reading Strategies

Full Year

Prerequisite: Campus Recommendation

This course is in addition to the grade level language arts course. It is designed for students who are reading below grade level. The course provides for individualized instruction to meet each student's unique need in decoding, fluency, vocabulary development and comprehension.

8th Grade Mathematics

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

The primary focal areas in Grade 8 are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of real numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students begin to develop an understanding of functional relationships, and use geometric

properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Algebra I

HS Credit: 1

Full Year

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th grade Advanced Math OR demonstrated ability according to District criteria.

Algebra I will expand students' understanding of number, operation, and quantitative reasoning; patterns, relationships, and algebraic thinking; geometry; measurement; and probability and statistics. Special emphasis is placed on problem solving and application of skills and concepts. Students will also be instructed in the use of a graphing calculator.

Accelerated Math Strategies

Full Year

Prerequisite: Campus Recommendation

The course is in addition to the grade level mathematics course. It is designed to assist students who have not performed well on the mathematics portion of STAAR. The course includes reviewing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; decimals; perfect squares; integers; mental math skills; estimation skills; and analysis of word problems.

Career Investigations

Semester Only

Prerequisite: None

Grade 8

This course is an activity-based career development course that provides linkages between classroom experiences, community resources and career choices to real world outcomes. Opportunities to develop and/or improve self-awareness in relation to career opportunities and options and related education, training and lifelong learning, and success in all adult roles will be provided through classroom activities and job shadowing experiences in the community. Opportunities to explore a variety of careers within a specific career concentration will be provided to all participants.

Science

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Through the incorporation of laboratories and project based learning, students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on earth and space science. Topics of study include properties of matter and chemical reactions, relationship between forces and motion explained by Newton's three laws, cycles within the Sun, Earth, and Moon systems (seasons, tides, lunar phases), origin of universe, plate tectonics, topographic maps, interaction of solar, weather, and ocean systems, interactions within ecosystems, and environmental changes. Students will be engaged in relevant laboratory investigations that emphasize process skills, such as experimental design, and use tools and technology to collect, record, and analyze data.

U.S. History

Full Year

Prerequisite: None

Students study the history of the United States from colonization through Reconstruction. Students analyze political, economic, religious and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges of the early Republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction. Students examine the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on how and where Americans lived, the American beliefs and principles reflected in historical documents such as the U. S. Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of science and technology on the development of the U.S. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed in the TEKS.

Elective Course Descriptions

Note: Electives will be offered subject to minimum enrollment and teacher availability.

Middle School Fine Arts Credit

Students must complete at least one TEKS-based fine arts course (i.e. Art, Theater, or Band) for credit in Grade 6, Grade 7, or Grade 8. This requirement is mandated by HB3.

ALL ART AND AG MECH COURSES: Fees may be assessed for participation in Art and Ag Mech classes to cover supplies and other consumable items.

Art

Full year

Grades 6,7,8

This course extends the learning of basic elements of art and principles of design, art history, and art appreciation. Students design, develop, and create art using a variety of media.

Art I (High School Credit)

Full Year

Grade 8

Students explore the elements of art and principles of design with emphasis on visual literacy skills, use of critical thinking, imagination and the senses to explore the world alongside creative visual problem solving. Students create original art in a variety of media, study art history, aesthetics, and participate in the critique process within this general survey course.

COURSE NOTE: This course confers high school credit. Students are expected to meet the exact same requirements and standards as students taking this course in high school. (This course will not suffice for both the middle school and high school fine arts statutory course requirements.)

Beginning Woodwind, Beginning Brass and Beginning Percussion

Full Year

Grade 6

This class is open to any 6th grade student who has not had any band experience. Curriculum will focus on learning proper fundamentals on an instrument both physically and technically. Students will learn major scales, rhythms, how to play different styles of music and learn to perform as an individual as well as an ensemble. Students are required to participate in at least 2 concerts per year.

Symphonic Band

Full Year

Grade 7,8

This class is open to any 7th or 8th grade student who has had at least one year of band experience. Curriculum will focus on continuation of proper fundamentals on an instrument both physically and technically. Students are required to participate in at least 2 concerts per year as well as selected pep-rallies during the football season.

Students will also compete at a band competition during their end of the year trip

Choir: MS 1

Full Year

Grade 6,7,8

Students will learn choral reading techniques, ear training, vocal productions, solfège, and basic theory. Students will develop skills in musicianship, listening schools, individual/ensemble singing, music reading and performance skills.

Choir: MS 2

Full Year

Grade 7,8

Students will develop skills in musicianship, ear training/listening schools, individual/ensemble singing, vocal production, music reading, performance skills, and basic music theory.

Theater Arts: MS 1

Full Year

Grade 6,7,8

First year students explore elements of drama and conventions of theater, interpret characters, voice and body expression and the relationship of theater to history, society, and culture.

Theater Arts: MS 2

Full Year

Grade 7,8

Students learn basic acting skills, pantomime, improvisation, storytelling, character analysis, body expression and the relationship of theater to history, society, and culture.

Theater Production (High School Credit)

Full Year

Grade 8

This course will focus on performance. Special emphasis will be given to character development, voice, diction, and body control. This course will begin the study of theater history and production from a technical standpoint (set design, lights, sounds, etc.) will be explored. This course requires extended rehearsals with some after school, nights and weekends.

