

Aledo Middle School

McAnally Middle School



2025-2026

Academic Planning Guide

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GENERAL INFORMATION

ENROLLMENT

A student enrolling in the district for the first time must be accompanied by his/her parent(s) or legal guardian and must provide satisfactory evidence of required immunization, proof of residence (utility bill or lease agreement), copy of birth certificate, and a withdrawal form from the previous school. To complete admission, the following demographic information is necessary: home address, home phone, mother's name, place of business and work phone, father's name, place of business and work phone, and a friend or relative's name and number in case of emergency.

IMMUNIZATIONS

State law requires that all students entering seventh grade show proof of current immunizations. There are 4 immunizations which may be new for your child and are required for incoming 7th graders:

Tdap – required within 5 years of entering 7th grade

Meningococcal – one dose required to enter 7th grade

Varicella #2 – second dose required to enter 7th grade

Hepatitis A – two doses required to enter 7th grade

Students will **NOT** be allowed to enter seventh grade without these immunizations. If your student has received these prior to this notice, PLEASE provide a copy of the most current immunization records to your school nurse **NOW** in order to update all records and ensure your student can begin school in August without delay.

ADVANCED COURSES

The open enrollment policy for Aledo Middle School and McAnally Middle School allows any student, who has an interest in a more challenging approach designed to prepare students for college, to enroll in an advanced course. Students must have successfully completed any proper prerequisite course and qualifying criteria for 6th grade Accelerated Math. It is suggested that the student has attained Meets Grade Level on any corresponding STAAR examination.

Advanced courses are designed for self-disciplined, highly motivated students. Excellent class attendance and good organizational skills are preferable to predict success. Opportunities for creative, productive thinking are provided with stress on cognitive concepts and processes.

Students must assume responsibility for considerable out-of-class reading/homework assignments and have well- developed reading, writing, and/or math skills.

High achieving and G/T students are served through placement in Advanced courses.

TIME FRAME FOR REQUESTING A SCHEDULE CHANGE

Students may request to add or drop a higher-level course with approval from the parent, teacher, and administrator. Requests are also contingent upon availability in the course. Please note that schedule changes can impact the student's entire schedule and can impact elective options.

UIL REQUIREMENTS

Eligibility for all extracurricular participants after the first six weeks of the school year.

A student who receives, at the end of any grading period (beginning at the conclusion of the first six weeks of the school year), a grade below 70 in any academic class, or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP), may not participate in extracurricular activities for at least three school weeks. However, an ineligible student may practice or rehearse. The student regains eligibility when the principal and teachers determine that he or she has: (1) earned a passing grade (70 or above) in all academic classes, and (2) completed the three school weeks of ineligibility. During the first six weeks of the school year, students are considered eligible if they were promoted from the previous grade. For more information, consult www.uil.utexas.edu.

STATE TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

As a prerequisite to a high school diploma, students are required, with limited exceptions and regardless of graduation program, to perform satisfactorily on the following EOC assessments: English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology, and U.S. History. A student who does not achieve a sufficient score will have opportunities to retake an assessment. State law allows a student to meet EOC requirements by substituting satisfactory performance on approved national standardized assessments or on the state-developed assessment used for entrance into Texas public universities. See the school counselor for more information on the state testing requirements for graduation.

STATE TESTING FOR A STUDENT ENROLLED ABOVE GRADE LEVEL

If a student in grades 3-8 is enrolled in a class or course intended for students above his or her current grade level in which the student will be administered a state-mandated assessment, the student will be required to take an applicable state-mandated assessment only for the course in which he or she is enrolled. Per federal law, middle school students enrolled in a mathematics or reading language arts high school course without a corresponding End-of-Course assessment will be required to take the grade level state assessment, i.e., an 8th grader enrolled in Geometry will be required to take the 8th grade mathematics state assessment.

A student in grades 3-8 shall be assessed at least once in high school with the ACT or the SAT if the student completes the high school end-of-course assessments in mathematics, reading/language arts, or science prior to high school.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

Aledo ISD is proud to offer a wide variety of Career and Technical Education courses and pathways. Many of the CTE courses available have the opportunity to take a certification test at the conclusion of the course that would enable the student to become certified in a related field. Certification could be beneficial in future employment opportunities; prospective college degree plans or both.

