



8th Grade Course Descriptions Catalog 2020-2021

Please review course information as you prepare and register for a full year of 8th grade. The classes you select are important to your educational program and success in school. Remember, there is a **\$10.00 fee** for making changes after your registration is returned. This does not apply to changes as a result of computer error or changes made as a result of testing or teacher recommendation.

Please review the "Jr. High Honors Courses Indicators for Student Success" and consider the criteria as you make a decision about whether or not an honors course is the most appropriate placement.

The State of Utah requires that 8th grade students must take all the following classes:

- *English (Full Year)
- *Math (Full Year)
- *Science (Full Year)
- *U.S. History (Full Year)
- *P.E. (Semester – ½ Year)
- *Health (Semester – ½ Year)
- *Digital Literacy (Semester – ½ Year)

8th Grade Required Courses

ENGLISH (Full Year)

English 8:

This course helps students gain a greater facility with the language. Students will learn how to improve their writing through lessons based upon the writing process. As part of the, composition lessons will include the application of mechanics and grammar. Students will produce expository, narrative/descriptive, poetic, research, and workplace written work. Reading will focus on teaching students a variety of comprehension strategies and introduce them to a variety of functional, informal, and literary texts. They will also work on listening, viewing, and speaking skills. English 8 will further develop and accelerate the skills taught in English 7.

English 8 – Honors:

This is an accelerated version of English 8. Reading materials will be more difficult and writing assignments will be more in depth. More reading and writing will be required in school and at home. This course is intended to prepare students to enter future Honors English courses. Students in this course should be self-motivated and committed to work.

MATHEMATICS (Full Year)

Grade 8 Mathematics:

The Grade 8 Mathematics instruction will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Success in this course may require 30 minutes or more of homework each night.

Grade 8 Mathematics Honors:

The Grade 8 Mathematics Honors course will cover the three critical areas listed in Grade 8 Mathematics course and add extra topics and concepts that would interest and advanced junior high school student. Concepts covering fairness and apportionment, voting methods, sets, and graphing beyond the coordinate plane, will be explored in greater depth with increased use of contextual situations. This course will have increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of high ability students. Success in this course may require 30 minutes or more of homework each night.

Secondary Mathematics I - Honors:

Pre-requisite: Students that had accelerated math in 7th grade.

The Secondary Mathematics I Honors Course will cover all of the concepts in the Secondary Mathematics I course. Concepts will be explored in greater depth with increased use of contextual situations. In addition, it will include concepts dealing with vectors and quantities of vectors and matrix operations and their applications. This course will include elements that will prepare students to take Calculus in high school. This course will have increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of high ability students. Success in this course may require 30 minutes or more of homework each night.

SCIENCE (Full Year)

Integrated Science 8:

The 8th grade standards describe the constant interaction of matter and energy in nature. Students will explore how matter is arranged into either simple or complex substances. Emphasis is placed on how substances store and transfer energy. Matter and energy cycle and change in ecosystems through processes such as photosynthesis and cell respiration. Sources are not distributed equally, and some are renewable while others are not. Evidence reveals that Earth systems change and affect ecosystems and organisms in positive and negative ways.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Integrated Science 8 – Honors:

The same information will be covered as in regular science; however, the pace will be faster, and the information will be more in depth.

The 8th grade standards describe the constant interaction of matter and energy in nature. Students will explore how matter is arranged into either simple or complex substances. Emphasis is placed on how substances store and transfer energy. Matter and energy cycle and change in ecosystems through processes such as photosynthesis and cell respiration. Sources are not distributed equally, and some are renewable while others are not. Evidence reveals that Earth systems change and affect ecosystems and organisms in positive and negative ways.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

SOCIAL STUDIES (Full Year)

U.S History:

This course is designed to emphasize historic events from the Earliest Americans to the 19th Century. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, the age of exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, nationalism, Civil War, reconstruction, and the western movement. There will also be intensive study of the Declaration of Independence as well as the Constitution. The purpose of this course is to prepare the students for the 11th grade continuation from 1877 to the present.

