

Middle School Course Guide and Academic Planner

This Middle School Course Guide is designed to explain the basic requirements for successful steps from sixth through eighth grades as well as give the tools to prepare for a smooth transition into the high school program. Counselors will hold parent meetings and meet with students individually to aid them in developing the appropriate educational plans from middle school through high school experience. Parents and students are encouraged to use all sources of information provided in this catalog and provided by the school counselors as they plan for future goals.

Middle School 3 Year Plan

Course selection in middle school is very important to ensure the proper prerequisite courses are taken to pursue the endorsement of choice. <u>All middle school students will complete their high school Four-year Graduation Plan as a part of College and Career Studies.</u>							
	<i>Course 1</i>	<i>Course 2</i>	<i>Course 3</i>	<i>Course 4</i>	<i>Course 5</i>	<i>Course 6</i>	<i>Course 7</i>
6th Grade	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	Fine Arts	PE	<i>Elective</i>
7th Grade	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	PE	Elective	<i>Elective</i>
8th Grade	English	Math	Science	Social Studies	College and Career Readiness (SEM)	<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>
					Elective (Sem)		

Course Planner Worksheet							
	<i>Course 1</i>	<i>Course 2</i>	<i>Course 3</i>	<i>Course 4</i>	<i>Course 5</i>	<i>Course 6</i>	<i>Course 7</i>
6th Grade	English _____	Math _____	Science _____	Social Studies _____	Fine Arts _____	PE _____	Elective _____
7th Grade	English _____	Math _____	Science _____	Social Studies _____	PE _____	Exploring Careers	Elective _____
8th Grade	English _____	Math _____	Science _____	Social Studies _____	College and Career Readiness	Elective _____	Elective _____
					Elective _____		

Looking ahead to High School Graduation Plan Information

Foundation Graduation Plan for Texas students: These graduation plans consist of a foundation plan for every Texas student and five endorsements from which students may choose. When selected, students will complete any of these endorsements with four mathematics, four science, four English Language Arts, three Social Studies credits, and two LOTE credits. Students must earn a **total of 26 credits to graduate**.

Foundation Plan

English Language Arts- 4 Credits English I English II English III English IV	Mathematics- 3 Credits Algebra I Geometry Advanced Math	Social Studies- 3 Credits World Geography OR World History US History Government (.5) Economics (.5)	Science- 3 Credits Biology IPC or Advanced Science Additional Advanced Science	Languages Other than English- 2 Credits Fine Arts- 1 Credit Physical Education- 1 Credit Electives- 5 Credits
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Endorsements

ARTS & HUMANITIES	BUSINESS & INDUSTRY	PUBLIC SERVICES	STEM	MULTIDISCIPLINARY
English Literature Fine Arts History World Languages	Agriculture; Arts, A/V & Communications; Business Management; Hospitality & Tourism; Information Technology; Transportation, Distribution & Logistic	Health Science; Education & Training; Human Services; Law, Public Safety, Corrections, & Security; JROTC	Computer Science Engineering Science Technology Advanced Mathematics	Allows students to earn credits in a variety of advanced courses from multiple content areas

Endorsement Requirements

Arts & Humanities 1 Advanced Math 1 Advanced Science Elective 1 Elective 2	Business & Industry 1 Advanced Math 1 Advanced Science Elective 1 Elective 2	Public Services 1 Advanced Math 1 Advanced Science Elective 1 Elective 2	STEM (must complete chemistry, physics, Algebra II) 1 Advanced Math 1 Advanced Science Elective 1 Elective 2	Multidisciplinary 1 Advanced Math 1 Advanced Science 1 Social Studies Elective 1
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Distinguished Level of Achievement

(Must complete to be eligible for top 10% Automatic Admission)

Foundation Plan Requirements
 Credits for at least one endorsement
 Four credits of math (incl. Algebra II)
 Four credits of science