EXAMINATION FOR ACCELERATION

A student will be permitted to take an examination to earn credit for an academic course for which the student has no prior instruction. AISD will provide Credit by Examination without prior instruction on dates to be determined and released at the beginning of the school year. A student planning to take an examination for acceleration (or the student's parent) must register with the counselor **no later than 30 days prior to the scheduled testing date**. Scores on exams for high school credit are not included in the Grade Point Average. The district may not honor a request by a parent to administer, on some other date, a test purchased by the parent from a State Board-approved university. A score of 80 is necessary to receive credit by exam without prior instruction. Students in grades 6-12 who meet the minimum passing standard and receive credit for math courses may be accelerated to the next math course.

6th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

READING LANGUAGE ARTS 6 (RLA 6)

The primary areas of focus for Aledo on-level RLA classes include vocabulary development, reading comprehension in various genres, writing in several forms for specific purposes, listening and speaking skills, and the research process. As a student advances in grade, these skills grow in rigor and depth, as do the texts read and analyzed.

ADVANCED RLA 6

In addition to the knowledge and skills in on-level RLA, Advanced RLA embeds higher level literacy skills necessary for PreAP and AP coursework.

<u>RLA 6</u>	<u>Advanced RLA 6</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further development of reading skills and focus on becoming an active reader• Reading a variety of genres to improve independent reading skills• Development of writing skills and author's craft and tools• Collaborative exchange of ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close-reading of a volume of on-level and higher-level texts• Focus on higher order thinking skills: synthesis and evaluation of author's craft and tools• Development of writing with depth and complexity• Collaborative exchange of ideas

Recommendations for Advanced RLA 6:

- 5th grade consistent RLA average of 85 or higher
- STAAR score at Meets Grade Level or higher
- Strong work ethic
- Motivation to strengthen reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills

Things to Consider:

- Students in Advanced RLA 6 will be expected to read and write outside of class.
- Advanced skills include a shift in rigor; for example, reading and writing in timed contexts.

MATH 6

This course focuses on integer operations, multiplying and dividing positive rational numbers, proportions/unit rates, representing one-step algebraic relationships with equations, tables and graphs, solving geometric concepts using algebraic relationships and summarizing statistical data.

ACCELERATED MATH 6

This course accelerates through all **MATH 6** content, as described above, and incorporates approximately one-third of **MATH 7** content standards. Students with strong computation, problem-solving and higher order thinking skills will enjoy the challenge that this course provides.

<u>Math 6</u>	<u>Accelerated Math 6</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">6th grade TEKSStandard-paced CurriculumDevelopment of numeracy skills and mathematical problem solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All 6th Grade TEKS1/3 of 7th Grade TEKSFast-paced CurriculumApplication of numeracy skills and mathematical problem solvingAdvanced Rigor
6 th Math STAAR Assessment	6 th Math STAAR Assessment

SENATE BILL 2124: ADVANCED MATH PLACEMENT

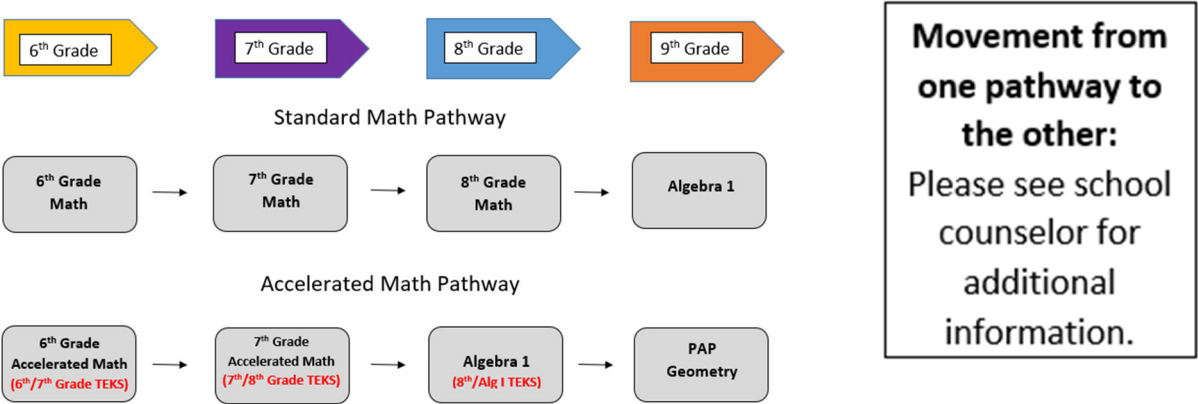
Any student will be automatically enrolled in 6th Accelerated Math if the student satisfies either of the following criteria:

- Scores in the 60th percentile or higher on the 5th grade STAAR assessment
- Scores in the top 40th percentile of a local assessment. In Aledo ISD, we use the EOY 5th grade MAP test.

