



ECISD Middle School Course Description Catalog 2024-2025



Course Descriptions

Advanced Theatre Arts

Tailored for students progressing to their second year after the successful completion of “Theatre Arts” in 7th grade. Building upon the foundational concepts acquired in Theatre 1, students deepen their inquiry and understanding of theatre. They'll further their knowledge of theatre terminology, delve into the intricate structures of plays, and explore the historical and cultural relevance of theatre, with an enriched focus on Shakespeare and other seminal playwrights. Play readings, performances, and specialized shows, such as Victorian puppetry, are age-appropriately designed to challenge and engage. As they refine their voice and movement techniques, students will also cultivate advanced audience etiquette and collaborative skills. Mastery of Theatre Arts prerequisites ensures a meaningful and enriched experience in this advanced exploration.

Algebra 1 (HS Credit)

Topics include recognizing and developing patterns using tables, graphs and equations. Algebra 1 is a High School credit course. Both Algebra 1 credit and passing the Algebra 1 EOC are required for high school graduation

Art 6A, 7A, 8A

This class is for first- time middle school art students. Students will be engaged in a variety of art projects throughout the year that emphasize on the essential basic elements and principles of art as well as learning about art appreciation and art history. This course will best prepare students for any future art classes taken in middle school.

Art 7B

This class is for middle school art students who have completed Art in the sixth grade. The first semester builds on the basic creative arts vocabulary, design, color, drawing, painting, collage, and assorted crafts the students learned in their first year of middle school art. Art history, art appreciation and art career are also studied. The second semester of Art continues the first semester by exploring further cartooning, printmaking, sculpture and related media, calligraphy and certain crafts. Concentrated studies of art history and cultures are included.

Art 1 (HS Credit)

This art class will fulfill the High School Fine Arts requirement needed for graduation. Students passing this course will receive one high school credit. Throughout the course, students will be familiarized with vocabulary, various art mediums, and tools. Students also analyze and critique artworks, discuss aesthetic issues, and understand how art is related to history and culture while exploring the elements and principles of art.

Athletics

The athletic class is a two-semester course for 7th and 8th grade students interested in participating in UIL competitive sports. When not in season, students will train in a strength and conditioning off-season program. This class will require students to work out daily in rigorous and challenging physical activities. You will be expected to dress out and participate on a daily basis. This course will prepare students for the behavioral and academic expectations associated with being a participating member of the Heritage Middle School athletics program. A sports physical is mandatory. (More information about Boys Athletics see page 6.)

Beginning Band

The Beginning Band is offered to all students who wish to learn how to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument and be a part of the Heritage Band Program. Students will learn how to read music and rhythm, learn how to produce characteristic tones on their instrument, learn basic music theory and music history. Also, through structured group and related activities, students develop self-discipline skills that help enhance other academic classes.

Biology 1 (HS Credit)

Students in Biology study a variety of topics that include: structures and functions of cells and viruses; growth and development of organisms; cells, tissues and organs; nucleic acids and genetics; biological evolution; taxonomy; metabolism and energy transfers in living organisms; living systems; homeostasis; ecosystems; plants and the environment. The student will gain experience in manipulating the conditions of a laboratory investigation and in evaluating the applications of biological principles in everyday life. Biology 1 is a High School credit course. Both Biology 1 credit and passing the Biology 1 EOC are required for graduation.

Choir 6 (Men's and Women's)

The Sixth grade choir will provide entry-level vocal training, music literacy and concert experience. This choir will perform and compete in various settings as well as participate in a variety of musical styles. Performances will take place outside of school time. This course is necessary for advanced placement in seventh and eighth grade choirs.

Chorale 7 and 8

No level of experience is required for Chorale 7 and 8. This choir is for ladies that are interested in developing their vocal technique and learning to read music. This is a year long course which will guide learner's growth in music literacy, vocal technique and aesthetic enjoyment. The Choir will perform in diverse settings; some performances and competitions will occur outside of school time. Students will explore the art of music, learn individual responsibility as a team member, and begin to develop the skills necessary for college scholarship opportunities.