STAAR EOC Requirements

English I
 English II
 Algebra I
 US History
 Biology

Middle School English

On-Level Path	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
6th Grade ELA	This course covers grammar, literature, composition, and vocabulary development. Development of reading skills, writing, and language concepts are stressed. Students focus on analysis of various types of literature, including novels, short stories, and nonfiction in addition to developing writing skills related to literature. Novel purchase for annotation purposes is highly recommended. Students will be expected to complete at-home, independent reading and writing assignments.	English 1 English 2
7th Grade ELA	This course emphasizes grammar, literature, comprehension, and vocabulary development. Development of reading skills and language concepts are stressed. Students focus on various types of literature, including novels, short stories, plays, and nonfiction in addition to developing comprehension skills through analysis. In addition, a very strong emphasis is placed on writing and proofreading in an effort to prepare students for the Writing STAAR, which will be given in the 7th grade year. Novel purchase for annotation purposes is highly recommended. Students will be expected to complete at-home, independent reading and writing assignments.	English 3 or Dual Credit English 3 English 4 or Dual Credit English 4
8th Grade ELA	This course emphasizes grammar, literature, comprehension, and vocabulary development. Development of reading skills and language concepts is stressed. Students focus on various types of literature, including novels, short stories, and plays, and develop comprehension skills through analysis. Novel purchase for annotation purposes is highly recommended. Students will be expected to complete at-home, independent reading and writing assignments.	

Pre-AP Path	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
Pre-AP 6th Grade ELA and Pre-AP 6th grade GT/ ELA	This course is for students who have demonstrated superior reading and writing skills and who are extremely motivated to accomplish challenging assignments. This course will focus on critical analysis of literature. Novel purchase for annotation purposes is highly recommended. Students will be expected to complete at-home, independent reading and writing assignments. <i>GT Sections- 6th grade Pre-AP ELA curriculum with GT instructional strategies Prerequisite: Students must be identified GT according the qualifications set forth by BISD.</i>	Pre-AP English 1 Pre-AP English 2 AP English 3 or Dual Credit English 3
Pre-AP 7th Grade ELA and Pre-AP 7th grade GT/ ELA	This course is for students who have demonstrated superior skills and who are extremely motivated to accomplish challenging assignments. It is an in-depth study of literature, including novels, short stories, plays, poetry and non-fiction. Students will be expected to fluently demonstrate different genres of writing. Students also concentrate on vocabulary development, critical thinking skills, and literary analysis. Novel purchase for annotation purposes is highly recommended. Students will be expected to complete at-home, independent reading and writing assignments. <i>GT Sections- 7th grade Pre-AP ELA curriculum with GT instructional strategies Prerequisite: Students must be identified GT according the qualifications set forth by BISD.</i>	AP English 4 or Dual Credit English 4
Pre-AP 8th Grade ELA and Pre-AP 8th grade GT/ ELA	This course is for students who have demonstrated superior skills and who are highly motivated to accomplish challenging assignments. It is an in-depth study of literature including novels, short stories, plays, poetry and non-fiction. Students also concentrate on vocabulary development, critical thinking skills, and literary analysis. Novel purchase for annotation purposes is highly recommended. Students will be expected to complete at-home, independent reading and writing assignments. <i>GT Sections- 8th grade Pre-AP ELA curriculum with GT instructional strategies Prerequisite: Students must be identified GT according the qualifications set forth by BISD.</i>	

Middle School Mathematics

On-Level Path	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
6th Grade Math	This class covers the required TEKS at the 6th grade level. Skills taught in elementary school math will be used as a basis for continued learning, including operations with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions; geometry; ratio, proportions and percents, as well as an introduction of algebraic concepts. Different problem solving methods and situations will be stressed in the classroom, as well as through the use of activities, computer lab and homework.	Algebra 1 Geometry Third Math Credit
7th Grade Math	This class covers the required TEKS at the 7th grade level. Skills taught in 7th grade math include operations with integers, decimals, and fractions; geometry and measurement; probability and statistics; ratio, proportions and percents, as well as algebraic thinking. Different problem solving methods and situations will be stressed in the classroom through the use of activities, computer lab and homework.	Fourth Math Credit