Students who do not meet either requirement will be enrolled in 6th Math.

Middle School Math Pathways

The graphic below shows two pathways for middle school math courses in Aledo ISD.



SCIENCE 6

Grade 6 science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on physical science. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale. Curriculum follows a coordinated thematic approach. To develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world, students must become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, ways of formulating questions, ways of proposing explanations, and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on evidence derived from their work.

Advanced Science is not offered in 6th grade.

All students will experience:

- Concentration of TEKS development and mastery
- Collaborative work with peers
- Mastery learning applied to assessment
- Implementation of Argument Driven Inquiry to promote science argumentation through claims, evidence, and justification, with additional support from teacher
- Flexibility to meet all learner's needs

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

In Grade 6, students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Societies for study are from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Realm. Students identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. The concepts of limited and unlimited government are introduced, and students describe the nature of citizenship in various societies. Students compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of the various societies and identify different points of view about events.

Advanced Social Studies is not offered in 6th grade.

All students will experience:

Throughout social studies in Kindergarten-Grade 12, students build a foundation in history; geography; economics; government; citizenship; culture; science, technology, and society; and social studies skills. The content, as appropriate for the grade level or course, enables students to understand the importance of patriotism, function in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation as referenced in the Texas Education Code (TEC), §28.002(h).

To support the teaching of the essential knowledge and skills, the use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as biographies, autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, poetry, songs, and artworks is encouraged.

All students will be writing two compositions for their social studies course which is called a document-based question. Students will read primary and secondary sources and use them to answer a historical/geographical question. They will create a claim, support that claim with evidence and write an analysis of primary and secondary sources.

6th GRADE ELECTIVE INFORMATION

All elective courses are for a full school year.

All students are required to take PE, Pre-Athletics or Dance in 6th grade. Students will take two additional elective courses.

ART I - This course is designed to enable students to develop their problem solving and creative thinking skills while teaching them to perceive the world around them through direct observation, interpret emotion through a variety of artistic media, and evaluate their own original artwork as well as the work of other artists. Students explore basic elements of art and principles of design to create work using original sources, a variety of media and techniques concentrating on both traditional and contemporary styles. Students will study art history and culture by analyzing artistic styles, historical periods, and a variety of cultures. Students may be required to purchase some materials (sketchbook, art kit or supply list). An art fee may be required in some instances.

BEGINNING BAND - Beginning Band is where students start an exciting journey of learning a musical instrument in the Aledo Band program. There are eleven instruments to choose from for students wanting to be in beginning band: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion. Students who participate in beginning band will have the skills to participate in one of the 7th & 8th grade performing bands the following year. Students will learn many new musical concepts, as well as get to do several public performances throughout the year. Examples from years prior include a performance at an Aledo high school football game, local music festivals (NRH20/Epic Waters), as well as concerts in the fall and spring. Important musical concepts such as rhythmic notation, music note identification, instrumental fingerings, and tone production will be covered in this class. It is an engaging and fun filled class where students with and without prior musical knowledge will be challenged while learning a new and exciting skill. Students may be required to purchase or rent their own instruments, as well as purchase some instructional materials (instruments may be obtained through a rental/purchase agreement). It may be necessary to purchase some materials for uniformity of dress for performance purposes. Note: Finances will not be a reason to exclude a student from participation in band. If there are financial concerns, please reach out to the band director for your campus.

CHOIR I - An entry level choir for those who love to sing regardless of your singing experience! Anyone can learn, and anyone can join. Students discover a solid foundation in sight-reading and performance skills while expanding their knowledge of musical concepts. The course will utilize movable Do (solfege) and Kodaly hand signs. Through this course of study, the students will learn new pieces and become more independent singers. The students will be given opportunities to perform the selected pieces and showcase the skills learned throughout the year. This course will develop student ownership of choral music and better prepare them for membership in the Advanced Choirs of the Aledo Middle Schools. There is no audition required! Students are required to participate in class performances.

DANCE – This course at the middle school level is designed to provide students with a comprehensive and engaging introduction to the art of dance. This course is perfect for beginners who are eager to explore various dance styles, develop fundamental dance techniques, and discover their own creative potential in a fun and supportive environment. Students are required to participate in one recital each semester. Class fulfills P.E. Requirements.