College Career Military Readiness (CCMR)

This course is a year-long program that is built to provide the necessary skills for students to use to transition from middle school to high school to life after high school. 8th graders will have the opportunity to complete personality assessments, interest inventories, and conduct research on all of the available career pathways in order to develop an academic game plan that will help guide the students to select choices of careers that they are most interested in or that are most suitable for them. Students will explore ECISD Career Pathways and research the requirements and opportunities for potential careers, college/universities, and military opportunities.

Creative Writing

Students develop ways to practice their writing skills through the creative writing process in essays, short stories, poems, and plays. Students evaluate and analyze their own writing as well as the writing of others. Students are given the opportunity to explore publishing in a literary magazine or develop a web page as a resource for displaying their writing.

Dance PE 7 and 8

Dance is a PE elective for girls and boys. Students will learn a variety of dance styles and be introduced to a variety of different dance styles from different cultures. Styles include: Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, Ballet, Lyrical, Character and Tumbling. Students will learn dance techniques and dance combinations. Students will have the opportunity to choreograph their own dances as well as choreography from others.

You will need to purchase ballet or jazz shoes and tap shoes. The attire for this class is black pants for girls, black wind pants for boys and the Heritage dance shirt.

Discovering Language & Cultures (Spanish Enrichment Program)

Students will explore a variety of aspects of the Spanish language and culture to develop basic language learning and communicative skills. Through this learning, students will become aware of multiple perspectives which lead to an appreciation of difference and diversity and an appropriate understanding of cultural context to help them be successful participants in the world community. Communication is the overarching goal of this course. Students will be provided opportunities to engage in conversations, to present information to an audience, and to interpret culturally authentic materials in the language of study. This will be done through the use of authentic Spanish text and resources.

Encore (6th grade)

Encore is a 6th Grade elective choice in which students will develop life skills. A take on “adulting 101” with a focus on keyboarding, creative writing, kitchen and household basics, consumer basics, physical, mental, and emotional health, and more. Students will be given an opportunity to vote on some of their own learning throughout the year.

Honor Band 7 and 8

The Honor Band is the non-varsity concert band and consists of students with intermediate level instrumental performance skills. Students will have performance opportunities throughout the school year, as well as participating in competitions. Students are expected to maintain passing grades in all academic classes in order to take full advantage of all band activities. Placement in the Honor Band is based on musical growth throughout the previous school year. 1-2 years of playing experience; audition and teacher recommendations are required.

Honor Choir 7 and 8

Ladies that have achieved a desired level of proficiency in voice may be considered to participate in this advanced chorale group. This is a year-long course which will guide learner’s growth in music literacy, vocal technique and aesthetic enjoyment. The Choir will perform in diverse settings; some performances and competitions will occur outside of school time. Students will explore the art of music, learn individual responsibility as a team member, and begin to develop the skills necessary for college scholarship opportunities.

Into to Robotics (6th grade)

This is a beginning course in robotics. We will be utilizing VEX IQ kits, VEX IQ software and various VEX Robotics materials. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a VEX IQ robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops. Student designed robots will be programmed to complete various course challenges.

Journalism 1

Students in this course will be introduced to the fundamentals of journalism. During their first semester students will write and produce photos for our school newspaper the Hurricane Watch. Students will learn how to produce news, sports, editorials, columns, and features. Students will also explore the history of journalism and review key court cases regarding the free press.

Men’s Choir 7 and 8

This is a year long elective which will guide growth in music literacy, vocal technique and aesthetic enjoyment. The Men’s Choir will perform in diverse settings; some performances and competitions will occur outside of school time. Students will explore the art of music, learn individual responsibility as a team member and begin to develop the skills necessary for college scholarship opportunities.

Music Appreciation Level 1 (6th grade)

This is a year long class for those interested in a non-performing music class. Students will learn how to appreciate music of all kinds. We will cover different styles of music, music history, music careers and musical cultures.