8th Grade Math	This class covers the required TEKS at the 8th grade level. Skills taught in 8th grade math include operations with rational numbers; geometry and measurement application problems; ratio, proportions and percent application problems, as well as algebraic thinking. Different problem solving methods and situations will be stressed in the classroom through the use of activities, computer lab, and homework.	
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Pre-AP Math Path	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
Pre-AP 6th Grade Math	This is a program intended to advance students by covering 6th grade curriculum and providing a foundation in 7th grade; the curriculum includes the required TEKS targeted in 6th grade combined with the TEKS taught in 7th grade, thus a strong work ethic is necessary. Students are expected to have already mastered all operations with whole numbers and decimals prior to entry in this class. 6th grade Pre-AP math will include opportunities for students to further develop abilities to reason analytically, deductively and inductively, as well as opportunities to transfer learning to new situations. Students will be expected to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication; to solve problems more than one way; to apply prior knowledge, and be able to communicate mathematical thinking in a variety of ways. Students will take the 6th grade STAAR in May.	Pre-AP Geometry Pre-AP Algebra II Advanced Math Advanced Math
Pre-AP 7th Grade Math	This is a program intended to prepare students for Algebra in 8th grade with a concrete foundation of both 7th and 8th grade math skills. The curriculum includes the required TEKS targeted in 8th grade, overlaying the TEKS taught in 7th grade, and an additional 6 weeks of pre-algebra concepts, thus a strong work ethic is necessary. Students are expected to have already mastered all operations with fractions, integers, and decimals prior to entry in this class. 7th grade Pre-AP math will include opportunities for students to further develop abilities to reason analytically, deductively, and inductively as well as opportunities to transfer learning to new situations. Students will be expected to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication; to solve problems more than one way; to apply prior knowledge, and be able to communicate mathematical thinking in a variety of ways. Students will take the 8th grade STAAR in March. Prerequisite: 6th grade Pre-AP Math	
Pre-AP Algebra 1	The curriculum includes the required TEKS for Algebra 1. Students are expected to have already mastered all operations with rational numbers, proportions and percents, and geometry and measurement prior to entry in this class. Algebra 1 will include opportunities for students to further develop abilities to reason analytically, deductively and inductively, as well as opportunities to transfer learning to new situations. Students will be expected to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication; to solve problems more than one way; to apply prior knowledge and be able to communicate mathematical thinking in a variety of ways. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA. Prerequisite: 7th grade Pre-AP Math; Must have successfully completed 8th grade math	

Accelerated Math	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
Accelerated 6th Grade Math	This is a program intended to accelerate students by teaching 7th grade curriculum and providing a foundation in 8th grade curriculum; the curriculum includes the required TEKS targeted in 7th grade combined with the Geometry and Financial Literacy TEKS taught in 8th grade, thus a strong work ethic is necessary. Students are invited to the program based on scores on local and state assessments. Students are expected to have already mastered all operations with whole numbers and decimals prior to entry in this class. Accelerated 6th Grade Math will include opportunities for students to further develop abilities to reason analytically, deductively and inductively, as well as opportunities to transfer learning to new situations. Students will be expected to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication; to solve problems more than one way; to apply prior knowledge, and be able to communicate mathematical thinking in a variety of ways. Students will take the 7th grade STAAR in May.	Pre-AP Algebra II Pre-AP Precalculus AP Calculus BC Advanced Math
Accelerated 7th Grade Math-(Pre-AP Algebra 1)	This is a program intended to accelerate students by teaching Algebra 1 grade curriculum and building on a foundation in 8th grade curriculum; the curriculum includes the required TEKS targeted in Algebra 1 combined with the Numerical Representation and Algebraic Reasoning TEKS taught in 8th grade, thus a strong work ethic is necessary. Students are expected to have already mastered all operations with whole numbers and decimals prior to entry in this class. Accelerated 7th Grade Math will include opportunities for students to further develop abilities to reason analytically, deductively and inductively, as well as opportunities to transfer learning to new situations. Students will be expected to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication; to solve problems more than one way; to apply prior knowledge, and be able to communicate mathematical thinking in a variety of ways. Prerequisite: Accelerated 6th Grade Math. Students will take the Algebra 1 STAAR EOC in May. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.	
Accelerated 8th Grade Math-(Pre-AP Geometry)	The curriculum includes the required TEKS for Geometry. Students are expected to have already mastered all operations with rational numbers, proportions and percents, and algebraic reasoning prior to entry in this class. Geometry will include opportunities for students to further develop abilities to reason analytically, deductively and inductively, as well as opportunities to transfer learning to new situations. Students will be	

	<p>expected to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication; to solve problems more than one way; to apply prior knowledge and be able to communicate mathematical thinking in a variety of ways. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.</p> <p>Prerequisite: Accelerated 7th grade Math</p>	
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Middle School Science

