

# Fairfield Junior High School Course Descriptions

## Grade 8 Classes 2023-2024

### The following classes fulfill requirements for 8<sup>th</sup> graders

#### 4030

**English 8:** The objective of this course is to help students continue to develop and refine the basic skills taught in Language Arts 7, particularly the practical conventions of written communication (spelling, punctuation, usage), as well as content development and organization. They will learn the conventions of English grammar and usage, build vocabulary, understand literary elements, read literary and informational texts, and learn the elements of grade-appropriate written communication. Students will study increasingly challenging themes and social issues in many genres of literature. Independent reading (outside of class) is required, and students are always expected to carry a reading book. An Honors Designation will be available to any student meeting requirements.

#### 5100

**Math 8:** This course will help students build a strong foundation of understanding linear functions. Concepts in this course will include solving multi-step linear equations, graphing linear equations, finding slope of a line and interpreting unit rates, using various methods to construct equations of linear functions, solving systems of linear equations, understanding rational and irrational numbers, exploring geometric constructions of figures on a plane, verifying congruence and similarity of triangles, computing volume of cylinders and spheres, and using data to determine relationships in scatterplots or 2-way frequency tables. An Honors Designation will be available to any student meeting requirements.

#### OR

#### 5205

**Honors Secondary Math 1 (Accelerated 8th graders):** This class is for the 8th grade student who took Math 8 during 7th grade. To be successful in this class, students need to be fluent with concepts taught in Math 8 since this course will build on and extend concepts learned in 8th grade mathematics. Specifically, this course will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships and connect that to understanding exponential functions. Additional concepts taught will include compound linear inequalities and absolute value functions, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, arithmetic and geometric sequences, transformations of geometric figures, applications of distance and midpoint formulas, triangle congruence theorems, computing and comparing measures of center and spread, lines of regression and correlation, and geometric constructions using straight edges and compasses. In addition to the regular Secondary I math standards, this course will include the Honors concepts dealing with conditional statements, matrix operations and applications, and vectors operations and applications. This course will be fast-paced with increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of accelerated students.

#### 4510

**U.S. History 1:** US History is a course which encourages students to explore America's heritage from its beginnings to Reconstruction. Emphasis will be placed upon the social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds of Americans as well as economic and geographic factors. Students will also explore current events using inquiry-based activities that will help to equip them to participate in the democratic process. An Honors Designation will be available to any student meeting requirements.

#### 6100

**Integrated Science 8:** This hands-on integrated course introduces students to matter and energy, using change as an organizing concept. Students will study the energy in geological Earth processes, chemistry, physics, and ecosystems. An Honors Designation will be available to any student meeting requirements.

#### 1021

**Fitness 8:** This course helps students develop positive lifetime attitudes regarding fitness. Students will practice individual and team sports, and games. The students will experience Lifetime Sports by going on **FUN** field trips! These field trips will include bowling, swimming, miniature golfing, and playing tennis!

#### 1000

**Health Education 1 (Semester):** Health Education offers students an opportunity to acquire knowledge, practice skills, and develop attitudes that can benefit them throughout life. Building a solid foundation of literacy and decision-making skills can contribute to a variety of healthy choices for self and others. Students will learn about their mental, social, emotional, and physical health throughout the semester. Guest speakers are invited to speak on various topics for each component of health. This class is designed to help teens reach their potential and learn how to be the healthiest versions of themselves.

## 7537

**Digital Literacy** (Semester): This course is an introduction 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. Skills will be demonstrated by creating a project for a different content area. This course is aligned with national and international standards and the Utah Core to prepare students across multiple levels of skills.

### The following classes are FULL YEAR electives

## 214

**LIA Peer Leadership –Latinos in Action** (Elective): The mission of the Latinos in Action class is to empower our Latino youth through culture, service, leadership and excellent education with the sole purpose of graduating from college. This class trains students as paraprofessionals who visit and tutor local elementary school children. LIA students also learn and improve their leadership skills through their roles with LIA. LIA students organize activities and initiate service projects together.

