

**Millcreek Junior High**  
**2020 - 2021**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions**

**ENGLISH**

**English 8**  
**(4030) Year**

This is a required course which focuses on literary and informational reading, writing, speaking, and research skills, which are taught within literature-themed units.

**English 8 Honors**  
**(4035) Year**

Like a traditional class, Honors English focuses on literary and informational reading, writing, speaking, and research skills, which are taught within literature-themed units. However, this course is taught with increased depth and pacing; furthermore, the text used in class is more often above grade level, and writing and research is considerably more in-depth. Students must turn in an honors application with their course request form to enroll in this class.

**MATHEMATICS**

**Math 8**  
**(5100) Year**

This course covers the Utah core standards for eighth graders. Students will learn through differentiated instruction and blended learning with online programs such as Mathia and Aleks. Honors opportunities will be given to all students in this course and students will receive the Honors designation on their transcript if they choose to complete the honors opportunities offered throughout each term.

Instruction will focus on three critical areas: 1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations 2) functions 3) analyzing 2- and 3-dimensional space and figures and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

**Secondary Math I Honors**  
**(5205) Year**

**(This class is only for 8<sup>th</sup> graders who have shown proficiency in the Accelerated Math Program in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.)**

This section of the required 9<sup>th</sup> grade math class is for students who earned a "highly proficient" rating in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math, who love math, and who plan to take calculus during their junior year. Generally, these are students who plan on a career in a math-related field such as engineering. Honors students in this course will receive differentiated instruction and be required to complete an additional unit each term to qualify for AP calculus in high school.

**SCIENCE**

**Integrated Science 8**  
**(6100) Year**

This course investigates changes in matter and energy as observed in the various sciences. Concepts are integrated to demonstrate that the different branches of science and technology are interdependent. Subjects approach each scientific concept from a research and discovery angle with emphasis on a hands-on approach to learning. Students will develop their skills of observation and behaviors of analyzing and understanding data from the scientist point of view. They will be collaborating with other students and contribute to experimentation and processes.

**Integrated Science 8 Honors**  
**(6101) Year**

The honors science curriculum is identical to the regular science curriculum. However, it is approached from a research and discovery angle. Honors students should be curious and demonstrate a willingness to stretch, think and make science connections to other areas of life and learning. They must be willing to develop a variety of science skills and behaviors, read other sources of information, case studies and current events, make connections and apply their new knowledge in an unfamiliar setting. They must be dependable, willing to be a contributing member of a team, and meet hard deadlines. Students must turn in an honors application with their course request form to enroll in this class.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**U.S. History**  
**(4510) Year**

United States History, for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, explores events and issues from the early American inhabitants through the Reconstruction and the Western Movement, emphasizing the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Topics include, but are not limited to, indigenous people, exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, Civil War, Reconstruction Era, and the Western Movement. Although the emphasis of this course is on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, additional content may be covered as time permits.

**U.S. History Honors**  
**(4514) Year**

Although this course includes the same topics as U.S. History, the honors level U.S. history course is much more rigorous, with a stronger emphasis on reading, writing, and the development of research and analytical skills using primary and secondary source materials. Students must turn in an honors application with their course request form to enroll in this class.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

### P.E. 8 (1021) Semester

This is a required class for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This course is designed to develop more advanced lifetime skills and attitudes regarding physical activity, wellness, and healthy lifestyles.

### Basketball 8 (1021) Semester

This class is for the ultimate basketball fan! The course is for all levels of basketball players, from novice to advanced, who want to improve their skills. Students master essential skills through a variety of advanced drills used at the college and professional levels. Students play in a variety of tournament style basketball games (1:1, 2:2, 3:3, 5:5). Students also create their own competition shooting games for the class to compete in. Both boys and girls in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grades are encouraged to enroll.

### Fitness 8 (1021) Semester

This class is for all those who are looking for a fun class. This class will focus on various fitness activities such as yoga, circuit training, kick boxing, Zumba, and step aerobics! Students will have a 70's dress-up day at the end of the step aerobics routing (for all those who wish to participate). The class will be videotaped and everyone will have a great time watching the culmination of our efforts. The class will focus on the body, strengthening muscles (including the most important one – your heart!), getting toned, and having fun doing it. This course is open to everyone grades 7-9.