On Level Science	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
6th Science	Sixth grade science concentrates on systems and energy transactions in matter, force and motion, forces that shape the Earth, energy resources, the solar system, ecosystems and cells. Instructional experiences build on scientific process skills, labs, simulations, written assignments, and application activities.	Integrated Physics and Chemistry
7th Science	Seventh grade science is designed to enhance student interest in science through investigating relevant material while creating a safe environment for students to investigate science. Seventh grade instruction includes physical, earth and biological sciences with an emphasis on the biological sciences. The course will continue to develop students' scientific investigation and reasoning skills through the curriculum. Instruction will include: laboratory investigations, projects, inquiry based activities, group work, class discussions, and simulations.	Biology Chemistry or Physics
8th Science	The eighth grade science program is a year of science process skills. The curriculum includes chemistry, motion, force, electromagnetic waves, waves, work, machines, earth systems, and genetics. Emphasis is on making the connections and seeing the relationships between concepts and ideas. The interdisciplinary thematic teaching approach helps students use the scientific thinking processes and see how scientific principles are applied. Students develop critical thinking skills with problem solving, decision-making, and research and inquiry. Authentic assessment tools, such as oral presentations, solving activities, cooperative group projects, hands-on laboratory experiences, science research projects, and directed teaching will be used.	Advanced Science

Pre-AP Science	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
Pre-AP 6th Science	<p>Sixth grade pre-AP science concentrates on systems and energy transactions in matter, force and motion, forces that shape the Earth, energy resources, the solar system, ecosystems and cells. Content from 7th grade: physical, earth and biological sciences with an emphasis on the biological sciences. Emphasis is on making the connections and seeing the relationships between concepts and ideas.</p> <p><i>Students must be enrolled in Pre-AP Math Concurrently</i></p> <p>Content: All Non-tested TEKS from 6th and 7th; SSEP</p> <p>STAAR Test: None</p>	Pre-AP Biology Pre-AP Chemistry AP Science AP Science
Pre-AP 7th grade Science	<p>This course is designed for students who desire a rigorous, advanced curriculum that is reading and writing intensive. The 7th grade curriculum predominantly concentrates on the biological sciences, while incorporating scientific investigations and reasoning skills. The 8th grade curriculum includes chemistry, motion, force, electromagnetic waves, waves, work, machines, earth systems, and genetics. Emphasis is on making the connections and seeing the relationships between concepts and ideas. Students can expect writing assignments, independent projects, papers, reports and outside study assignments.</p> <p><i>Students must be enrolled in Pre-AP Math Concurrently</i></p> <p>Content: All Tested 6th, 7th and 8th Grade TEKS</p> <p>STAAR Test: 8th Science</p>	
Pre-AP IPC	<p>Integrated Physics and Chemistry is an introduction of physics and chemistry in the following topics: motion, waves, energy, transformation, properties of matter, changes in matter, and solution chemistry. This course is aimed at preparing students for success in AP Chemistry and AP Physics This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.</p> <p><i>Students must be enrolled in Pre-AP Math Concurrently</i></p> <p>Content: IPC TEKS</p> <p>STAAR Test: None</p>	

Accelerated Science	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
Accelerated 6th Grade Science	This course is designed for students who desire a rigorous, advanced curriculum that is reading and writing intensive. Sixth grade science concentrates on systems and energy transactions in matter, force and motion, forces that shape the Earth, energy resources, the solar system, ecosystems and cells. The 7th grade	Pre-AP Chemistry AP Science AP Science

	<p>curriculum predominantly concentrates on the biological sciences, while incorporating scientific investigations and reasoning skills. The 8th grade curriculum includes chemistry, motion, force, electromagnetic waves, waves, work, machines, earth systems, and genetics. Emphasis is on making the connections and seeing the relationships between concepts and ideas. Students can expect writing assignments, independent projects, papers, reports and outside study assignments.</p> <p><i>Students must be enrolled in Accelerated Math Concurrently</i></p> <p>Content: All 6th, 7th and 8th Grade TEKS</p> <p>STAAR Test: 8th Science</p>	AP Science
Accelerated Pre-AP Biology	<p>This course is designed for highly motivated students and utilizes activities that stress higher order thinking skills. It provides an intensified study of the nature of life, the processes of life, and the continuity of life. Other units of study will include genetic continuity and comparative life processes. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.</p> <p><i>Students must be enrolled in Accelerated Math Concurrently</i></p> <p>Content: Biology TEKS</p> <p>STAAR Test: Biology STAAR EOC</p>	
Accelerated Pre-AP IPC	Offered 2018	

