

Middle School Course Descriptions Book

AVUHSD Board of Trustees

Jill McGrady, President

John Rush, Vice President

Donita Winn, Clerk

Amanda Parrell, Member

Dr. Victoria Ruffin, Member

AVUHSD District Administration

Dr. David Vierra, Superintendent

Brian Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent Business Services

Greg Nehen, Assistant Superintendent Educational Services

Brett Neal, Assistant Superintendent Personnel Services

Shandelyn Williams, Assistant Superintendent Student Services

Virtual Academy Administration

Principal, Matthew Berryman

Vice Principal, Matt Fitzgerald

Virtual Academy Counselors

[Danielle Bryant](#)

[Emily Finch](#)

[Cassandra Ramirez](#)

- Academies of the Antelope Valley schools will not discriminate against students on the basis of disability in any of its programs, services, and activities, including admission.
- AAV Schools offer the full range of special education and related aids and services based on the individual needs of an enrolled student with a disability, and will inquire about a student's disability, if any, and related documentation only after the student has been accepted for enrollment and for the purpose of providing the student a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) and an equal opportunity to participate in AAV Schools services, programs, and activities.
- For information regarding the District's efforts to comply with Section 504 and Title II, including responding to complaints of disability discrimination, please contact the office of Ms. Shandelyn Williams, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services at 661-729-2321.

About Antelope Valley Union High School District

The Antelope Valley Union High School District covers a geographic area from the Angeles Forest in the south, to the Kern county line in the north, and from the Ventura/Kern county lines in the west, to the San Bernardino county line in the east.

Over 23,000 students are educated in our 8 comprehensive and 4 continuation high schools, with additional educational opportunities offered by our Career and Technical Education programs, Regional Occupation Program (ROP) and Adult Education campuses. We also offer options for 7th and 8th grade students via our Academies of the Antelope Valley - SOAR Junior High, Knight Junior High, Palmdale Junior High and AV Virtual Academy (7th-12th grades).

Our mission is to provide a safe and secure learning environment that promotes a rigorous curriculum and enables our students to develop the necessary academic, technical, and work-related skills of the 21st century. Every student who graduates will be prepared to pursue college or any career to which he/she aspires.

Virtual Academy

Mission Statement

The mission of the Academies of the Antelope Valley (AAV) is to prepare every student for 21st century College and career expectations by providing a rigorous curriculum relevant to local and global workforce and economic demands through blended virtual and community-based learning opportunities.

Academies of the Antelope Valley

Promotion Requirements

7th Grade Curriculum	8th Grade Curriculum
English 7	English 8
Math 7, Pre-Algebra, or Algebra 7-8	Pre-Algebra, Algebra 7-8, or Algebra 2
World History and Geography 7	U.S. History and Geography 8
Life Science 7	Physical Science 8
Physical Education 7	Physical Education 8
Gateway to Technology 7	Gateway to Technology 8

Counseling

Virtual School counseling is available to serve students in a variety of ways.

Students may meet with the counselor individually, in groups, or through classroom presentations. The counselor also communicates with parents through in-person meetings, email, and phone conferences. Other areas covered are:

- Supporting academic achievement
- Conflict Resolution
- Crisis Intervention and referrals
- For help dealing with personal/social issues
- Goal Setting
- Monthly Parent /Teacher Conferences

Progress Reports/Report Cards

Reports to students and parents are issued four times each semester as follows:

- 5th week (September and February) - Mid-Quarter Progress Report.
- 10th week (October and March) - Quarter Report Cards are issued halfway through the semester. These grades are NOT permanently recorded.
- 15th week (November and May) - Mid-Quarter Progress Report.
- 20th week (December and May) – Semester grades. These grades are permanently recorded on transcripts.

PowerSchool Parent Portal

Parents may log in to PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.avhsd.org> to access their child's grade and attendance information.

In order to create an account, you must have the parent Access ID and Password.

Please contact the office for your access code.

English 7

This course will utilize grade 7 Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. The course will include writing, vocabulary, and literature. It will also incorporate listening and speaking skills. The goal of this course is to prepare students for high school, college, and careers.

The Common Core State Standards can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf>

English 8

English 8 aligns with the common core standards and 21st century skills. The course focuses on interaction with fictional & nonfictional texts, writing skills, speaking skills, and listening skills while utilizing creativity, collaboration, communication and critical thinking. Citing sources, the 5 paragraph essay, descriptive writing, argumentative writing and technology skills are some of the many skills that will be emphasized.

The Common Core State Standards can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf>

Art 7/8

In this course, students will experience the creative processes used by all artists. They will learn how to analyze, interpret, and evaluate art.

Gateway To Technology 7

Gateway to Technology (GTT) is a Project Lead the Way program (PLTW) designed as a pre-engineering course which addresses the interest and energy of middle school students while incorporating national standards in mathematics, science, and technology (visit www.pltw.org). It is an activity-oriented program shows students how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems. During the GTT experience, students will gain the skills they need to develop, produce, and use products and services.