## HEALTH

### Health Education 1 (1000) Semester

This is a required class for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders. In this course, students examine their current health habits and choices, increase their knowledge, and develop skills necessary for better lifetime wellness.

## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

### Creative Coding (7743) Semester

This course is designed to attract and reach a broad and diverse range of students, including those who may have never considered programming. Students learn how to code by working in a real software development environment to design, program and publish mobile apps and games. Learning to code by creating real products, students discover how to make amazing things and have an impact on their world.

### Digital Literacy (7537) Semester

This course is a state requirement for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This course is an introduction to computer literacy (the ability to use computers and related technology efficiently). Students are given opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. Students demonstrate skills by creating projects in the areas of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Digital Media, and Web Page Design. Students will also learn about the Internet and Internet Safety. This course is aligned with national and international standards and the Utah Core to prepare students across multiple levels of skills. This course is a prerequisite to move into high school computer literacy courses.

### Exploring Technology 1 (7810) Semester

This course is available to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This is an activity-oriented class that incorporates STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) principles throughout the course. The engineering design process is taught as the students explore technologies in communications, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and power and energy. This is a great class for a student considering engineering or a technical trade as a career. There is a lab fee for this class.

### Exploring Technology 2 (7811) Semester

This course follows Exploring Technology 1, and is available to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. This class also incorporates STEM principles, and the engineering design process. In this class, students learn about communication through activities in screen printing and computer programming. Students learn about manufacturing through several wood working projects, and they learn about transportation through an activity in rocketry. **Prerequisite is Exploring Technology 1.** There is a lab fee for this class.

### FCS Exploration (7403) Semester

This Family and Consumer Science course provides individuals the opportunity to develop essential skills in various career pathways relating to nutrition, food preparation, parenting, early childhood education, interior design, apparel design and construction, fashion merchandising, consumerism, entrepreneurship, family relationships, and personal responsibility. This course is designed to strengthen comprehension of concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education. There is a lab fee for this class.

## Keyboarding Applications (7552) Semester

Keyboarding skills are essential life skills for today's students. Junior high students need to type at least 30 words per minute consistently on a two-minute timing. If they cannot do this, they should take Keyboarding 1 in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In this beginning, semester-long Keyboarding class, the student will master touch operation on the computer keyboard. First term will focus on correct fingering by touch and good technique. Second term will focus on speed and accuracy as well as basic computer skills. There is a lab fee for this class.

## FINE ARTS

### MUSIC

#### **Band 1 Brass (2204) Year**

The following instruments are played in this class: tuba, trombone, French horn, baritone and trumpet. Students learn basic musicianship skills and theory concepts, such as major scales, basic notes, and rest values. All students participate in the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Tubas, baritones and French horns are available to rent from the school. This fee is to be paid during registration in the fall. There is also a lab fee for this class. All students are expected to participate in combined summer beginning band camp, late July - August. This is a full year course.

#### **Band 1 Woodwinds (2205) Year**

Students choose from the following woodwind instruments: oboe, bassoon, clarinet and flute. Students who desire to play the saxophone begin on a clarinet; then auditions are held in January for a few students to switch to saxophone & bass clarinet. Students learn basic musicianship skills and theory concepts, such as major scales and basic note and rest values. All beginning students participate in the Christmas and Spring Concerts. Oboe, bassoon and bass clarinets are available to rent from the school. The rental fee is paid during registration in the fall. There is a lab fee for this class. All students are expected to participate in combined summer beginning band camp, late July - August. This is a full year course. Students who desire to play oboe or bassoon should take private lessons outside of school.

#### **Band 1 Percussion (2206) Year**

Note names, note values, and rhythms are learned using a mallet keyboard. Two years of piano experience is required. There is a participation fee for this class and students will be required to purchase their own mallets and drum sticks. This is a full year course. All students are expected to participate in combined summer beginning band camp, late July - August.

#### **Band 2 Concert Band (2210) Year**

In this course, students continue to master basic musicianship skills. Concert band students are split into two bands that combine for concerts. The students participate in four concerts during the year. All students are expected to participate in combined summer concert band camp, late July - August. There is a lab fee for this class. This is a full year course.

