

HUFFMAN

Middle School



6th Grade

Course Guide

HUFFMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Selection/Schedule Changes

Counselors meet with students early in the spring to provide course requirements and information for the next school year. Students will fill out a course selection sheet with their parent/guardian, and return it to the homeroom teacher by the due date (See course selection sheet). During the months of April or May, students will be able to login to Skyward to view the courses they are signed up for. At this time, changes can be made until the end of the school year by reaching out to the appropriate middle school counselor. Students can pick up their tentative schedule during open house in August. All students will receive their final schedule on the first day of school.

Students may make corrections/changes to their schedule during the first week of school by filling out a schedule change form using the qr code or link. Students should allow two weeks for the schedule changes/corrections to be completed by the counselors.

On-Level Courses

On-level core classes prepare students for college and post-secondary instruction using a variety of teaching strategies, student activities, and assessments. The curriculum requires students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills as well as master core content.

Advanced and Accelerated Courses

Advanced and Accelerated classes move at a faster pace with an increased level of rigor than On-Level classes. These classes may have more homework than standard courses and may typically require more reading, writing, and independent practice.

- Huffman Middle School's On-Level curriculum is a college-bound curriculum.
- While Advanced courses are designed to better prepare students for advanced academic coursework, middle school Advanced courses are not a requirement for enrolling in AP and dual credit courses in high school.
- Some Advanced courses have course prerequisites that must be completed. Check the course catalog for prerequisites.
- Advanced courses are not "all or nothing." Students may take one or more of their core classes as advanced.
- Students develop academic readiness at different rates and may not be ready for Advanced classes at the same time as their friends or classmates.

Advanced Courses (ELA and Social Studies)

Advanced classes are designed to challenge motivated students and prepare them for success in college level course work in high school and beyond. These Advanced courses move at a faster pace, are more academically challenging and require more independent learning than on-level courses. When selecting Advanced courses, it is important to keep the following in mind:

- Although there may be qualifications for ELA and Social Studies, it is possible to move from on-level to advanced sections from one year to the next. Details for Mathematics and Science classes can be found in the Accelerated course section below.

Accelerated Courses (Math and Science)

Accelerated classes are designed for students to progress through the instructional material at a faster rate so that they can complete high school credit classes during their 8th grade year. Students enrolled

in Accelerated courses will cover 4 years of material during their 3 years in middle school. The course sequence allows for students to have opportunities for advanced coursework in high school.

- Students wishing to take the high school credit Math and Science classes in 8th grade, must take the accelerated Math and Science courses for both 6th and 7th grade.
- STAAR Exams: Students enrolled in Algebra I in 8th grade will take the Algebra I EOC. Students enrolled in IPC in 8th grade will take the 8th grade science STAAR.

Advanced and Accelerated Course Entry Qualifications

The purpose of the Advanced and Accelerated course entry guidelines is to provide information to facilitate appropriate placement of students in academically challenging courses.

- Huffman ISD recognizes the value of student participation in advanced academic coursework and encourages students to graduate from high school with at least one advanced academic course credit such as AP or dual credit. Students are encouraged to access the most rigorous curriculum in which they can be successful, generally defined as earning a B or better semester average.
- Students should recognize the long term benefits of participation, seek assistance when needed, and be committed to staying in the course for a minimum of one semester.
- To enroll in these courses, the student must meet *at least one* of the following criteria below:
 - o shows demonstration of mastery (Masters) on course-related state-mandated performance assessments (STAAR) in 5th grade, or
 - o earned an average of 80 or higher in that subject at the end of the previous school year and receives a rating of Meets on course-related state-mandated performance assessments (STAAR) in 5th grade, or
 - o for classes that do not have a state-mandated performance assessment, the student must earn an average of 80 or higher in that subject
- Progress for Advanced and Accelerated students will be monitored at the end of every grading period to determine continuation in the program. To maintain enrollment in these courses, the student must maintain an average of 80 or higher. Students that do not meet the requirements for remaining in the program will be reviewed by the Academic Placement Committee.

Credit for High School Courses Taken During Middle School

Middle school students completing high school courses at the middle school campus shall receive credit that applies toward both state and subject area graduation requirements, unless otherwise noted. Grade points for these courses shall not be awarded nor considered in determining high school class rank. A student who fails the first grading period of the high school credit course will be reviewed by the Academic Placement Committee to determine the student's continuation in the course.