*Pre-requisite: GPA of 2.5 or higher and an application.*

### **Beginning Band** (Fine Art):

**Overall description:** Want to learn an instrument? Beginning Band is a hand-on, exploratory class where you will learn an instrument of your choice! By participating in band students will gain an understanding of how to read and interpret music, work as a unit, and express themselves through various means. This course is broken up into three sections in order to best serve the various instrumental needs and provide a more enriched classroom environment (*see the class descriptions below to determine which course to register for based on instrument preference*). Please note that home practice is required and expected for all classes. If you have previous music experience and are interested in joining Concert Band, please contact Mrs. Groneman for more information. This is a course for anyone, regardless of previous experience.

## 2204

**Band 1 Brass:** In this class, students will learn how to play either Trumpet, Trombone, or Baritone with the option to expand instrument selection to include French Horn and Tuba second semester. (For anyone interested in French Horn, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that these students have previous music experience, and or be able to identify pitch matching.

## 2205

**Band 1 Woodwind:** In this class, students will learn how to play either Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, or Bassoon with the option to expand instrument selection to include Bass Clarinet and Saxophone second semester. (For anyone interested in Oboe, Bassoon, or Saxophone, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that these students take private lessons.

## 2210

**Band 2** (Fine Art): Concert Band is an intermediate ensemble designed for students that have gained some instrumental proficiency, but who still want to develop their talents. In this ensemble students will expand their music abilities through performance, theory analysis, and personal connection. Students will not only learn various musical works, but will have a knowledge of major scales, arpeggios, and improv/composition skills. This ensemble has the potential to participate and or host various events, such as District Intermediate Band Festival, State Band Festival, and Solo and Ensemble. *Pre-requisite: Students must have completed Beginning Band (Brass, Percussion or Woodwind) or by audition only.*

## 2214

**Jazz Band:** The Falcon Jazz Band is an advanced audition-only ensemble available at FFJH. Auditions will be held during the first week of the new school year (please see Mrs. Groneman for specific dates and times). Typical jazz instruments include: Saxophone (Alto, Tenor, Bari), Trumpet, Trombone, and Rhythm (Drum set, Piano, Bass, Guitar, Auxiliary Percussion, and Vocals). Additional instruments may be accepted by approval only. Students who participate in this ensemble will gain a knowledge of jazz history, improv, and various musical styles (jazz, blues, rock etc.). Students will be expected to prepare and perform solos or solo repertoire in class and at performances as a part of their music education. This ensemble meets before school 3 times a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from 7:00-8:00am. starting the third week of school. Students interested in this class will be graded and given a ½ Fine Arts Credit. Performances include, School Assemblies, Elementary School Visits, District Jazz Festival, State Jazz Festival, and other community events. **The Falcon Jazz Band is open to all who choose to audition, and the top performers (regardless of grade) will be chosen.**

*Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in another band ensemble for the school year and must complete an audition.*

## 2220

**Band 3 (Fine Art):** Symphonic Band is the most advanced ensemble offered at FFJH. This audition-only ensemble provides advanced instrumental students a place to hone their musical abilities and skills. Students in the Symphonic Band must demonstrate exceptional ability in music performance, understanding, and overall musicality. They are also expected to demonstrate exceptional rehearsal habits and high levels of personal commitment to the ensemble. Through participation in this ensemble, students will gain technique work, major and minor scale knowledge, and deeper insights into music theory and history. This ensemble has the potential to perform at several local or state events, such as: Elementary school visits, school assemblies, District Festivals, State Band Festivals, Solo and Ensemble, etc. It is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that students in Symphonic Band are enrolled in private music lessons outside of class. **Symphonic Band is open to all who choose to audition, and the top performers (regardless of grade) will be chosen.** *Pre-requisite: Students must have completed Beginning Band, Concert Band, and complete an audition.*

## 2307

**Choir 2 Mixed Choir:** Students will participate in studying and performing a variety of choral music. They will sing in unison as well as in parts from a variety of musical styles. This class requires a great work ethic and musicianship skills as students create music at an intermediate level with male and female voices combined. Students will work on reading music, rhythm study, rehearsal techniques, and various aspects of choral music. They will learn music notation, vocabulary, and basic sight singing skills. They will perform in concerts each term. *Pre-requisite: Choir I or teacher approval. Teacher approval based on music knowledge.*

## 2310

**Choir 3/Concert Choir:** In this auditioned choir class, singers will perform more advanced choral literature. They will represent FFJH at district and choir activities and in public performances. Students will continue their learning of music notation, vocabulary, and sight singing skills. They will learn advanced vocal skills in the development of both solo singing voice and ensemble work. They will learn a variety of choral music in advanced parts and will perform at several events including concerts, assemblies, solo/ensemble festivals, and the Davis District Choral Festival.

