

8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2022-2023

REQUIRED COURSES

ENGLISH

(Choose One)

English 8- This course will emphasize reading and writing processes. Students will be studying functional, literary, and narrative texts, while working on improving vocabulary, mechanics in writing, grammar usage, and research skills. Independent reading will be required. Students will also work on speaking and listening skills, and presentation and viewing skills. (Year)

English 8 Honors- Throughout the year, students will increase skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking through a variety of activities with increased vigor. Usage, mechanics, and vocabulary will be taught in context with literature and language-based units. This is an accelerated course that will focus on the mastery of literature and language. Students will comprehend literature by differentiating the uses of literary elements in narrative texts. Students can expect rapid movement through course materials resulting in expanded literature and writing opportunities. (Year)

MATH

(Choose One)

Math 8- Building on what students have learned in 7th grade, this course will include a particular focus on expressions & equations, adding in slope and functions. It extends the number system to irrational numbers. Geometry in this course includes various translations of figures, the Pythagorean Theorem, and cylinders, cones, & spheres. Statistics and probability includes investigating patterns in bivariate data. (Year)

Math 8 Honors- This course will cover the same material covered in

Math 8. Additionally, there are four extra topics that would interest an advanced junior high student. This course has increased rigor and advanced content to challenge the minds of high-ability students who must be motivated, responsible, and willing to accept a challenge. (Year)

Secondary Mathematics I

Honors- This course will cover all concepts in the Secondary Mathematics I course. Concepts will be explored in greater depth with increased use of contextual situations. It will also 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. (Year)

SOCIAL STUDIES

(Choose One)

U.S. History- United States History is a survey class intended to give the student a broad-based understanding of the development of the United States. Specific skills which will be worked on are the following: map reading, chart and graph reading, outlining historical research, contrasting and paralleling historical concepts. The major area of emphasis is pre-history up to 19th Century America. (Year)

U.S. History Honors- This class offers students the opportunity to excel beyond what is offered in a regular U.S. History course. Students need to be motivated, eager and prepared to work in group settings as well as individually. Students will read, write and research consistently as well as perfect their geography, mapping, charting and presentation skills. Technology will be used extensively. This course is also intended to help prepare

students for future Advanced Placement (A.P.) classes in high school. (Year)

SCIENCE

Science 8- In this course, students will explore how matter is arranged into simple or complex substances, how substances store and transfer energy, which can cause them to interact physically and chemically, provide energy to living organisms, or be harnessed and used by humans. (Year)

HEALTH

Health- The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills needed to improve and sustain a healthy quality of life. Health Education is more than physical well-being, it is also social and mental well-being. This course offers students an opportunity to gain skills and understanding in these three areas. (Semester)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(Choose One)

P.E.- As a student in this class, you will be involved in a variety of coed team activities which will develop a positive attitude toward physical fitness and healthy lifestyles. Good sportsmanship is emphasized. Activities will aid in developing motor skills, individual coordination, and the cardiovascular system. Skills testing will be at an intermediate level. A recommended P.E. uniform will be used. **FEE \$10 for uniform** (Semester)

Warrior Wellness- Students will be involved in activities that allow physical movement and cardio activities. Focus will be placed on health and wellness of the body through activity and nutrition. (Semester)

DIGITAL STUDIES

Digital Literacy- This course is an introduction to Computer Literacy. An understanding of ethics and use of operating systems, information resources, and electronic mail is included. Skills will be demonstrated by creating a project for a different content area. **FEE \$5** (Semester)

ELECTIVE COURSES

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (CTE)

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

FACS A (Clothing & Fashion)- This course provides students with opportunities to develop essential skills in various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). Students will explore and cultivate skills in interior design, clothing and textile construction, fashion design and merchandising, consumerism, entrepreneurship and career and job-related tasks. **FEE \$5** (Semester)

FACS B (Foods & Children)- This course provides students with the opportunity to develop essential skills in various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). Students will explore and cultivate skills in food and nutrition sciences, childcare, consumerism, entrepreneurship, family relationships, personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks. **FEE \$10** (Semester)