Gifted and Talented

Middle school students who are currently identified as Gifted and Talented have the option of registering for a wide range of classes designed to meet their unique educational needs. Gifted and Talented students will be offered differentiated instruction through their Advanced and/or Accelerated course work. A student will maintain his/her GT classification if enrolled in one or more of the following classes:

6th grade: Math Acc., Science Acc., English Language Arts Advanced, and/or Social Studies Advanced.

7th grade: Math Acc., Science Acc., English Language Arts Advanced, and/or Social Studies Advanced.

8th grade: Alg. I, Integrated Physics & Chemistry, English Language Arts Adv., and/or Social Studies Adv.

Note: A GT student enrolled in Advanced and/or Accelerated classes, Algebra I, or Integrated Physics & Chemistry must meet the Advanced and Accelerated course entry requirements outlined at the top of this page.

STAAR

Students are required to take the state assessment called the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness or STAAR. STAAR emphasizes “readiness” standards, which are the knowledge and skills that are considered most important for success in the grade or subject that follows.

Middle school students will take the following STAAR exams in the following grades.

Sixth Grade: Reading and Mathematics

Seventh Grade: Reading and Mathematics

Eighth Grade: Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies

Parent Portal

Grades will also be posted for parents on our **Parent Portal** throughout the school year. This is a great way to keep up with grades, attendance, missing assignments, etc. Information can be found on the Huffman ISD website for creating an account.

Attendance

Attendance is taken for each class period, not just once a day. Students that are more than 10 minutes late to a class will be marked absent for that class period. Any student that is not in attendance 90% of the class period may be subject to lose credit for that course. Students absent for one or more class periods should turn a note in to the attendance office. Parents should know that the state of Texas only recognizes doctor’s notes as an excused absence.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Subject Area	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Reading/English Language Arts	full year	full year	full year
Mathematics	full year	full year	full year
Science	full year	full year	full year
Social Studies	full year Social Studies	full year Texas History	full year American History
Physical Education	full year	full year	-
Fine Arts	must complete one full year in middle school		
Technology		Computer 1	
Electives	may vary based on student course selection		

MIDDLE SCHOOL CORE CLASSES

English Language Arts

6th Grade English Language Arts / 6th Grade English Language Arts Advanced

7th Grade English Language Arts / 7th Grade English Language Arts Advanced

8th Grade English Language Arts / 8th Grade English Language Arts Advanced

Mathematics

6th Grade Mathematics / 6th Grade Mathematics Accelerated

7th Grade Math / 7th Grade Math Accelerated

8th Grade Math / Algebra I

Science

6th Grade Science / 6th Grade Science Accelerated

7th Grade Science / 7th Grade Science Accelerated

8th Grade Science / Integrated Physics & Chemistry (IPC)

History

6th Grade Social Studies / 6th Grade Social Studies Advanced

7th Grade Texas History / 7th Grade Texas History Advanced

8th Grade American History / 8th Grade American History Advanced

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSES

**** Elective classes are subject to change based on availability and student interest. ****

INTRODUCTION TO AGRICULTURE SCIENCE

This class will introduce the students to the world of agriculture and focus on leadership skills. If you are planning on showing a project for the Huffman FFA show in January you must sign up for this class.

ART I

This year long course explores the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. We will create art using a variety of styles and mediums.

BEGINNER BAND

This course is an introductory performance group aimed at teaching instrumental fundamentals of music. The class' primary focus is to prepare aspiring young musicians with basic skills necessary to join the performance and competition bands in 7th and 8th grade. Performances at the holiday and Spring concerts are required. This band has four after school rehearsals that are mandatory.

CHOIR I

This course provides a performance-based musical experience. Students will study vocal technique, breathing techniques, and placement of sound. Performance at the holiday and Spring concerts are required along with after school rehearsals.

DANCE I

Dance I students are introduced to the fundamentals of dance. Students will be learning several forms of dance; as well as the technique, vocabulary, & history that go with that form. A major focus is the kinesthetic awareness and expression that can be learned through movement. Students are expected to dress out daily for class and required to participate in the holiday and spring performances and rehearsals. (PE Credit)

DIGITAL DESIGN

In this course, students will work on how to type and learn the basic functions of a computer. In addition, they will learn basic coding computer languages, game coding, and website coding.