U.S History – Honors:

This course is designed to focus on the historic events from the Age of Exploration to Reconstruction. This course will pursue a thematic approach by observing how attitudes, values and experiences of citizens and government have shaped America. Students will be required to complete outside readings, as well as report on important historical documents of the time period. In addition, students will be required to participate in historical debates where they must take a stand and report their findings.

DIGITAL LITERACY (Semester – ½ Year)

Digital Literacy:

This course is a foundation to computer literacy. Students will have opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. This course is aligned with the International Society for Technology in Education for Students, the K – 12 Computer Science Framework, industry standards for Digital Literacy Certification, and the Utah Core. The alignment to these national and international benchmarks will ensure that students complete this course with a prerequisite to transition successfully to the 9-12th grade digital studies courses.

HEALTH (Semester – ½ Year)

Health:

Healthy lifestyles will develop skills necessary to improve the quality of life. Students will be introduced to positive health choices, growth and development, substance abuse and prevention, disease prevention, emergency and first aid procedures; and nutrition and fitness. Abstinence-based human sexuality education will be covered with parental consent. This curriculum is available for parent preview.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Intermediate Fitness – P.E. 8 (Semester – ½ Year):

Students taking P.E. in 8th grade will participate in many fitness activities including, but not limited to, team sports, running, calisthenics, weights, and cardiovascular exercises. Students will also be learning about the topic of strength training. Students will be expected to participate daily and to demonstrate cooperation and good sportsmanship. Students will be encouraged to practice good personal hygiene and change into a P.E. clothes each day.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

8th Grade Electives

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY

FACS Exploration A- (Semester – ½ Year):

FACS A is an opportunity for you to create! In this 8th grade class learn about home interiors and how to decorate your own bedroom, then enjoy making a miniature house! Learn how to make wall hangings, use paints, and other resources for decorating. The second half of the semester will be spent learning about creative sewing techniques and making pillowcases to decorate your room, wallets, drawstring back sacks just to name a few! Come and learn in a fun, creative way!

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

FACS Exploration B – Foods/Interpersonal Relations/Child Care

Emphasis

This course provides students with the opportunity to learn essential life skills. It allows them to develop skills in food and nutrition, childcare and safety, consumerism, family relationships, personal responsibility, and job-related tasks. Student leadership (FCCLA) may be an integral part of this course.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Exploring Tech 1- Design & 3D Modeling (Semester – ½ Year):

Pre-requisite: None

This course will introduce students to the Engineering Design Process, a systematic process used to help engineers develop ideas into useable products. Students will learn about: isometric sketches and orthographic drawings; how to create well-detailed sketches of their ideas; and how to put them into a CAD-based 3D modeling program. Students will learn how to create individual parts that can then be put into orthographic drawings, which then become a set of working drawings that could be used to manufacture the parts.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Expl. Tech 2-Automated Syst. & Robotics (Semester – ½ Year):

Pre-requisite: None

This course will introduce students to the engineering fields of automation, robotics, and systems programming. They will learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, firmware programming, and computer control systems. Students will use their skills and knowledge to design, model, build, and program prototypes of real-world automated systems.

Fee set by Davis School District school board. This course may require an additional project fee.

Creative Coding (Semester – ½ Year):

Pre-requisite: None

This is a beginner programming course. Students will start with an accelerated intro to the core computer science and programming concepts used in block coding. Students will then learn JavaScript and Python commands, functions, and control structures by solving puzzles and writing creative programs. The class will culminate in a student chosen final project in VR, webpages, or more advanced JavaScript and Python.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

FINE ARTS

Art Foundations 1 (Semester – ½ Year):

This course is designed to provide an overview of the elements of art, while also studying art history, and art criticism.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Art 2D- (Semester – ½ Year):

Pre-requisite: Art Foundations 1

This course is designed to provide further experience in the use of the elements and principles of art and assisting students in creative artistic expression in 2-dimensional art forms.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Art 3D- (Semester – ½ Year):