*Pre-requisite: Audition required.*

## 2310

**Choir 3/Show:** This is FFJH's most elite choir. In this auditioned show choir students will perform more advanced choral literature often with choreography. They will represent FFJH at district and choir activities and in public performances. They will also perform in a Musical Revue in the fall. Students will continue their learning of music notation, vocabulary, and sight singing skills. They will learn advanced vocal skills in the development of both the solo singing voice as well as a quality ensemble. They will learn a variety of choral music in advanced parts and will perform at several events including concerts, assemblies, solo/ensemble festivals, as well as many other performance opportunities.

*Pre-requisite: Audition required.*

## 2405

**Orchestra 1 (Fine Art):** This course is for beginning musicians. Available instruments are violin, viola, cello and upright bass. Students will refine skills in playing, listening to, reading, creating and evaluating music, and will develop valuable life skills such as teamwork, goal-setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. Sixth grade orchestra or private lesson experience highly recommended.

## 2406

**Orchestra 2 (Fine Art):** This course is for students who have taken Orchestra 1 or have had private lessons for at least two years. 9<sup>th</sup> graders who took Orchestra 2 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade should take this course again, as the curriculum varies from year to year. Students will refine skills in playing, listening to, reading, creating and evaluating music, and will develop valuable life skills such as teamwork, goal-setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. There will be several performances outside of the normal class times.

## 3110

**Spanish 1 (Core Elective):** This course emphasizes the development of conversational skills and will be conducted in the target language. There will also be an introduction to basic reading and writing. This class is designed for non-native speakers who want to learn a second language, those with previous experience with the language should enroll in Spanish for Spanish Speakers. *Students need to have above average scholastic aptitude to succeed in this course and should be able to read at grade level.*

## 3120

**Spanish 2 (Core Elective):** This course is a continuation of Spanish 1. The class will be conducted in Spanish and students will be engaged in speaking the target language in conversations, class discussions, question/answer activities, and stories. There will also be continued development in basic reading and writing. This class is designed for non-native (Spanish) speakers who want to continue learning a second language. *Pre-requisite: Passed Spanish 1 with a C or better or must demonstrate Novice High proficiency.*

## 3190

**Spanish for Spanish Speakers** (Core Elective): This course is designed for students who already speak Spanish. This course will help students to be able to have the proficiency needed to take the AP test later in high school. Students will read and write daily to develop literacy in Spanish. They will learn the conventions of Spanish grammar and usage, increase vocabulary, read literary and informational texts in Spanish.

### 3210

**French 1** (Core Elective): This course emphasizes the development of beginning speaking skills in French. There will also be an introduction to basic reading and writing. It is designed for learners with no previous experience in French. Students previously enrolled in Dual Language Immersion French should not enroll in this level. Students should have above average scholastic aptitude to succeed in this course and should be able to read at grade level.

### 3220

**French 2** (Core Elective): This course is a continuation of French 1. The class will be conducted in French and students will be engaged in speaking the target language in conversations, class discussions, question/answer activities, and presentations. There will also be continued development in reading and writing. This class is designed for non-native French speakers who want to continue learning a second language. Students previously enrolled in French Dual Language Immersion should only enroll in this level after consulting with the teacher and counselor.

*Pre-requisite: Passed French 1 with a C or better or demonstrate Novice Mid proficiency.*

### 3242

**French 4 DLI Honors** (Core Elective): 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 reading selections.

*Pre-requisite: For dual immersion students only (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade).*

### 4365

**Yearbook 1/Publications (Year)** (Elective): Students will work to design and produce the school yearbook, the school newspaper and Falcon TV. Students will learn multi-media skills as they work on our publications team. Students will be required to attend school events outside of school hours.