Pre-Athletics

Full Year

Grade 6

Marion ISD Pre-athletics is open to all 6th grade students. Building upon the standard physical education curriculum, this program is designed to provide instruction in sport-specific fundamentals and rules, as well as promote the academic, physical, and psychological and social growth of future student athletes. Participation in a student athletic activity that is fun and it is also a significant part of the educational program that represents the high standards of ethics and sportsmanship while developing good character through sports. Major focus areas include: Development of the Student-Athlete, sportsmanship, proper classroom behavior and academic performance.

Athletics

Full Year

Grade 7,8

Prerequisite: Sports Physical

Athletic Physical Education may include football, basketball, volleyball and track and field. Some of the sports meet before or after school. These students also participate in strength and conditioning activities during off season to enhance their opportunities for success in seasonal competition. Attendance at all practices and competitions is required. Students must have a physical examination by a medical doctor to participate in competitive athletics.

Wellness: Physical Education

Full Year

Grade 6,7,8

Prerequisite: None

Students will continue to improve and develop health and physical literacy through a variety of individual and team sports and activities. All activities are designed to improve personal fitness levels as well as to equip and empower students to pursue a lifetime of health and fitness. State fitness testing will also be included in this course. Student are required to dress out in campus specific fitness attire. Grades are based on demonstrated mastery of the course-specific TEKS.

Foundations of Personal Fitness:

Grade 8

HS Credit: .5 (1 Semester)/Full Year

Foundations of Personal Fitness provides students with a range of knowledge and skills that will enable them to understand the importance of an active lifestyle and to design effective and appropriate personal fitness programs throughout their lives. This course will include a wide range of individual, team, outdoor and recreational activities and sports.

Student Aide

Full Year/Semester

Grade 7,8

Prerequisite: Administrator Approval

A course designed to allow students the opportunity to learn responsibility through assisting educational professionals. Skills that may be learned are as follows: filing, phone etiquette, peer assistance, use of office equipment, communications skills, and others. Because confidentiality and quality of work are essential for this position, the student may not have a history of disciplinary infractions, and will need a teacher recommendation and an administrator's approval.

Computer Science Discovery I

Full Year

Grade 7,8

Prerequisite – Tech apps

Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory computer science course designed for Middle School Students. The curriculum emphasizes problem-solving, creation, and collaboration, while introducing students to the many ways computer science impacts their lives. Students will discuss the languages powering the web,

build their own website, and learn the powerful constructs underlying program languages.

Computer Science Discovery II

Full Year

Prerequisite – Computer Science Discoveries I

Grade 8

CSD II is a continuation of CSD I. The curriculum continues to emphasize advanced problem solving, creation, and a collaboration, while introducing

Skills for Living

Semester Only

Grade 8

Prerequisite: None

This is an activity based course providing students with practical information in the areas of personal development, family and community responsibilities, parent-child relationships, food and nutrition, clothing care and construction, housing, and career preparation. Students are required to apply academic learning toward the solutions of real-world responsibilities. This class is full of new and exciting information that students will find helpful during Middle School and High School as well as the rest of their lives.

Student Success Skills

Semester Only

Prerequisite: None

Grade 8

Students will learn to focus on the tools and essential knowledge to become successful leaders within our community, through their self-exploration into their own leadership style. During the leadership journey, students will learn to cooperatively work in teams and communicate leadership ideas through oral and written communication methods. The class will explore leadership through technology exploration, within their communities, their families, and their peers. The course will further incorporate digital citizenship along with organizational skills and relevant book studies and activities which support core classes. The student will begin to define future goals and leadership styles, including career paths, colleges, and leadership decision making.

Journalism - Yearbook

Full Year

Grade 8

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for highly motivated, independent and creative individuals who wish to learn how to create and design a school yearbook. Students will learn basic photography, page design, and computer applications. Sponsor recommendation is required for this class.

Gardening and Plant Exploration

1 Semester

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Exploring Agriculture

This course is designed to develop an understanding of common plant management practices as they relate to food and decorative plant production. Strong emphasis on garden production and community involvement through plants will be included in this course.

Wildlife and Fisheries Exploration

1 Semester

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Exploring Agriculture

Wildlife & Fisheries Exploration examines game and non-game wildlife species of fish. A study of aquatic animals and safety education programs for hunters, boaters, and anglers are emphasized. Students will have the opportunity to gain a Hunter Safety Certification. Career opportunities in natural resource systems will be discussed.

Ag Mechanics I

Full Year

Grade 7,8

Prerequisite: None

Students will have the opportunity to learn the safe operation of hand and power tools, as well as learn woodworking and metal working skills culminating in a project based learning experience. This will be a "hands-on" course that will include extensive time in a shop environment.

Ag Mechanics II

Full Year

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Ag Mechanics I

Students will have the opportunity to build on skills learned in Ag Mechanics I to complete project based assignments.

Exploring Agriculture

Full Year

Grade 7, 8

Prerequisite: None

This basic course is designed to help students understand concepts dealing with animal science, plant science, communications and leadership. Emphasis will be placed on building leaders through team working and team building activities.

Ag Leadership

Full Year

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Exploring Ag

This course is designed to build on the team working skills learned in Exploring Agriculture. Students will perform extensive work in leadership activities and will also be introduced to concepts used for FFA contests. These include parliamentary procedure and livestock judging as well as concepts used in other popular events.