Pre-Athletics

This is a year-long course designed to prepare incoming 6th grade students and parents for successful participation in the middle school athletic program. Students who select this course have a strong desire and plan on competing in UIL sports during their 7th and 8th grade year. This class will require students to work out daily in rigorous and challenging physical activities. You will be expected to dress out and participate on a daily basis. This course will prepare students for the behavioral and academic expectations associated with being a participating member of the Heritage Middle School athletics program.

Principles of Applied Engineering (HS Credit)

This course provides an introductory overview to the various fields and processes of engineering. Upon completing this course, students will understand the various engineering fields and will be able to make informed decisions regarding a coherent sequence of future courses in engineering. This course is a prerequisite for all future courses in engineering. This course is designed for a student on the Engineering pathway and a high school credit course.

Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance (HS Credit)

This course is a project based learning course that allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems and settings in business, marketing, and finance. We will focus on the roles of business in the lives of individuals, consumers, workers and citizens. This course will cover real world applications such as career planning and preparation, entrepreneurship, sales, and personal financial budgeting. Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance is a High School credit course and satisfies the high school transition requirement.

Principles of Hospitality and Tourism (HS Credit)

This course is a project based learning course that teaches students how to identify, develop, and promote tourism and hospitality products and services within the hotel, travel, and restaurant industry. Issues such as marketing, sales, advertising, and promotion for the tourism and hospitality industry will be explored. This course will cover real world applications such as career planning and preparation, travel planning, culinary skills, restaurant management, and personal financial budgeting. Principles of Hospitality and Tourism is a High School credit course and satisfies the high school transition requirement.

Robotics 1 (HS Credit)

In Robotics I, students will transfer academic skills to component designs in a project-based environment through implementation of the design process. Students will build prototypes or use simulation software to test their designs. Additionally, students will explore career opportunities, employer expectations, and educational needs in the robotic and automation industry. It is recommended that students complete the Intro to Robotics course and the Principles of Applied Engineering course prior to this course. Robotics 1 is a High School credit course.

Spanish 1 (HS Credit)

This course is taught at the high school curriculum level. Students passing this course will receive one high school credit towards foreign language credits requirement for graduation. This course emphasizes listening, conversational speaking, reading and writing skills. Activities will be conducted to provide insights into the culture and history of Spanish language.

Spanish 2 (HS Credit)

Prerequisite: Spanish 1

This course is also taught at the high school curriculum level. Students passing this course will receive one required foreign language credit towards graduation. This course emphasizes advanced listening, conversational speaking, reading and writing skills. Activities will provide advanced insights into the culture and history of the Spanish language.

Spanish 3 Honors (Spanish Enrichment Program – HS credit)

This course's goal is for students to learn to communicate in a variety of ways. Students will engage in direct oral and written communication with others. Students will also demonstrate their understanding of the Spanish language through oral presentations of information, concepts, and ideas. This will be done through the use of culturally authentic materials in Spanish. Spanish 3 is part of the Spanish Enrichment program. Spanish 3 Honors is a High School credit course.

Symphonic Band 1

The primary goal of Symphonic 1 is to provide students with an opportunity to strengthen musical and technical skills on their instruments. Students will have opportunities for concert performances and competitions. Students are expected to maintain passing grades in all academic classes in order to take full advantage of all band activities. 1-2 years of playing experience; audition and teacher recommendations are required.

Teen Leadership

Teen Leadership is a program in which students develop leadership, professional, and business skills. Throughout the semester, we will help each other build healthy relationships, and learn to understand the concept of personal responsibility. Students will also be developing skills in public speaking and communication and an understanding of personal image. Most importantly, our group will work together to become better family members and citizens. We will cover the following: personal responsibility and principle-based decision making, leadership skills and goal setting, public speaking and communication skills, social skills and healthy relationships, and conflict resolution and peer mediation.