Pre-requisite: Art Foundations 1

This course is designed to provide further experience in the use of the elements and principles of art and assisting students in creative artistic expression in 3-dimensional art forms.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Band 2 (Full Year):

Students must have teacher approval and provide their own instrument. Students will be placed by the instructor depending on their musical experience and skill. This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through playing a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Intermediate Choir S/A – Girls (Full Year):

Intermediate Choir T/B – Boys (Full Year):

This course will emphasize proper vocal technique along with the basics of music theory. Students will develop active listening skills and an appreciation for a variety of genres. Students will learn to sing accurately by reading music notation, producing acceptable tones, using proper diction, and responding to the interpretations of the music.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Choir Level 2- Madrigals- Advanced Auditioned Choir

Must audition- 8th and 9th grades only

Madrigals is a yearlong 32-person SATB auditioned choir. Interested students will take part in an audition in April of the previous school year. Students in Madrigals have a strong desire to progress in their musical development and perform at a consistently high standard. Madrigal members are music literate (they can sight read music at a high level of accuracy) and are able to hold their vocal part independently. Madrigals perform numerous times throughout the year, including concerts, assemblies, solo/ensemble festivals, the Davis District Choral Festival, and a choir tour.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Orchestra (Full Year):

This course will provide further opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding of the arts. In addition to learning advanced string techniques, students have the opportunity to perform in various music festivals, including solo & ensemble, string orchestra, and full orchestra festivals. Students will be placed by the instructor depending on their musical skills and experience.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

Theatre Foundations 1 (Semester – ½ Year):

In this class, students will develop basic techniques of acting and gain a deeper appreciation of theatre as an art form. Students will explore various periods of theatre history through observation and performance. Students will be required to work in groups. The majority of the grade for this class is based on in-class participation and attendance.

Theatre Level 2 (Semester – ½ Year):

This course will only be available in Semester 2 of the school year. In this class, students will further develop skills learned in Theatre Level 1. In addition, students will learn more about auditioning, script evaluation, scenic/costume design, and character development. Student will be required to work in groups. This course is open to all students who have completed Theatre Level 1. The majority of the grade for this class is based on in-class participation and attendance.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish /French 1 & 2 taken in the 7th and 8th grades will fulfill the Foreign Language requirement for many colleges and universities.

French 1, Spanish 1:

This course develops a Novice Mid proficiency level in speaking, listening, reading and writing. It includes an introduction to the culture, geography, and history of the countries that speak this language. Students will learn common phrases, vocabulary and basic grammar through oral and written activities. A willingness to communicate orally in the classroom is a necessary skill for learning a foreign language. Spanish /French 1 & 2 taken in the 7th and 8th grades will fulfill the Foreign Language requirement for many colleges and universities.

French 2, Spanish 2:

Pre-requisite: French/Spanish 1

This course develops a Novice High proficiency level in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will learn common phrases, vocabulary and basic grammar through oral and written activities. A willingness to communicate orally in the classroom is a necessary skill for learning a foreign language. Spanish /French 1 & 2 taken in the 7th and 8th grades will fulfill the Foreign Language requirement for many colleges and universities.

French 4 DLI Honors (Full Year):

This course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the native country are taught through viewing, listening, and reading selections. **For dual immersion students only.**

French Culture and Media (Semester – ½ Year):

The Culture & Media course builds skills in cultural-linguistic competencies necessary for successful communication with native speakers. Students utilize media and authentic texts to learn about the diverse cultural products, practices, and perspectives of countries. The topics and tasks, along with careful support for students to reach proficiency targets, lead intentionally to the French AP Language & Culture course content. Must take class twice between 7,8, and 9 grades. **For dual immersion students only.**

LIA

Latinos in Action (Semester or Full Year):

This is a peer leadership class in which the students go to an elementary school to tutor. Class participation requires students to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA.

YEARBOOK

Yearbook- (Semester – ½ Year):

This course offers students a chance to expand their knowledge in technology, while engaging in the following course work: school yearbook production, web page creation, monthly student newsletter, and video production. Signing up for this class does not guarantee enrollment. Enrollment is determined by the teacher.