The GTT curriculum provides activities-based, project-based, and problem-based learning, a hands-on approach that is exciting and challenging for the student. The curriculum relates technology to students' daily lives. It promotes communication and collaboration by emphasizing a teamwork approach in the instructional units. This approach utilizes the strengths of each team member to accomplish the goals of the project while offering students learning challenges at all ability levels.

Students acquire knowledge and skills in engineering problem solving and explore requirements for careers in engineering.

Gateway to Technology 8

This is a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) based course following projects from PLTW, Keystone Science School and my personal collection. We will use demonstrations, labs and projects as much as feasible to promote learning. If students are unable to complete their work when due, they will be taken off the project/build track and have alternate assignments. These alternate assignments will be less rigorous and still teach them about the unit.

Mathematics 7

This course follows the Common Core State Standards adopted by California for 7th grade math. It is designed to develop students computational, problem solving and analytical skills. Areas covered will be ratios proportional relationships, the number system, expression and equations, geometry, statistic and probability. The California Content Standards can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/ccsmathstandarAug2013.pdf>

Pre-Algebra 7-8

Open to grades 7th and 8th

This course is designed to prepare students with basic math and algebra skills for high school Algebra 1 and Geometry. It covers the California Common Core standards for 8th grade. Instruction will include the following: the number system, expression and equations, functions geometry, statistic and probability. The California Content Standards can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/ccsmathstandarAug2013.pdf>

Algebra 7-8

Open to grades 7th and 8th

Prerequisite: Placement based on a combination of teacher recommendation, prior grades, and Algebra Placement Test.

Algebra is a full year course devoted to building algebra fundamentals. Emphasis is on building a foundation of proper solving of equations, systems, quadratics, graphing functions, and data analysis and probability. Intertwined in the curriculum is problem solving strategies and logical thinking. iPad technology will be used to assist with instruction through the Internet, graphing, calculators, and assistance in day to day organization of content. The California Content Standards can be viewed at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/mathstandards.pdf>

Physical Education 7 and 8

Physical education goals for both seventh and eighth grade students are to improve strength, flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, coordination and balance. Students will experience team play by encouraging teamwork, cooperation, and fair play. Through physical education students will develop and encourage good sportsmanship. Skills taught through physical education can be used as foundations for lifetime sports and activities. They will also encourage good health, nutrition, and fitness habits.

7th Grade Focus- Demonstrate mature techniques, in the performance of all skills, demonstrate basic offensive and defensive strategies.

8th Grade focus- Demonstrate basic offensive and defensive skills and strategies in team physical activities.

The California State Standards for Middle School Physical Education can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/pestandards.pdf>

Life Science 7

This course is intended as an introduction to Biology (the study of life and living things). We will use demonstrations, labs and projects as much as feasible to promote learning. Since this course is designed using projects and to prepare them for college in only 2 years, students will be expected to read and study textbook on their own time. Prerequisite for doing the labs/activities is that they have completed their note taking responsibilities. Textbook and 5th/6th grade science knowledge will be necessary for tests in addition to processing the material from class.

The California State Standards for Middle School Physical Science can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/sciencetnd.pdf>

Physical Science 8

This course is intended as an introduction to chemistry (study of matter and energy) and physics (study of motion, energy and forces). We will use demonstrations, labs and projects as much as feasible to promote learning. Since this course is designed using projects and to prepare them for college NEXT year, students will be expected to read and study textbook on their own time. Prerequisite for doing the labs/activities is that they have completed their note taking responsibilities. Textbook and 6th/7th grade science knowledge will be necessary for tests in addition to processing the material from class.

The California State Standards for Middle School Physical Science can be viewed at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/sciencetnd.pdf>

World History and Geography 7

Students in grade seven study the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, and Asia in the years AD 500 to 1789. After reviewing the ancient world and the ways in which archaeologists and historians uncover the past, students study the history and geography of great civilizations that were developing concurrently throughout the world during medieval and early modern times. They examine the growing economic interaction among civilizations as well as the exchange of ideas, beliefs, technologies, and commodities. They learn about the resulting growth of Enlightenment philosophy and the new examination of the concepts of reason and authority, the natural rights of human beings and the divine right of kings, experimentalism in science, and the dogma of belief. Finally, students assess the political forces let loose by the Enlightenment, particularly the rise of democratic ideas, and they learn about the continuing influence of these ideas in the world today. This course will utilize grade 7 Common Core State Standards for World History. The Common Core State Standards can be found at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/finalelaccsstandards.pdf>

U.S. History and Geography 8

Students in this course study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I, with an emphasis on America's role in the war. After reviewing the Development of America's democratic institutions founded on the Judeo-Christian heritage and English parliamentary traditions, particularly the shaping of the Constitution, students trace the Development of American politics, society, culture, and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. They make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions. The California Content Standards can be viewed at:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/documents/histsocscistnd.pdf>