

William Mendenhall Middle School
8th GRADE COURSES

COURSE	TYPE OF COURSE	DESCRIPTION
English	Required Course	This is a systematic literature-based course that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for seventh grade English/Language Arts. The course integrates reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language skills using StudySync (a complete ELA online and print curriculum), core novels, and more.
Social Science	Required Course	This course is aligned with the California State Standards for eighth grade social science. The course covers United States history and geography: growth and conflict. Students will study the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to World War I.
Honors English and Social Science	Optional Course in lieu of regular English/Social Studies	The honors core classes cover the same material as regular core, but examine the concepts in greater depth. Additionally, the honors core classes will require a rigorous analysis of literature, additional written work, and more in-depth class discussion.
Mathematics	Required Course	Math courses at Mendenhall are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. Please refer to the "Math Course Selection Sheet" to choose the appropriate math course. STUDENTS - please discuss with your current teacher and your parents/guardians about which class you feel is most appropriate for you.
Science	Required Course	This course is aligned with the California State Standards for eighth grade science. Students will be doing group and individual assignments focusing on physical science. Students will learn about motion, forces, structure of matter, earth in the solar system, reactions, chemistry of living systems, the periodic table, density and buoyancy, and investigation and experimentation.
Physical Education	Required Course	This course follows the California State Standards for eighth grade Physical Education. Students will participate in a program emphasizing active participation, fitness, and motor development. Appropriate physical education attire is required.

Advanced Band	Elective Course	Students will be playing woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. The school may provide instruments for students playing French horn, baritone horn, or tuba. All other instruments should be provided by the student. Two years of instruction on a band instrument is required of each student taking the course. Attendance at all performances is required.
Advanced Orchestra	Elective Course	Students will be playing a stringed instrument. The school may provide instruments for students playing viola, cello, or bass. All other instruments should be provided by the student. Two years of instruction on a string instrument or teacher approval is required of each student taking the course. Attendance at all performances is required.
Art	Elective Course	Students will create a variety of two dimensional art using pencil, pen, tempera paint, water color, and acrylic paint. Techniques will be taught to improve artistic abilities, including shading, one point perspective and proportions when drawing. Additionally, they will have fun making three dimensional art projects using wire, clay, soapstone, and paper-mache. Projects include shields, masks, and a variety of sculptures.
Leadership	Elective Course	Students in this class organize many campus activities. These activities include dances, noontime activities, community service projects, dress-up days, staff appreciation projects, campus improvement, and fundraisers. By participating in this class, each student's basic leadership skills will be improved and the school as a whole will benefit. Students must complete an application - applications are available in the office. Space is limited.
Spanish 1B	Elective Course	This course is an introduction to the Spanish language. Students must have a grade of "C" or better in Spanish 1A. Students will begin learning the Spanish language through listening, speaking, writing, and reading in the language. This is the second half to a two-year course. If students are successful in the two-year program, they will be recommended to take Spanish 2 when they go to high school.
STEM 1	Elective Course	STEM stands for Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics. STEM 1 exposes students to various aspects of Design and Modeling as well as Automation and Robotics.
STEM 2	Elective Course	STEM stands for Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics. STEM 2 exposes students to various aspects of Green Architecture, Energy and Environment, and Flight and Space. NOTE - it is not necessary to take STEM 1 prior to taking STEM 2.
TA	Elective Course	A student may be an assistant for the main office, library, or for a specific teacher. Students are graded "Pass"/"Fail". Students must complete an application - applications are available in the office.
Vocal Music	Optional Course	This is an elective course designed to introduce students

	(Students will be required to take a "0" period class)	to the musical concepts of tone, pitch, rhythm, and music reading. This course will offer students the opportunity to learn the basics of vocal production. As members of a choral ensemble students will be exposed to a variety of music styles. Attendance at all performances is required.
Woodshop	Elective Course	Students will be taught the basics of industrial technology: safety, woodworking, and mechanical drawing.
Yearbook	Elective Course	In the fall semester, students will publish the Mendenhall yearbook. Class curriculum will include desktop publishing using computer technology, and photography using both regular and digital cameras. Students will have an opportunity to select the yearbook theme and serve as editor or assistant editors. In the spring semester, students will finish the yearbook and then have an opportunity to complete technology projects. Some of these include the use of digital camcorders and video editing equipment. Students must complete an application - applications are available in the office.