*Pre-requisites: 3.3 GPA and application.*

## The following classes are **ONE SEMESTER** electives:

### 213

**Peer Tutor** (Elective): This class is for students who would like to assist their classmates in various learning environments. The course requires a project each term as the student learns skills to tutor and support others. *Pre-requisite: Teacher approval required.*

### 216

**Peer Support 1** (Elective): This is a special class designed for 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade students who would like to improve their own life skills and who want to help others. The course focuses on self-awareness, healthy life skills, and communication. Students have the opportunity to practice these skills here at school, in the home, in elementary schools and in the community. Some responsibilities of Peer Support students include: tutoring, ushering assemblies, welcoming new students, helping 7<sup>th</sup> graders adjust to junior high, and performing random acts of kindness. Peer Support students represent our school and are held to strict standards for good citizenship.

*Pre-requisite: No U citizenship. Submission of an application may be required.*

### 400

**Study Skills:** In this course you will learn how to get organized, the most beneficial ways to study and have time to use your new skills to complete homework and class assignments. This is a great course for students who are involved in extra-curricular activities who need more time to complete their studies, and for those who want to improve their skills as a student.

### 1021

**Fit 8:** This course helps students develop positive lifetime attitudes regarding fitness. Students will practice individual and team sports, and games. The students will experience Lifetime Sports by going on **FUN** field trips! These field trips will include bowling, swimming, miniature golfing, and playing tennis!

### 2101

**Art Foundation I** (Fine Art): Explore the exciting world of art. This amazing class is an introductory art class that is required before enrolling in advanced art classes. Each student will have the opportunity to use a variety of materials such as drawing, painting and ceramics. Students will also develop a general knowledge and understanding of basic art terms, styles, skills, and techniques.

### 2102

**Adv. Foundation 1A 2-D Art** (Fine Art): This course is designed to provide an enhanced experience through traditional, two-dimensional art media. Emphasizing studio production as the application of the elements and principles of art are used to assist the student in expressing him/herself through the creation of works of art. In this course, traditional 2-D art media may include such things as drawing, painting, and/or printmaking. Students will learn to express themselves through individualized works of art.  
*Pre-requisite: Art Foundation 1.*

#### 2104

**Adv. Foundation 1C 3-D Art** (Fine Art): This popular course provides an overview and introduction to 3-Dimensional art. Students will have the opportunity to use a variety of materials for projects. They will learn how to use paper mache, create masks out of plaster, and create artwork out of clay.  
*Pre-requisite: Art Foundation 1.*

#### 2304

**Choir 1 Girls Choir Soprano/Alto:** Beginning choir is an introduction to music and the beginning of vocal training. Students will learn the skills necessary to be a contributing member of a choir. Students will learn about and demonstrate proper singing skills and effective rehearsal habits. Students will learn how to read choral music, how to work in a group, how to develop personal vocal skills and much more. Students will participate in one concert and complete a Personal Music Project each term.

#### 2305

**Choir 1 Boys Choir Tenor/Bass:** Beginning choir is an introduction to music and the beginning of vocal training. Students will learn the skills necessary to be a contributing member of a choir. Students will learn about and demonstrate proper singing skills and effective rehearsal habits. Students will learn how to read choral music, how to work in a group, how to develop personal vocal skills and much more. Students will participate in one concert and complete a Personal Music Project each term.

#### 2316

**Music Exploration** (Fine Art): Students in this class will be introduced to the world of music through a variety of experiences including listening, performing, creating, and analyzing music.

#### 2502

**Theater I** (Fine Art): If you love being on stage, this is the place to start. This course is an introduction to the basic elements and disciplines involved in Theater, public speaking and musical performance. Activities include storytelling, poetry, musical theater, debate, pantomime, improvisation, relaxation, and dramatic performance.