TECHNICAL/ENGINEERING

Exploring Technology I (Woods)- This is a hands-on course that introduces students to different areas of technological systems and how they impact society. Students will learn about information and communications technologies, transportation technologies, manufacturing technologies, and construction technologies. Past activities have

included air dragsters, penny hockey boards, and toolboxes. **FEE \$5 plus \$10-\$15 for personal projects.** (Semester)

Exploring Technology II

(Metals)- This is a hands-on course that introduces students to manufacturing technology and related careers. Students will learn measuring and layout skills, build drafting skills, how to safely operate tools and machinery, and use these skills to fabricate various projects. Students will have the opportunity to process metals, plastics, and woods, while creating personal projects in each. **FEE \$5 plus \$10-\$15 for personal projects.** (Semester)

Pinterest to Projects (Exploring

Tech. I)- This is a hands-on activity-based class introducing students to the research, design, documentation and production of various types of Pinterest projects. This course will introduce students to various craft manufacturing processes in wood, plastic, metal and other raw materials. **FEE \$5 plus \$10-\$15 for personal projects.** (Semester)

DIGITAL STUDIES

Keyboarding- This course will review correct finger placement for the alphabet, numbers, and symbols using proper touch-typing techniques. Students will also work on increasing speed and accuracy skills, learning the importance of good work habits and problem solving. This class is an introduction to Microsoft Office and other pertinent software. **FEE \$3** (Semester)

Creative Coding- A quality Computer Science curriculum not only engages students in interesting, collaborative learning activities using sound pedagogical strategies, but it also ensures that students are learning concepts vital to the deep and broad field of Computer Science. This course is primarily an introductory programming course, units are grounded in an array of standards from the strands of computation

thinking, collaboration, computing practice and programming, computer and communication devices, and community, global and ethical impacts. **FEE \$ 5** (Semester)

Exploring Business and

Marketing- Students will be exposed to the fundamental concepts of business and marketing. Skills include basic business concepts, organizational communication, human resources management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership. Students will be exposed to courses within the Business and Marketing career pathways and leadership organizations, such as FBLA and DECA. **FEE \$2** (Semester)

Microsoft Hacking STEM- This course includes STEM activities that utilize modern technologies and have students engage in true data analytics. Course encourages students to get wondering about the world, making sense of how things work, and solving some hard problems in a collaborative creative environment. **FEE \$10** (Semester)

VEX Robotics-

Students will learn to build and program VEX IQ robots. Students will practice mechanical design, construction, programming and teamwork skills. Using VEX IQ building pieces, motors and sensors, students will build robots that can complete a variety of challenges and obstacles. Students will use a controller to drive their robot and a computer to program their robot. In this course, students will work through processes of idea creation, planning, logical thinking, analysis and computational thinking to solve problems and accomplish goals. This course is designed for students who are interested in developing their programming and engineering skills. **FEE \$10** (Semester)

ELECTIVE COURSES

Peer Tutor-Application Only

Peer Tutor duties include tutoring students with their academic work while modeling appropriate behavior. In accompanying a student to a regular education class, a Peer Tutor may take notes, keep students on task, and report the student behavior and progress to the Special Education Teacher. In the Functional Skills classroom, Peer Tutors work one on one with students on their academic assignments. This is an excellent future job reference for students who have an interest in the following occupations: Teaching, Medicine, Psychology, Social Work, and Service Industry. (Semester)

Math Lab- By Recommendation only.

This class is designed to help students who have a desire to improve their own self confidence by learning math skills required for their grade level aligned to the Davis School District Desk Standards. Priority standards will be focused in depth as well as previous skills that are necessary to be able to perform at their required level. Students should demonstrate a desire to learn and be comfortable asking questions. (Semester)

Current Issues- The focus of this class will be the exploration of global, national, and local issues currently affecting student's daily life. Students will gain an understanding of the current social, political, economic, and natural events using online, newspaper, political cartoons, maps, charts, documentary, radio, and television sources to support, and provide for, class discussion. Students will be expected to research credible sources and identify the origins of an issue, stay up to date on current issues, and participate in group presentations and class discussion. (Semester)

Creative Coding 2 - Intro to

Python- Python is a language with a simple syntax, and a powerful set of libraries. It is an interpreted language, with a rich programming environment, including a robust debugger and profiler. While it is easy for beginners to learn, it is widely used in many scientific areas for data exploration. **This course is an introduction to the Python programming language for students who have already taken Creative Coding. FEE \$5** (Semester)