P.E. – This course is required for all students who need to fulfill year one of their middle school P.E. requirement and who do not desire to be in pre-athletics or dance.

PRE-ATHLETICS - Pre-Athletics is a course offering for all 6th graders planning on participating in 7th grade athletics. Students will be introduced to the fundamentals and terminology of Middle School sports as well as organized strength, conditioning, and agility training. The sports offered during school in the 7th grade are:

Girls – Volleyball, Basketball, Track and Field

Boys – Football, Basketball, and Track and Field

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATIONS – This course will provide an introduction to typing, desktop publishing, stop motion animation and basic coding concepts. This course will also incorporate digital design concepts, programming with building robots using LEGO robotic kits as well as constructing and controlling robots. Additionally, students will learn the fundamentals of touch typing, the Google Suite platform, and a variety of Web 2.0 tools as they work independently and collaboratively on engaging real-world projects.

THEATRE I - This class is for students who have an interest in learning about all aspects of the theatre. Students will have the opportunity to participate in various class activities while learning about acting techniques, technical theatre, theatre history, stage movement, voice and diction, theatrical design, and production strategies. Students have opportunities to perform and/or serve on technical crews in class and stage productions. Students are required to attend one live theatrical event.

7th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

READING LANGUAGE ARTS 7 (RLA 7)

The primary areas of focus for Aledo RLA classes include vocabulary development, reading comprehension in various genres, writing in several forms for specific purposes, listening and speaking skills, and the research process. From year to year, the skills in focus grow in rigor and depth, as do the texts read and analyzed.

In RLA 7, students will

- Further develop their reading skills and focus on becoming an active reader.
- Read a variety of genres to improve independent reading skills.
- Study grammar and the mechanics of writing-including sentence analysis, sentence combining, usage, and punctuation-will be approached primarily through mini-lessons and targeted study of language in context of student work and literature.
- Develop their reading skills while collaborating with peers and exchanging ideas.

ADVANCED RLA 7

Advanced RLA 7 is a TEKS-based course that also infuses skills, which will prepare students for future AP courses.

In ADVANCED RLA 7, students will:

- Prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) courses in high school.
- Focus on higher order thinking skills such as synthesis and development of evaluative qualities to ensure students can answer complex questions thoroughly.
- Read both level and higher-level texts and complete assessments at a higher level.
- Write with depth and complexity supported by solid implicit and explicit text evidence.
- Develop their skills for reading while collaborating with peers and exchanging ideas.

RLA 7	Advanced RLA 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on active and close reading• Reading and responding to a variety of genres to improve independent reading skills• Development of writing skills and author's tools/craft• Collaborative exchange of ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close-reading of a volume of on-level and higher level texts• Focus on higher-order thinking skills, including synthesis and evaluation of author's tools/craft• Development of writing with depth and complexity• Collaborative exchange of ideas, including debate

Recommendations for enrollment in Advanced RLA 7

- Average of 85 or higher in RLA 6.
- STAAR Reading and Writing scores at "Meets Grade Level".
- Strong work ethic and willingness to work outside of class.

MATH 7

The primary areas of focus in **MATH 7** are number and operations, proportionality, expressions, relationships, and measurement and data. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop and communicate mathematical relationships, including number, geometry and measurement, and statistics and probability.

ACCELERATED MATH 7

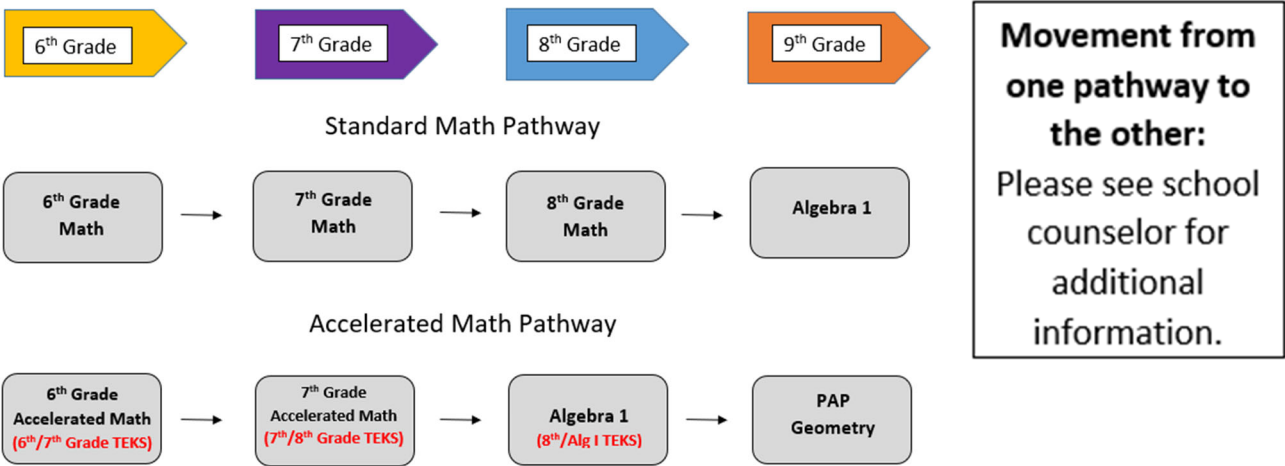
(pre-requisite Accelerated Math 6 or appropriate testing)