#### 2503

**Theater 2** (Fine Art): In this course students will explore acting techniques more fully. Students will work as groups and individuals to focus on performance techniques including pantomime, lip syncing, physical acting, characterization, monologues, oratory, scenes, one acts and directing.  
*Pre-requisite: Theater 1.*

#### 4154

**Literature Survey (Book Club):** This course can be taken in either the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade year but not both. Students are expected to be reading on grade level or above according to their RI score. This class is tailored to students who enjoy reading and discussing literature. Strategies for reading comprehension and high-level literary discussion will be covered. Students will be required to read outside of class in preparation for classroom discussion. Books in a variety of genres will be explored.

#### 4335

**Creative Writing 1** (Elective): This course is designed to give young writers the guidance and the inspiration to create written works of art. They will be led through a variety of writing styles and genres to broaden their experience with these literary forms. Emphasis will be placed on the creativity of the work over the precise accuracy of the mechanics, though there will be practice to improve spelling and punctuation throughout the semester.

#### 5920

**Stem Exploration (Recreational Math):** An investigative elective math course offered to 8th or 9th grade students for one semester. This course is designed help students realize the vastness, complexity and beauty of real mathematics. This course is structured around investigations, discovery and wonder. The course covers a smattering of carefully sequenced topics including: learning about conjectures and how to actually prove something to be true, investigating your choice of other mathematical fields (topology, string theory, non-Euclidean geometry, knot theory etc.), how irrational numbers like Phi relate to nature and art (we do sidewalk chalk

art), discussions about difficult questions (does  $0.999\dots = 1$ ?), methods for identifying intelligent design in data (is it real or fake data?), learning to code for the purpose of furthering mathematical investigations (using the language of Ruby), looking into the history of mathematics and also into new frontiers (interview with modern-day U of U mathematician), applications of mathematics in engineering (and making rockets with the University of Utah), and a mini unit introducing students to calculus (honestly not that scary or hard). Assignments take the form of presentations, videos, posters, learning to code, timelines, sidewalk chalk art, and more. This course is nothing like your regular math class. It will forever change the way you think about math. Consider taking advantage of this unique opportunity, as it is only offered at Fairfield Junior High and nowhere else in the state of Utah.

### **6600**

**Hacking STEM:** This STEM focused class is a true problem-solving course. You will delve into sensor development, coding and electronics as you engage in innovation and invention! If you are looking for some real relevant STEM experiences, this is it. This class will get you wondering about the world, making sense of how things work, and solving some hard problems in a collaborative creative environment.

### **7403**

**FCS Exploration (FACS) (Technology):** Do you want to eat while you're at school? Do you like to work with your hands? Do you feel stressed? Worried about relationships? Do you like to engage in hands-on, creative projects? Do you want to design your own room? Use your creativity? Then FCS Exploration is for you! This course provides every student with the opportunity to develop essential skills in the various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences which include food and nutrition, childcare, interior design, clothing and textile construction, family relationships/personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks.

*Highly recommended as a prerequisite for Sports Outdoor Sewing, Child Development, Interior Design, and Foods.*

### **7775**

**Python 1 (Technology):** 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 student without prior programming experience.

### **7776**

**Python 2 (Technology):** This is a continuation of Python 1, and delves deeper into the content. 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 the Python programming language for students with prior programming experience. *Prerequisite: Python 1 Coding*

### **7810**

**Exploring Technology 1 (Technology):** Exploring Technology is a comprehensive, action-based course where students will use the design process to solve problems as they create models and build prototypes from a variety of materials (including 3-D printing). This course introduces students to technological systems in areas such as: engineering, medicine/agriculture/biotechnology, energy/power/transportation, information/communications, manufacturing, and construction. Students will develop problem-solving skills, improve career awareness, and relate technology to math and science. Emphasis is placed on broad exploration in cooperative and individualized activities in a 'hands-on' classroom.

### **7811**

**Exploring Technology 2 (Technology):** This is a comprehensive, action-based course that continues students study of technology and its impact on society. Students will develop problem-solving skills, and build understanding of the relationship between science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will explore engineering and several technology areas as they create models and prototypes using the engineering design process.

*Pre-requisite: Exploring Technology 1*