Debate- Introductory Course to

Debate. Students will participate in a variety of speech activities designed to increase communication, argumentative and persuasive skills as well as confidence in public speaking. (Semester)

SOAR Reading- Teacher Recommendation Only

This course is designed for students who have been in Reading 180 and still need additional support in reading and comprehension skills. Soar to Success is a semester intervention program. It is a small-group model that offers consistent routines, reciprocal teaching, and graphic organizers in fast-paced lessons to help students accelerate their reading growth. (Semester)

Creative Writing- In this class, students will explore different forms of creative expression in writing. Students will work in many writing mediums, including fictional stories of all genres and sizes, creative nonfiction essays, and memoirs and poetry. Students will work to find a voice and style comfortable for their expression while learning tools of the trade that the professionals use. (Semester)

Yearbook- Application required.

Open to 8th and 9th graders.

The purpose of this class is for designing the school's yearbook. Students will complete several tasks to create a quality yearbook that reflects the history of the school year using eDesign

software. Assignments will include developing a theme, designing a cover, taking photos for assigned activities, producing a layout design for assigned pages, and making changes to those pages if requested by the advisor. It is important that students process work well as a team player. Grades are based on quality of work, effort, and timeliness. (Year)

Cheerleading- Tryouts Required-

This course is for students that have made the cheer team. (First Semester only)

FINE ARTS

Art Foundations I-Beginning-

In this course students will have the opportunity to use a variety of art tools and techniques while experimenting with a wide range of drawing mediums. Student's will develop an understanding of art by analyzing art history, developing art, and evaluating the art they have created. This class has a drawing emphasis. **FEE \$10. Additional fees and supplies required.** (Semester)

Art Foundations II-2D

Prerequisite Art I-Intermediate-

This course expands on the student's knowledge of the elements of art and begins study into the principles of design with an emphasis on art production. Student's will deepen and extend their understanding of art by analyzing art history, developing art, and evaluating the art they have created. In this class students will work through the processes of idea formation, planning, creation, analysis and higher level thinking to design and create artwork with meaning. This class has an emphasis on wet media. **FEE \$10. Additional fees and supplies required.** (Semester)

Art Foundations II - 3D

Prerequisite Art I- Intermediate-

This course expands on the student's knowledge of the elements of art and begins study into the principles of design with an emphasis on sculpture creation.

Student's will deepen and extend their understanding of art by analyzing art history, developing art, and evaluating the art they have created. In this class students will work through the processes of idea formation, planning, creation, analysis and higher level thinking to design and create artwork with meaning. Students will have the opportunity to use a variety of art tools and techniques while experimenting with three dimensional mediums including clay, cardboard and wire. This class has an emphasis on 3-D art. **FEE \$10. Additional fees and supplies required.** (Semester)

Band Level I Brass- Students will learn basic skills in finger placement, embouchure, notation and music theory. **FEE \$15** (Year)

Band Level I Woodwind- Students will learn basic skills in fingering, notation, and music theory. This class includes clarinet, saxophone, flute, oboe, and bassoon. **FEE \$15** (Year)

Percussion- (All Levels) Piano background strongly recommended Students will learn basic skills in notation, rhythm, and music theory. **FEE \$95** (Year)

Band Level II- (Concert Band) Students must be approved by band director in order to enter this class. This class will be comprised mostly of instrumentalists who have passed the beginning level. **FEE \$15** (Year)

Band Level III- (Wind Ensemble) Teacher Approval Required Students must be approved by band director in order to enter this class. This will be our instrumental performing group to represent us in district festivals and other programs. **FEE \$15** (Year)

Band Level II Jazz Band- Audition Only. Meets before school. Students playing saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and drums must also be enrolled in a band class. Guitarists interested in auditioning must be able to read standard

notation and chord changes (not tab). They should also be familiar with jazz chord voicing. Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is required or may result in dismissal from the band. The Jazz Band performs at evening concerts, assemblies, festivals, and community functions. **FEE \$15** (Year)

