**East Avenue Middle School**
**8th GRADE COURSES**

| COURSE | TYPE OF COURSE | DESCRIPTION |
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| **English** | Required Course | This is a literature-based program that is aligned with the California State Standards for eighth grade Language Arts. Students meet for two periods to study English and Social Studies. The course of study in English includes work in writing, grammar, language mechanics, vocabulary, and spelling. Writing instruction includes work in all genres of writing with a special focus on narrative, persuasion, response to literature, and summary using the district four point writing rubric. |
| **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 study Colonial America up through and including the early 1900's. They trace the development of American politics, society, culture, and economics. Students practice intellectual reasoning, reflection, and research skills in the content of their study. |
| **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 East Ave. are aligned with the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics. **STUDENTS - please discuss with your current teacher and your parents/guardians about which class you feel is most appropriate for you.** |
| **Science** | Required Course | 8th Grade Science studies Physics, Chemistry, and Astronomy. These primary content areas are subdivided into the following State of California Science Standards: The nature of matter, the periodic table, atoms and bonding, chemical reactions, carbon chemistry, motion and energy, forces, forces in fluids, earth, moon, and sun, exploring space, the solar system, stars, galaxies, and the universe. Science teaching strategies include: hands-on labs, virtual labs, student projects, report and presentation, whole class reading, whole class discussion, teacher lecture with student questions and discussion, group work, group reading and discussion, science video presentations, quizzes, pre-testing and tests. Course content and delivery are interactively differentiated to maximize student interest, participation, needs, strengths, and overall science learning. |
| **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. |
| **STEM** | Elective Course | STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics) is a cutting-edge program that addresses the interest and energy of middle school students, while incorporating national standards in mathematics, science, and technology. STEM Exploration is "activity oriented" to show students how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems in units of study. There are 6 instructional units, where 3 units will be taught over the course of 1 school year: Design & Modeling, Automation & Robotics, Energy & The Environment, Flight & Space, Science of Technology, and Magic of Electrons. The instructional units motivate students to use their imaginations and teach them to be creative and innovative, while gaining the skills they need to develop, produce, and use products and services. The S.T.E.M. Exploration curriculum provides project-based learning, a hands-on approach, that is exciting and fun for the full-range of students and that relates technology to students' daily lives. It also promotes communication and collaboration by emphasizing a teaming approach in the instructional units. This approach utilizes the strengths of each team member to accomplish the goals of the project, while offering students learning challenges at all ability levels. |
| **Art** | Elective Course | The Art class at East Avenue is open to 7th and 8th grade students. Students will work with a variety of media including design, drawing, watercolor painting, creation of posters, and ceramics. Students complete cartoons and designs in color, two-point perspective drawings, collages, posters, watercolor paintings, pastels and hand-built and wheel thrown ceramic projects. The |

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| | | class will employ some technology including learning how to create slide shows, manipulating a photo and writing a news article, and using digital photos to describe a song. Slide shows will reflect a variety of themes, such as careers and tolerance. Additionally, students will learn how to manipulate graphics and create photo essays.<br>Careful consideration is given to a student's individual capabilities concerning creative instinct, coordination, and finished craftsmanship in Art. Some students are instinctively more creative and coordinated than others, and this is taken into consideration upon evaluation. |
| **Multi-Media Art** | Elective Course | This year-long elective art course changes focus each trimester: digital photography, ceramics, and computer graphics/animation. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of each medium, the equipment, and the materials. The course will emphasize hands-on projects but will also require some written work. Students will use software to manipulate photographs and produce graphics/animations in innovative and creative ways. Students are encouraged to provide their own digital camera for the digital photography portion of the course, but a limited number of cameras will be available for student use. |
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| **Advanced Band** | Elective Course | This class is open to students with a minimum of one year of instruction on a band instrument. The school can provide some instruments for students who are interested in playing French horn, trombone, baritone horn, or tuba. Switching instruments is permitted only with prior approval of the Middle School music teacher. The student must provide all other band instruments. **Attendance at all performances is mandatory.** |
| **Advanced Orchestra** | Elective Course | Students will be playing a stringed instrument. Prerequisite: This class is open to students with a minimum of one year of instruction on an orchestra instrument (violin, viola, cello or bass). The school can provide a few instruments for students who are interested in playing cello or bass. **Attendance at all performances is mandatory**. |
| **Choir/ Vocal Music** | Elective Course | In this class, students will work on basic vocal techniques and learn basic concepts of music, such as rhythm, notation, and articulation. Students will learn and perform a variety of musical selections. No experience is required. **Attendance at all performances is mandatory.** |
| **Strength and Conditioning** | Elective Course | This elective gives students with the opportunity to participate in strength training, physical conditioning and other health-enhancing forms of physical activity. Students will participate in a variety of sports including badminton, tennis, hockey, touch rugby, dodgeball, Frisbee-golf, bocce, bowling and softball. Students will use exercise machines, free weights, a rock wall, circuit training and group exercise (including but not limited to yoga, step aerobics, cardio kickboxing, and Pilates) to improve health-related fitness. Through group discussion and hands-on activities, students will come away with a greater understanding of the benefits of lifelong physical activity, and the skills to maintain a well-rounded lifetime fitness plan. |
| **Leadership** | Elective Course – application required/ space limited | The Leadership Class has two main objectives: to serve East Avenue Middle School and to develop student's leadership skills.<br>To meet our objectives, the program is two-fold:<br>1) Students will be assigned to committees to do on-going work for East Avenue. Committees include activities, student/staff recognition, and grounds.<br>2) Students will be assigned speeches, class activities, research and service projects, posters, and bulletin announcements.<br>Leadership students should be enthusiastic supporters of our school. Students will be graded based on their participation in class activities and fulfillment of assignments. Students should have at least a 2.0 grade point average on their second trimester report card this year and maintain a 2.0 G.P.A. while in leadership. Also, a student should have NO grades lower than a C-.<br>The final class list will be based on teacher and administrator recommendations. Students must be willing to work 800 minutes per trimester outside of |