Middle School Social Studies

On Level Social Studies	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
6th Grade World Cultures	Contemporary World Cultures is a course designed to acquaint the student with selected societies around the globe. In this course, students compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, economy, and religion. It also focuses on how geography and history impact a society's cultural development. Societies selected for study are North America, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.	World Geography or World History US History Government Economics Or Dual Credit Economics
7th Grade Texas History	This course is designed to reach, inspire, and educate students about Texas history and culture. Content is focused on Native Americans, European exploration, the mission-building era, colonization, revolution, and statehood.	
8th Grade American History	This course examines American History: Colonization through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on conflicts which led to the Revolutionary War, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, Manifest Destiny, the Lewis and Clark expeditions, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.	

Pre-AP Social Studies	Course Description	High School Course Pathway
Pre-AP 6th World Cultures	Pre-AP Contemporary World Cultures is a course designed to acquaint the student with selected societies around the globe. Students will compare institutions common to all societies. Critical thinking, independent reading, writing, and research skills will be emphasized. Students should be self-motivated, strong readers and writers, and be willing to do independent home projects.	Pre-AP World History or AP Human Geography AP World History AP US History AP Government AP Economics
Pre-AP 7th Texas History	This course is designed to reach, inspire, and educate students about Texas history and culture. Content is focused on Native Americans, European exploration, the mission-building era, colonization, revolution, and statehood. Students should be self-motivated, strong writers and readers, and be willing to do independent home projects.	
Pre-AP 8th American History	Pre-AP Early American History is an in-depth examination of the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Critical thinking, independent reading, writing, and research skills will be emphasized. Students must be self-motivated, strong writers and readers, and be willing to do independent home projects.	

Middle School Electives

It should be noted that not all of the courses listed are scheduled every year. Since it is not economically feasible to schedule classes in which only a few students enroll, it may be necessary to schedule such classes on an alternate-year basis or to

eliminate them. Sufficient numbers of student requests for specific courses then become the determining factor as to whether or not a course is scheduled.

CTE Courses	Course Description	High School Course
Investigating Careers	This course is designed to develop knowledge of college and career opportunities for the purpose of making informed decisions about both. We will study the 16 Career Clusters as defined by the state of Texas and a variety of careers in each cluster. We will also look at how those careers relate to the student's interests, values, skills, and personality traits. Part of being college and career ready is having a financial plan and we will look at banking and budgeting for college as part of this class. We will also learn the process of looking for, applying for, and preparing for new jobs. This is a semester-long course for 7th grade students.	Course Sequences in the Business & Industry, Public Services, and STEM Endorsement Pathways
College and Career Readiness	Course Note: Required course for all 8th grade students who are not enrolled in AVID This course is designed to develop knowledge of college and career opportunities for the purpose of making informed decisions about both. We will study the 16 Career Clusters as defined by the state of Texas and a variety of careers in each cluster. We will also look at how those careers relate to the student's interests, values, skills, and personality traits. Part of being college and career ready is having a financial plan and we will look at banking and budgeting for college as part of this class. We will also learn the process of looking for, applying for, and preparing for new jobs. Students will develop their 4 year plan for High School Graduation in this course. This is a semester-long course. (Semester)	
Touch System Data Entry	Course Note: Open to 8th grade only. Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment. Students who successfully complete this course will earn half of an elective credit for high school. (Semester)	