Theatre Arts

Designed for beginning theatre students, this course aligns with the Middle School Theatre TEKS. Students delve into the foundations of theatre by developing concepts about self, human relationships, and the environment using drama elements and theatre conventions. They'll gain an understanding of theatrical terminology, explore the rich history and cultural relevance of theatre, including key figures like Shakespeare, and engage in age-appropriate play readings. Emphasizing both performance and production, learners will enhance their voice and movement techniques, practice audience etiquette, and immerse in creative expressions, from puppetry to dramatizations. The course serves as a comprehensive introduction, setting the stage for deeper theatre exploration.

Wind Ensemble

The Wind Ensemble is the Varsity concert band and consists of students with advanced level instrumental performance skills. Placement in the Wind Ensemble is based on musical growth throughout the previous school year. Students will have performance opportunities throughout the school year, as well as participating in competitions. Students are expected to maintain passing grades in all academic classes in order to take full advantage of all band activities. Placement in the Wind Ensemble is based on musical growth throughout the previous school year. 1-2 years of playing experience, audition and teacher recommendations are required.

Yearbook

Students in this course have the opportunity to create the school's yearbook publication. A prerequisite for this course is Journalism 1 taken during the student's 7th grade year. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in yearbook marketing events throughout the year. Students will learn professional photography techniques, creating professional page layouts, and creating effective yearbook copy.

Middle School Academic Information

Academic Support Classes for Core Content

Students may be placed in academic support classes on a case by case basis as per committee decision based on student academic performance. Parents will be notified. This course will replace an elective choice.

Biology/Pre-Bio

Incoming 6th grade middle school students may choose PreBiology, an accelerated Science program. These students will be enrolled for 6th grade and 7th grade PreBiology during their 6th and 7th grade year. This program allows students to study 6th, 7th and 8th grade science curriculum in two years. This allows students to enroll in Biology 1 in 8th grade and earn a high school credit. Students must pass the Biology 1 End of Course Examination for high school graduation.

Fine Arts

All middle school students are required to take one Fine Art course during their middle school years.

Humanities

Information will be distributed in May to discuss summer reading. Humanities course encompasses both ELAR and Social Studies curriculum and is a blocked course.

PE

All middle school students are required to take a minimum of two physical education classes during their middle school years. Students will be required to dress out and participate in physical activity on a daily basis. 8th grade students (who have taken their two years of physical education) are not required to take PE and are encouraged to enroll in HS credit courses. 8th grade PE is not a HS credit course.

Honors Courses

Honors courses are academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The curricula for the courses are built on the core academic curriculum following the Texas Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) expectations for each course. Honors English Language Arts Reading (ELAR) and Social Studies are offered at the 6th, 7th and 8th grade levels.

Spanish Enrichment Program

Those students who were previously in the ECISD dual language program are encouraged to maintain enrollment in the Spanish Enrichment Program and enroll in the following each year:

6th grade: SLAR

7th grade: Spanish 3 Honors (HS Credit)

8th grade: Discovering Language and Cultures

HS Transition Course

Every 8th grade student will be enrolled in a High School transition class. Students can choose between CCMR, Principles of Hospitality and Tourism, Robotics 1, or Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance.

Middle School Boys Athletics

Boys Football Athletics 7th and 8th

Boys in 7th or 8th grade will enroll in Football 7 or Football 8 if you plan on playing Football during football season.

Boy Athletics 7th and 8th

This course is for boys in 7th or 8th grade that are not planning on playing football. In this course you are required to try-out a minimum of two sports. This class will require students to work out daily in rigorous and challenging physical activities. You will be expected to dress out and participate on a daily basis. A sports physical is mandatory.

6th Grade Course Selection Form

1: Select track for Core Content:	<input type="checkbox"/> 6th Grade Level	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Academics Track	
1A: Select if you are in the Spanish Enrichment Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Enrichment Program <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Spanish Enrichment Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Enrichment Program <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Spanish Enrichment Program	
1B: Select which Adv Academic Track		<input type="checkbox"/> Honors	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities
2: Select which Physical Ed:	____ 8006 Physical Ed ____ 8176 Pre-Ath Boys ____ 8076 Pre-Ath Girls		
3: Select Electives: <i>(6th grade requirement – Choose three electives by writing in #1 and #2 and #3 based on choice.)</i>	____ 5036 Beginning Band 6 ____ 5106 Women's Choir 6 ____ 5135 Men's Choir 6 ____ 6052 Intro to Robotics ____ 5016 Art 6 ____ 6065 Theatre Arts 6 ____ 5165 Music Appreciation 6		