Fee set by Davis School District school board.

READING AND WRITING

Read 180 (Full Year):

Read 180 is a program designed for students who have struggled with reading. English and Read 180 courses will be offered in a 2-period block. This will help students build fluency, word attack skills, comprehension, and the ability to summarize effectively. Students will build these skills and strategies by working in three different rotations: independent reading, Read 180 computer software, and group work. Students will be placed in a reading class if recommended by 7th grade English teacher and/or if test scores reflect student is reading below grade level. Parents will be notified by mail if their student is placed in a reading class.

Creative Writing 1 (Semester – ½ Year):

Creative Writing is a class for students who ALREADY EXCEL IN WRITING and are ready to take their writing a step further. Creative Writing 1 examines characteristics that make writing good. Students will also study exemplary writing models. Creative Writing directs students to explore, expand upon, and improve their possibilities as creative writers using a wide range of activities in a variety of genres. Students will write to a collection of short prompts and also work on longer pieces that go through the entire writing process. Students will also practice peer editing and revision techniques to improve their written work. Students will be expected to write and produce every class period. They will also create a portfolio by collecting their writing pieces from the semester.

Creative Writing 2 (Semester – ½ Year):

Prerequisite: Creative Writing 1

Creative Writing 2 is designed for students who enjoy writing. Students will continue to examine characteristics that make writing interesting and effective by studying exemplary writing models. Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of writing techniques and write longer pieces. Any student in this course must be able to work consistently and independently.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Student Government (Full Year):

Students who are elected to office, under the direction of the Student Body Advisor, will be involved in leadership roles for the student body of South Davis Junior High School. Once elected, students will need to maintain their GPA and CPA (citizenship) as defined in the Constitution. **(See student planner.)** Student officers will be required to attend all the functions of the school as defined. **NOTE: This course is offered only as a before and after school class and/or during Plus Period.**

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Current Issues (Semester- ½ Year):

This course will allow students to develop awareness while examining current issues on local, national, and international levels. Students will learn skills such as analyzing sources, surveying, interviewing, developing presentations, speaking, reading articles, argumentative writing, service activities, and working in groups. They will study issues and current events in many areas including civics, history, politics, economics, environment, demographics, and education, as well as school and community issues such as bullying, stress, homework, and respecting diversity.

National Academic League (NAL) (Fall Semester only – ½ Year)

NAL is a course offered in the fall for students at South Davis Junior High. After completing this course, students will have a set of critical thinking skills that they can use in a variety of experiences throughout their curricular and extracurricular lives. Students will learn about the history of NAL and why it was established. Students will learn how to participate in NAL competitions. Students will work on teamwork skills. They will also learn how to distinguish their strengths and weaknesses in order to figure out how they can best help the team succeed. Students would learn some public speaking skills. This course is designed for those students who would like to participate in the school's NAL team during second and third quarters.

Debate (Spring Semester only – ½ Year)

Debate is a course offered in the spring for students at South Davis Junior High. After completing this course, students will have a set of portable argumentation and advocacy skills that they can use in a variety of experiences throughout their curricular and extracurricular lives. Students will initially learn about and practice structured extemporaneous speeches with emphasis on verbal and nonverbal delivery skills (organization, projection, inflection, eye-contact, hand gestures, and more). Students will then build a foundation for effective argumentation and advocacy (claim/warrant/evidence) by participating in practice debates and ultimately presenting one research-based argumentative speech. This class is ultimately for students who want to explore debate and practice their public speaking skills. Students who participated in the NAL class would strongly be encouraged to take this course.

****All school fees are subject to School Board Approval.

It is the policy of Davis School District and South Davis Junior High School to ensure that educational activities, employment, programs, and services be offered without regard to race, color, creed or religion, national origin, sex, age, or handicapped condition. If your child is an individual with a disability needing special assistance, please contact SDJH 504 coordinator at (801) 402-6400, and/or the District ADA Coordinator at (801) 402-5307