#### **Band 2 Jazz (2214) Year**

Auditions for Jazz Band are held in May. All students are invited to audition, but one pre-requisite is a year-long commitment to the class. In addition, students must also be enrolled in band or orchestra. A participation fee is assessed by the district each term. The student also receives a grade and arts credit for Jazz Band. This is a full year course.

<b>Jazz Band 1</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	<b>M, W, F</b>	<b>7:10-7:55 a.m.</b>
<b>Jazz Band 2</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> grade</b>	<b>T, TH</b>	<b>7:10-7:55 a.m.</b>

#### **Boys' Choir**

#### **(2301) Semester or Year**

This course is a mixed men's choir. In this class, students will develop their singing voice, extend their range, and become more musically literate. Students sing music from a variety of musical styles and perform in at least two concerts per semester. No prior experience is required, but this course is a prerequisite for Mustang Choir in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. There is a lab fee for the class.

#### **Girls' Choir**

#### **(2301) Semester or Year**

This course is a mixed women's choir. In this class, students will develop their singing voice, extend their range, and become more musically literate. Students sing music from a variety of musical styles and perform in at least two concerts per semester. No prior experience is required, but this course is a prerequisite for Mustang Choir in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. There is a lab fee for the class.

#### **Orchestra 1 (2405) Year**

This course is designed to give students the skills to perform music levels 1-2 including basic musicianship and theory. All Beginning Orchestra students participate in Fall, Christmas, and Spring concerts. The following instruments are played in this class: violin, viola, cello, and bass. Cellos and basses are available to rent from the school, and should be paid during registration in the fall. Students should have previous experience with their instrument prior to enrolling for Beginning Orchestra (6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra or private lessons). Students with no prior experience may enroll, but will need private lessons or extra practice outside of class to catch up. There is a lab fee for this class.

#### **Orchestra 2 (2406) Year**

This class is a continuation of Beginning Orchestra. Students develop more advanced skills through performance of orchestral literature. Students should have completed Beginning Orchestra or should speak with the instructor to determine whether their skill level is adequate for Intermediate Orchestra. There are many performance opportunities in this class. There is a lab fee for this class.

## **VISUAL ARTS**

### **Art Foundations I (2101) Semester**

In this course, students experience creating art in a variety of media. They grow in their abilities to create and appreciate art as they become more fluent with the principles and elements of art. This class is required before students take other art classes. There is a lab fee for this class.

### **2-D Art (2102) Semester**

This course builds on the concepts taught in Art Foundations. Art projects focus on media such as charcoal, graphite, scratchboard, oil pastels, watercolors and more. Each year this semester-long course is taught, the projects are different. This enables students to take 2-D Art once as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and once as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, if they wish. There is a lab fee for this class.

### **3-D Art (2104) Semester**

This course builds on the concepts taught in Art Foundations. Art projects focus on creating three-dimensional works of art using a variety of media (i.e. ceramics, jewelry, wire sculpture and more). Each year this semester-long course is taught, the projects are different. This enables students to take 3-D Art once as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and once as a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, if they wish. There is a lab fee for this class.

## **ELECTIVES**

### **Civics (4532) Semester**

Introductory class on the basic principles of government and leadership. Students prepare for future government and citizen classes by exploring different types of government, economies, and branches of government, political systems, elections, as well as current local and world events. The class is discussion and lecture-based, with occasional guest speakers and activities.

### **Creative Writing (4335) Semester**

Students will have the chance to flex their creative muscle as they discover, develop, and demonstrate skills related to writing. The attention is focused on different writing strategies, while writing everything from short stories to poetry. Near the end, students will experiment with a wide variety of genres to showcase students' own writing styles. There is lab fee for this course.

### **Film History (4255)**

In Film History, students will explore the history of moving pictures and cinema, from the emergence of cinema to the emergence of actualities, fiction-stories, silent films, and talking pictures. This course will focus on film from the 1890s to the 1960s and will cover various genres of film, technological devices, and cinema personalities. Lessons will include documentary excerpts, short films, and clips from full-length films that are rated G, PG, or Not-rated in compliance with district policies. There will be research, presentation, and discussion components within this course.