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| | | class helping at dances, selling tickets at lunch, etc. Repeated Time Out referrals, suspension from school for any reason, or a D or F on their report card will be grounds for removal from the Leadership Class.<br>**An application is required for admission to leadership.** The application can be obtained from the office kiosk. |
| **Spanish 1B** | Elective Course | Eighth grade students who enroll in Spanish must be students who have successfully completed the seventh grade year of Spanish. Successful completion of two years of a language (during 7th and 8th grades) will allow them, as ninth grade students, to register for the second year of language at the high school, dependant upon teacher recommendation and assessed student proficiency at the time. |
| **Spanish for Spanish Speakers** | Elective Course | The course Spanish for Spanish Speakers (at the middle school level) is a three trimester course designed for students whose primary language is Spanish and who would benefit from further development of academic Spanish. This is a course taught primarily in Spanish to assist Spanish-speaking students in mastering their primary language. The emphasis of this course will be to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in Spanish. The focus will be on acquiring and reinforcing listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills including the structures of Spanish grammar. Students will learn how to read and analyze fundamental literature. To participate in the course, students should have had exposure to Spanish, including a grammatical basis, and be able to express ideas in spoken and written form. The class provides students the opportunity to study and learn about the Spanish language and syntax, the culture and history associated with Spanish-speaking countries, and literary works written in Spanish. |
| TA | Elective Course | A student may be an assistant for the main office, library, or for a specific teacher. Students must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 GPA and have a good behavior record. Students can list names of teachers (or office, library, etc) that they would like to assist to aid in selection process. Teachers will choose TAs as space allows. Please note: Students may be assigned to a teacher they did not list. |
| **Math Targeted Support 7/8** | Administrative Placement in lieu of elective | This course is designed specifically for students who are not proficient in at least one math area (e.g., proportional relationships, rational numbers, linear functions, etc.) as measured by state and/or school-based assessments. Students take this course in addition to the required grade-level math course. Strategic Math 7/8 blends direct group instruction with a web-based, adaptive program that provides one-on-one individualized support to students in the areas in which they are not yet proficient. This blended approach is intended to support students in reaching proficiency and "promoting" out of the course and into an elective (e.g., Multi-Media Art) at the end of the trimester in which proficiency is reached. |

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| **Reading Comprehension Targeted Support 7/8** | Administrative Placement in lieu of elective | This year-long course is designed specifically for students who are reading at least one grade level below their current grade as measured by the Accelerated Reading (AR) Program reading comprehension assessments. Students take this course in addition to the required grade-level English Language Arts course. Strategic Reading Comprehension 7/8 blends direct group instruction with a web-based, adaptive program that provides one-on-one individualized support to students in reading comprehension. This blended approach is intended to support students in reaching comprehension proficiency at their current grade level so they can be more successful in every subject area. |
| **Beginning Ukulele** | Elective | Students will be led through a year long course to introduce them to the ukulele. The course will be split into several units that cover various aspects of understanding the instrument and the music that can be created with it. Students will also learn basic maintenance of the instrument, how to change strings, and how to tune and maintain tuning. . |