Choir I - Women S/A- This girls' choir teaches the fundamentals of music reading and singing. The choir sings a great variety of music. This choir will perform regularly in concerts throughout the year. **Attendance at concerts is mandatory. FEE \$15 plus clothing cost.** (Year)

Choir I - Men T/B- This boys' choir is a great chance for boys to learn to sing! Students will learn the fundamentals of music theory. They will sing music of all styles and perform regularly at concerts throughout the year. **Attendance at concerts is mandatory. FEE \$15 plus clothing cost.** (Year)

General Music- This course gives an overview of music. Students will learn to read and write basic music. They will also study composers from various time periods and sing different styles of music. This is a great class for students wanting to explore their musical talent. (Semester)

Orchestra I- This class is for students who have taken some Basic Orchestra or who are willing to work hard to catch up during the first quarter of review. Students will develop skills in playing, listening to, reading, creating and evaluating music. Students will learn teamwork, goal setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. Students will perform in a formal concert once per semester. Instruments offered are violin, viola, cello or double bass. **Students must provide their own instruments. School cellos and basses are available for a fee of \$95 per year. Concert black dress required. FEE \$10** (Year)

Orchestra II- This course is for students who have taken Level 1 Orchestra or played two years or more. This is the performing group for festivals and competitions. Students will develop and refine skills in playing, listening to, reading, creating and evaluating music at a faster rate and with more advanced music than level 1. Students will develop musical skills while learning valuable life skills such as teamwork, goal setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. The students' progress will be determined by the quality of performance rendered in front of a live audience. Students will be expected to participate in concerts and performances outside the normal class day, at least (but not limited to) once a term. Instruments offered are violin, viola, cello or double bass. **Students must provide their own instruments. School cellos and basses are available for a fee of \$95 per year. Concert black dress required. FEE \$10** (Year)

Orchestra Level III- This course is for students who have taken Level II Orchestra or played for three years or more. This is a performing group for festivals and competitions. Students will develop skills in playing, listening to, reading, creating and evaluating music at a faster rate and with more advanced music each level progressed. Students will develop musical skills while learning valuable life skills such as teamwork, goal setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. Students will be expected to participate in concerts and performances outside the normal class day, at least (but not limited to) once a term. Instruments offered are violin, viola, cello or double bass. **Students must provide their own instruments. School cellos and basses are available for a fee of \$95 per year. Concert black dress required. FEE \$10** (Year)

Theater I- This course is an integrated approach to finding meaning in works of theater

through the study and appreciation of theater as an art form, and constructing meaning in works of theater art through the student and skill development of theater techniques in the creation of that theater art. Students will also participate in speech presentations and poems. **FEE \$10** (Semester)

Theater II- This course will continue to study theater as an art form, constructing meaning in works of theater art, and continued skill development of theater techniques. This is a performance class, poems, monologues, scene work, and theater critiques. **FEE \$10** (Semester)

WORLD LANGUAGES

Spanish I- Instruction may begin in any grade 7-9. Students begin this course with no functional skills in the language. The course, regardless of language, is an introduction to the culture in which the language is spoken, its language, and its people. The main emphasis is on oral skills while developing reading and writing skills. The student will recognize the interrelationships of languages and will develop appreciation for the target culture. The focus of this course is on novice-low proficiency. At the completion of the course, the goal is for students to be able to function at the novice-level. (Year)

Spanish II- Students should first complete the Spanish I course or have equivalent experience in the target language before taking this course. Because this course builds on the skills acquired in a level I class, the students should begin with a fluency rating of novice-low to novice-mid (see Davis School District's WORLD LANGUAGES: Performance Assessment Rubric). The level II course continues to develop the oral skills with added emphasis on reading and writing skills. The focus is on the development of novice-mid to mid-high proficiency. Expansion of

vocabulary and grammatical structures continue. Contrast between English and the target language strengthen the language learning process. Culturally related activities of selected countries in the target culture or regions will be explored. At the completion of this course, the goal is for students to be able to function at the novice-mid to high range. (Year)

NATIONAL ACADEMIC LEAGUE

NAL- National Academic League
This class is a quiz bowl and presentation team. Student try outs are in October with practices in November and December. Games are in January and February (both home and away with teams on the south end of the district). Additional games may be held in March for National Championship games. (Semester)