Athletics	Course Descriptions	High School Course
6th grade PE	This course is designed to enable students to have a broad overview of leisure and lifetime sport activities, individual, and team sports. Emphasis is placed upon promoting wellness, physical fitness, refining motor skills, and developing an awareness of rules. All students must suit-out daily. P.E. will include a Health component that focuses on the study of the physical, emotional and psychological health of human beings.	High School Sports Teams
7th Grade Athletics	Prerequisite: Must be in 7th or 8th grade, physical and coach's signature required The main objective of Athletics is to learn the fundamental skills needed to participate in sports and compete with other schools. All programs are governed by the rules and regulations of the University Interscholastic League (UIL). Student athletes must participate in off-season and try out for a minimum of one sport. Emphasis will include rules of the game, proper sportsmanship, skills, techniques, and physical conditioning. Boys Sports: basketball, football, track Girls Sports: basketball, track, volleyball	
8th Grade Athletics	Prerequisite: Must be in 7th or 8th grade, physical and coach's signature required The main objective of Athletics is to learn the fundamental skills needed to participate in sports and compete with other schools. All programs are governed by the rules and regulations of the University Interscholastic League (UIL). Student athletes must participate in off-season and try out for a minimum of one sport. Emphasis will include rules of the game, proper sportsmanship, skills, techniques, and physical conditioning. Boys Sports: basketball, football, track Girls Sports: basketball, track, volleyball	

Dance	Course Descriptions	High School Course
6th grade	PE	Drill Team
Basics of Dance	Prerequisite: Student must be in 7th or 8th grade.	

	This elective will explore genres of dance, dance history, and the role that dance plays in culture. Students will be expected to dress out several times a week to participate in a dance lesson, as well as research, create, and teach others what they have learned. This class does not fulfill the state requirement for a year of physical education.	
Dance 2	Prerequisite: Basics of Dance This course will continue to explore genres of dance, dance history, and the role that dance plays in culture. Students will be expected to dress out several times a week to participate in dance lesson, as well as research, create, and teach others what they have learned. Students may also expect to perform for others.	

Art	Course Descriptions	High School Course
MS Art 1	Students will be introduced to design, drawing, painting, clay, sculpture, and art history. The student will develop inventive and imaginative expression through art materials, tools, and critiques. Art 1 is a full year class. An art supply fee of approximately \$30 is required. If needed, financial assistance is available.	Art 1 Art 2 Pre-AP Art 3 AP Art 4
MS Art 2	Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art 1 Art 2 is a continuation of the basics of Art 1. It stresses design and strengthens art skills. The focus of the class is to build on the basic drawing, painting, and sculpture/clay skills learned in Art 1 and to enhance the skills by using different mediums. Art 2 is a full year class. An art supply fee of approximately \$30 is required. If needed, financial assistance is available.	
MS Art 3	Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art 1 and Art 2 Art 3 is a continuation of Art 2. The class is designed for students who show interest in art. Students will work with a variety of media in drawing, painting and sculpture, and learn specific techniques and styles for the Medias. Art 3 is a full year class. An art supply fee of approximately \$30 is required. If needed, financial assistance is available.	

Band	Course Descriptions	High School Course
Beginning Band	No previous musical experience is required. This course introduces the basic, fundamental skills of musicianship including music reading and the technique of playing a band instrument. Students are placed on an instrument after an evaluation by the director to ensure their utmost success and enjoyment. All concerts and performances are required events.	Marching Band Jazz Band Band
Concert Band or Symphonic Band or Honors Band	Concert Prerequisite: Audition This is the sub non-varsity ensemble of the band program with an emphasis on the continual development of technique and musicianship. Members will participate in Solo & Ensemble contest. All concerts and performances are required events.	
	Symphonic Prerequisite: Audition This is the non-varsity, performing ensemble of the band program with an emphasis on the continual development of technique and musicianship. Members will participate in Solo & Ensemble contest and UIL Concert and Sight Reading. Students are highly encouraged to participate in All-Region Band auditions. All concerts and performances are required events, in addition to 45-minute weekly sectionals.	
	Honors Prerequisite: Audition This is the varsity, performing ensemble of the band program with an emphasis on the continual refinement of technique and musicianship. Members will participate in the All-Region Band auditions, Solo & Ensemble contest, and UIL Concert and Sight Reading. All concerts and performances are required events, in addition to 45-minute weekly sectionals.	