### **Spanish 1 (3110) Year**

This course gives an intro to the Spanish Language and the many cultures in which Spanish is spoken. The students will participate in activities and do work in order to be at the Novice-Mid Level of Proficiency which is measured by ACTFL. Students are introduced to Spanish speaking cultures. There is a lab fee for this class. *No state college in Utah requires a world language for entrance. However, the University of Utah highly encourages students to enter the university with 2 years of a foreign language. The state sponsored Regents' Scholarship requires two years of a foreign language in grades 9 – 12.*

### **Spanish 2 (3120) Year**

The students will participate in activities and do work in order to be at the Novice-High Level of Proficiency which is measured by ACTFL. Students continue to build skills and prepare for advanced level course work. An A or B grade fulfills entrance requirements for most universities. There is a lab fee for this class.

### **Theater (2316) Semester**

Students in this course will study basic theater skills including understanding stage directions, developing acting techniques through vocal and physical warm-ups, improvisation, memorized scenes and monologues, vocal techniques, and audition prep. Theater history and the basics of playwriting will also be covered. The main focus of this course is on musical theatre and the production process. The final assessment for this course is a mandatory performance at a musical theater review at the end of the semester. There is lab fee for this course.

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The following courses require students to complete an application. These are available in the counseling center. (These classes MUST be listed as alternate classes.) *9<sup>th</sup> graders have preferred status for these classes. If there is a need for more students, the classes are then open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders.*

### **Copy Assistant (211) Semester**

Students assist the office in running a copy center for teachers. They prioritize, complete, and deliver paper copies for teachers.  
Student application required.

**Counselor Assistant  
(212) Semester**

Students work in the counseling center. They are required to assist the counseling center with projects and delivering student notes. Students must have good attendance and grades to be a counseling assistant. Student application required.

**Library Assistant  
(215) Semester**

Students learn basic media skills by assisting in the day-to-day operation of the MJH media center. Students must have a 3.0 GPA to apply. Student application required.

**Office Assistant  
(210) Semester**

Students work in the main office, assisting the secretaries. They are required to answer incoming phone calls. Students must have good attendance and grades to be an office assistant. Student application required.

**Peer Tutoring  
(213) Semester**

Students help other students by assisting them with their schoolwork. Peer tutors are expected to be role models, trainers, and advocates for the students they tutor. Student application, satisfactory citizenship, and counselor approval required.

**Peer Tutoring – Special Needs Students  
(213) Semester**

Students help other students who have special needs. Responsibilities may include accompanying them to general education classes such as art and PE, working in a small group setting, or helping a student one-on-one with individual academic goals. Students who know they will be missing classes frequently due to responsibilities with extra-curricular activities, should make arrangements to not be a tutor 4<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> periods. Student application, satisfactory citizenship, and counselor approval required.

**Teacher Assistant  
(211) Semester**

Students assist teachers in typing, filing, bulletin boards, tutoring, etc. Student application required.

**Yearbook  
(4365) Year**

Yearbook class work is focused on projects that support growth in visual design and layout skills. Students design the school's yearbook. This class is held during RAP for the full year. Student application required.

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**SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**Resource**

Only those students who qualify for Special Education Resource services take Resource classes. Resource classes are offered in the areas of Language Arts and Math. Students with IEP goals for social skills and/or study skills will have these services addressed during the school day but it is not necessary to register for a specific class for these services. Both Language Arts and Math offer an applied class which mimics general education, teaching all of the grade level standards but with smaller class sizes and additional support in order to prepare them for a more inclusive educational setting. In addition, students with IEPs will be enrolled in a lab class associated with the academic core goals on their IEP. All students on an IEP will be enrolled in a lab class that pertains to their academic goals; however, enrollment in an applied class or the corresponding general education class will be determined by the IEP team and school counselors per the student's current academic scores and IEP goal achievement.

**Intervention Classes**

**Enriched Reading 8  
(4230) Semester**

This is an intervention reading class for students to improve their reading comprehension skills of functional, informational, and literary texts. Students read some works as a class, as well as reading independently outside of class. There is an emphasis on nonfiction text and understanding reading strategies. Students are selected for placement in this class by counselors.

**Read 180  
(4225) Year**

This course is designed to strengthen reading skills. Read 180 is a research-based reading intervention program designed to raise the reading levels and test scores of struggling readers. While emphasizing the improvement of reading skills, the English core is also taught. The class is divided into sections: whole group instruction, small group/individualized instruction, independent and modeled reading, and content based reading. Students are selected for placement in this class by counselors.