7th Grade Course Selection Form

1: Select track for Core Content:	<input type="checkbox"/> 7th Grade Level Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Academics Track	
1A: Select if you are in the Spanish Enrichment Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Enrichment Program <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Spanish Enrichment Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Enrichment Program <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Spanish Enrichment Program	
1B: Select which Adv Academic Track		<input type="checkbox"/> Honors	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities
2: Select one Physical Ed:	<div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> 8017 PE 7-8 <input type="checkbox"/> 8880 Dance <input type="checkbox"/> 8207 Football 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8177 Ath -Boys 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 8077 Ath -Girls 7 </div>		
3: *Select Electives: <i>(7th grade requirement – Choose three electives by writing in #1, #2 and #3 based on choice.)</i>	<div style="text-align: right;"> <input type="checkbox"/> 5017 Art 7A <input type="checkbox"/> 5027 Art 7B <input type="checkbox"/> 5539 Creative Writing <input type="checkbox"/> 6000 Journalism 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 5037 Beg Band <input type="checkbox"/> 5079 Wind Ensemble 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 5107 Honor Band <input type="checkbox"/> 5136 Men’s Choir 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 5168 Women's Choral 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 5186 Honor Choir 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 6066 Theatre Arts 7 <input type="checkbox"/> 5002 Spanish 1 (HS Credit) <input type="checkbox"/> 5053 Spanish 3 Honors (HS Credit - Spanish Enrichment Program) <input type="checkbox"/> 5000 Teen Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> 7115 Principles of Engineering (HS Credit) </div>		

8th Grade Course Selection Form

1: Select track for Core Content:	<input type="checkbox"/> 8th Grade Level Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Academic Track	
1A: Select if you are in the Spanish Enrichment Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Enrichment Program <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Spanish Enrichment Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Spanish Enrichment Program <input type="checkbox"/> Not in Spanish Enrichment Program	
1B: Select which Adv Academic Track		<input type="checkbox"/> Honors	<input type="checkbox"/> Humanities
2: Select one Physical Ed: PE is not required if a student has completed two years of MS PE or athletics.	<input type="checkbox"/> 8880 Dance <input type="checkbox"/> 8208 Football 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 8018 Ath -Boys 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 8008 Ath -Girls 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8880 Dance <input type="checkbox"/> 8208 Football 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 8018 Ath -Boys 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 8008 Ath -Girls 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 8880 Dance <input type="checkbox"/> 8208 Football 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 8018 Ath -Boys 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 8008 Ath -Girls 8
3: Select one Transition Course:	<input type="checkbox"/> 5809 CCMR <input type="checkbox"/> 7550 Principles of Hospitality and Tourism (HS Credit) <input type="checkbox"/> 6060 Principles of Business, Marketing and Finance (HS Credit)		
4: Select Electives: <i>(8th grade requirement – Choose three electives by writing in #1, #2 and #3 based on choice.)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 5019 Art 1 (HS Credit) <input type="checkbox"/> 5539 Creative Writing <input type="checkbox"/> 6000 Journalism 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 6023 Yearbook <input type="checkbox"/> 5040 Beginning Band 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 5210 Wind Ensemble 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 5110 Honor Band 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 5137 Men’s Choir 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 5169 Chorale 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 5187 Honor Choir 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 6067 Theatre Arts 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 6068 Adv Theatre Arts <input type="checkbox"/> 5002 Spanish 1 (HS Credit) <input type="checkbox"/> 5052 Spanish 2 (HS Credit) <input type="checkbox"/> 5804 Discovering Language and Cultures (Spanish Enrichment Program) <input type="checkbox"/> 6062 Robotics 1 (HS Credit) <input type="checkbox"/> 5000 Teen Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> 7115 Principles of Applied Engineering (HS Credit)		