Choir	Course Descriptions	High School
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		Course
Beginning Choir (Beginning Boys or Beginning Girls)	A full year performance class where students learn to sing and sight read in a group setting. Choir develops skills in teamwork, music theory, singing, problem-solving, and independent thinking. There are concerts, activities, trips and competitions throughout the year. Students will be required to purchase a choir uniform for performances.	Choir Show Choir
Intermediate Choir (Intermediate Boys or Intermediate Girls)	A performance class where students learn to sing and sight read in a group setting. This class will develop skills in teamwork, music theory, singing, problem-solving, and independent thinking. There are concerts, activities, trips, UIL and other competitions throughout the year. Students will be required to purchase a choir uniform for performances.	
Varsity Choir (Varsity Boys, Varsity Girls, Mixed Varsity)	This is an auditioned performance class. The auditions are based on the student's sight reading and ear training skills. Students will develop skills in teamwork, music theory, singing, problem-solving, and independent thinking at a more advanced level. There are concerts, activities, trips, UIL and other competitions throughout the year. Students will be required to purchase a choir uniform for performances.	

Spanish	Course Descriptions	High School Course
Spanish 1	Prerequisite: Student must be in 7th or 8th grade. This is a communications course. The focus is not only on the written language but also on the spoken language. Proficiency is stressed. Basic useful language and vocabulary is taught as well. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.	Pre-AP Spanish 3 AP Spanish 4
Pre-AP Spanish 2	Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Spanish 1 Students develop language skills through activities that focus on meaningful, personal communication. Proficiency is stressed. Other cultures and people are studied. New concepts and functions broaden the communication skills and are practiced in meaningful, realistic situations and interactions. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.	

Theatre Arts	Course Description	High School Course
Theatre Arts 1	Open to students with no acting experience. This course stresses the expressive use of the body and voice. The course of study includes basic actor training and stage movement. Students will learn to work with other students through imaginative scene work and they will learn how to create interesting characters performing solo scenes.	Theatre Arts Technical Theatre
Theatre Arts 2	Prerequisite: Theater Arts 1 Successful completion of Theatre Arts 1. The course of study includes advanced scenes and plays. Students will also write and produce their own plays.	
Drama Select	Prerequisite: Application, Audition and Teacher Recommendation Required This course is for advanced drama students and those interested in technical aspects of the theatre. There is NO specific course pre-requisite for Drama Select, but students who want to perform must audition. Students who are selected to be in Drama Select will participate in the UIL One Act Play competition, Texas International Thespan Association and after-school activities.	

AVID	Course Description	High School Course
6th AVID Elective	Prerequisite: Recommendation, application and interview are required. The AVID course is designed to prepare students for success in postsecondary education and provide support and skill development in areas specifically aligned with success in rigorous courses in the content areas.	AVID 1 AVID 2 AVID 3 AVID 4
7th AVID Elective	Prerequisite: Recommendation, application and interview are required. The AVID course is designed to prepare students for success in postsecondary education and provide support and skill development in areas specifically aligned with success in rigorous courses in the content areas.	
8th AVID Elective	Prerequisite: Recommendation, application and interview are required.	

	The AVID course is designed to prepare students for success in postsecondary education and provide support and skill development in areas specifically aligned with success in rigorous courses in the content areas.	
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Other Electives	Course Description	High School Course
Computer Science	Prerequisite: Student must be in 7th or 8th grade. Students will learn how to use technology as a tool that supports the work of individuals and groups in solving problems that are appropriate for the task, as well as, synthesize knowledge, create a solution, and evaluate results. They will learn the various methods to deliver information with a variety of technologies. (Semester)	
Comic Book 1	This course will focus on comic books as a modern form of literature. Students will read and explore comic books from the standpoint of literary criticism, focusing on plot, character development and other literacy aspects. There will be significant and frequent opportunities built in for students to think and write creatively. This course will not count for a fine arts credit. (Full Year)	
Comic Book 2	Prerequisite: Comic Book 1 This course will continue to focus on comic books as a modern form of literature. Students will delve deeper into the literary aspects of comic book writing and production. Students will think, read, and write creatively on a regular basis. (Full Year)	
Foundations of Personal Finance	Prerequisite: Student must be in 7th or 8th grade This course is based on the curriculum created by financial expert, Dave Ramsey, specifically geared towards middle school students. They will acquire practical skills to apply in the real world. (Semester)	
Gateway to Technology I: <i>Design and Modeling</i>	STEAM ONLY Prerequisite: Student must be in 7th grade One semester of GTT explores Design, Modeling and Automation and the second semester explores Applied Science and Technology. Students see connections between hands-on projects and academic subjects such as math and science. The program focuses on showing students how to use engineering skills to solve everyday problems. The primary focus of the course is on stronger math, science, and technology inquiry skills. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.	Introduction to Engineering Design
Gateway to Technology II: <i>Automation and Robotics</i>	STEAM ONLY Prerequisite: Student must be in 7th or 8th grade Continuation of Gateway to Technology 1. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.	Principles of Engineering Computer Integrated Manufacturing
Gateway to Technology III: <i>Flight and Space</i>	STEAM ONLY Prerequisite: Student must be in 8th grade Continuation of Gateway to Technology 2. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.	Engineering Design and Development
Gateway to Technology IV: <i>Medical Detectives</i>	STEAM ONLY Prerequisite: Student must be in 8th grade Continuation of Gateway to Technology 3. This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.	
Global Business	STEAM Only Prerequisite: Student must be in 6th grade. This course is designed to prepare 6th graders to apply technical skills to address global business applications of emerging technologies. Students develop a foundation in the economical, financial, technological, international, social, and ethical aspects of business to become competent consumers, employees, and entrepreneurs. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment. (Semester)	
Intro to Leadership	STEAM Only Prerequisite: Student must be in 7th or 8th grade. This course is designed to prepare 6th graders to read, write, think and defend at a secondary level.	
Intro to Public Speaking and Debate	Prerequisite: Student must be in 7th or 8th grade. This course introduces students to principles of interpersonal communication and public speaking techniques. Skills in developing a dynamic verbal profile and confidence in oral presentations will be covered. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and in delivering a variety of speeches: narrative, informative, demonstration, impromptu, persuasive. Debate style speaking will also be introduced. (Semester)	
Media Publications	Prerequisite: Student must be in 7th and 8th grade, application, teacher recommendation.	