FALCON 101

Required for 6th Grade

This course is designed for incoming 6th graders. This is a required course that will introduce students to AVID strategies, character education, college/careers, and leadership strategies. The students will learn how to take Cornell Notes, along with organizational and time management strategies while exploring colleges and careers. Throughout the course, students will participate in leadership and character education activities while helping them transition into middle school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Coed)

Students will be provided opportunities to demonstrate the application of wellness concepts and principles to his/her daily life; to exhibit healthy decision-making abilities and developmentally appropriate levels of health-related fitness; and to demonstrate skills/competencies in a wide range of physical activities. (PE credit).

INTRO TO ATHLETICS (Boys/Girls)

Any student that wishes to participate in Athletics in 7th grade is highly encouraged to sign-up for this class. Students should anticipate daily workouts that are significantly more physical and mentally demanding than what they may experience in a regular PE class, such as weight lifting, physical conditioning, strength and agility training. (PE Credit)

THEATRE ARTS

This course introduces students to dramatic skills and techniques as well as theater and stage language. Basic areas explored are pantomime, puppetry, improvisation and acting. Students will be expected to participate in a spring performance.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

When is middle school registration? New student registration is usually about two weeks before school starts. Please watch the website for the dates. Information will be provided in the Spring. Most forms will be filled out on-line on Skyward. During registration, you will be able to pick your tentative classes. Students already enrolled in Huffman will just do re-registration on Skyward over the summer. At Open House, usually the week before school begins, you will pick up a tentative schedule, find out where your classes are located, visit with clubs and organizations to get information as well set up with transportation and nutrition if needed. In order to receive a schedule at Open House, the online registration must be completed for ALL students.

Will I get the classes I sign up for? Students should number their elective choices according to the **course selection card**. Students usually get the classes they select as their top choices. However, sometimes a class could be full, there may be conflict with another class they are taking or a class might be canceled due to availability (ex.: not enough students sign up, do not have a teacher for the class, etc.). When this happens the student will be assigned the next elective choice selected or available.

Do we have to wear ID badges? Yes, early in the school year you will get an ID badge to wear at all times. This is used for safety reasons as well as purchasing your lunch. If you lose your ID, you will need to have it replaced as soon as possible at a cost of \$5 or a temporary ID for \$1.

Do we get to use lockers? No, you will need a backpack to carry your supplies and notebooks around. You will have a laptop and charger checked out to you to bring to school daily.

Do we have assigned seating at lunch? No, you will be assigned a lunch time based on your class location during the lunch periods.

Is there a snack bar? Yes, during your lunch time you can choose to eat in the hot lunch line, the snack bar or kiosk. The snack bar offers a variety of foods and the kiosk offers a variety of salads. These menus are posted each month on the website.

What school supplies will we need? Each teacher will let you know what is needed when you go to your first class. Over the summer you can get basics such as journals and writing utensils to have for the first day.

When can we sign up for athletics? You can sign up for athletics in 7th and 8th grade. The coaches will discuss this with PE classes at the end of the school year and what the requirements are (tryouts, practices, etc).

Do students need a note if they change the way they go home one day? Students do not need a note to change the way they are getting home unless they are riding home on a different bus with another student.

How long do I have between classes to get from one class to another? Students have about 5 minutes to get to the next class. You will need to go quickly and not visit with friends between classes or you could be tardy. This is also the time you will need to go to the restroom or get a drink of water if needed.

Will we get our schedule before the end of the school year? No, you will pick up a tentative schedule during the Open House. Then new schedules will be passed out to all students on the first day of school.

Will I be able to make changes? Yes, once you receive your list of classes from the counselors you can make changes until the last day of school. Then once schedules are printed for Open House and the first day of school changes can be requested for the first week of school.

Is there a summer reading assignment for advanced classes? Yes, there is a reading assignment that is either required or used for extra credit for the Advanced ELA classes. We are preparing you for the high school AP classes that have a summer assignment for each AP class. Details will be given out later in the school year to those students who sign up and will be posted on the website.

Do I have to have a physical and ECG to be in 7th/8th grade athletics? Yes, and they are each offered by the school for about \$25. You can also have this done by your own doctor, but the DISTRICT forms, found on the HMS website, must be filled out by your doctor.

Parents and students should note that the content within this guide is subject to change based on teacher availability and student interest.