	In this course, students will gain practical experience in the elements and processes used in producing the campus yearbook. Students will be involved in writing, editing, copywriting, layout design, and photography. Opportunities will be provided for students to build and refine their knowledge and skills through special projects within the field of communications. Students must be willing to attend some evening events and to spend additional time seeing that deadlines are met. (Full Year)	
Peer Assistance for Students with Disabilities (Partners in PE)	Prerequisite: Application and teacher approval required. In this course students will be "PE Pals" with a special needs student. Students will help foster physical and interpersonal development while participating with their Pal in the PE curriculum. (Full Year)	
Principles of Audio/Video Technology & Communications	STEAM ONLY This course develops an understanding of the various and multifaceted career opportunities in audio/video technology and the knowledge, skills, and educational requirements for those opportunities. Students will be engaged by learning broad concepts, which are common to all professional imaging and multimedia careers. This is an introductory class which is concept and lab based. Emphasis will be applied to terminology, group exercises, and individual projects designed to reveal the intended use of the software and professional use. (Full Year) This course earns high school credit and is included in GPA.	Audio/Video Production Advanced Audio/Video Production Practicum in Audio/Video Production -or- Graphic Design and Illustration Advanced Graphic Design and Illustration Practicum in Graphic Design and Illustration
Professional Communications	STEAM Only Prerequisite: Student must be in 6th grade. This course blends written, oral, and graphic communication in a career-based environment. Careers in the global economy require students to be creative and have a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong and solid academic foundation, and a proficiency in professional oral and written communication. Students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research.	

**Program of Choice
The REALM @ Kerr Middle School**

The REALM@Kerr Middle School is a personalized, game-based learning environment where students can advance through their coursework at an accelerated pace. Students work in a unique online environment where they learn the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and interact with the curriculum through quests, workshops, breakout rooms, and episodes.

Students take four core content areas (Pre-AP- English, Math, Science, and Social Studies), PE, a Fine Arts class, and a Computer Science Elective (in year 2 students can participate in athletics). In their Computer Science Elective, students will learn coding that will enable them to complete their culminating project (a working video game) at the end of Level 8 (year 3 or 8th grade). Students in The REALM are divided into four houses and are taught how to self-manage and govern themselves.

Goals of The REALM:

- 1) proceed at student's own pace;
- 2) have the academic foundation needed to pursue the Foundation High School Program pathway, leading to a STEM endorsement;
- 3) develop a digital portfolio;
- 4) complete a 30 hr. community service project;
- 5) matriculate from middle school with at least 2 high school credits;
- 6) independently manage their own time; and
- 7) become 21st century leaders.

Interested students & families must complete an online application and participate in an interview process.