This course covers the remaining two-thirds of **MATH 7** content and two-thirds of **MATH 8** content with a primary focus on proportionality; expressions, multi-step equations, relationships, the foundation of functions; measurement and data. Students with strong computation, problem-solving and higher order thinking skills will enjoy the challenge that this course provides.

<u>Math 7</u>	<u>Accelerated Math 7</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">7th grade TEKSStandard-paced CurriculumDevelopment of numeracy skills and mathematical problem solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">2/3 of 7th Grade TEKS2/3 of 8th Grade TEKSFast-paced CurriculumApplication of numeracy skills and mathematical problem solvingAdvanced Rigor
7 th Grade STAAR Assessment	7 th Grade STAAR Assessment

Middle School Math Pathways

The graphic below shows two pathways for middle school math courses in Aledo ISD.



SCIENCE 7

This course focuses on life on planet Earth. It stresses the interrelationships and interdependence between living organisms and the physical, chemical, and earth science world. Curriculum follows a coordinated thematic approach. To develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world, students must become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, ways of formulating questions, ways of proposing explanations, and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on evidence derived from their work.

ADVANCED SCIENCE 7

This course is designed to meet the needs of gifted and high achieving students. Learning in each of these topics will be accomplished through the presentation of complex concepts and explanations of science related phenomena and additional laboratory activities. The majority of grades are based on the ability to draw conclusions based on evidence provided, collaborative work, and content-driven projects completed independently. Homework will consist of preparing for quizzes and exams, completing lab reports, analysis questions, and additional projects.

Science 7

- Concentration of TEKS development and mastery
- Work collaboratively with peers
- Mastery Learning Applied to Assessment
- Uses Argument Driven Inquiry to support claims, evidence, and justification, with additional support from teacher
- Flexibility to meet all learner's needs

Advanced Science 7

- Extension of TEKS at a greater depth for mastery
- Work collaboratively with peers
- Independent motivation of assessments
- Uses Argument Driven Inquiry to support claims, evidence, and justification
- Focus on critical thinking and analysis
- Independent content-driven projects
- Fast paced curriculum with advanced rigor

Recommendations for Advanced Science:

- Self-motivated, hardworking, organized, and committed to completing work within the timeframe allotted.
- Science 6 consistent average of 90 or higher.

Things to consider:

- This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Placement program through sustained habits necessary for success in the College Board's AP Program.
- There is an expectation for deeper understanding and applications of concepts.
- Designed for students who quickly grasp new concepts and demonstrate the ability to apply these concepts.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

In 7th grade, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. The study strands include citizenship, economics, technology and political structures.

ADVANCED SOCIAL STUDIES 7

For differences between Social Studies 7 and Advanced Social Studies 7 see chart below.

<u>Social Studies 7</u>	<u>Advanced Social Studies 7</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concentration of TEKS mastery of the course description above.• Mastery Learning Applied to Assessment.• Average Paced Curriculum.• Document-Based Question Essay Writing with more assistance.• In-class application of concept.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extension of TEKS of the course description above.• In-Class Practice in Conjunction with Out-of-Class Application.• Advanced Rigor.• Focus on Historical Thinking Skills.• Document-Based Question Essay Writing.• Increased independent application of concepts which may require work outside of class.• See additional recommendations <i>below</i>.

Recommendations for Advanced Social Studies 7 Registration:

- Sixth grade consistent social studies average of 90 or higher.

Things to consider:

- There is an expectation for deeper understanding and application of concepts.
- Advanced Texas History is designed for students who quickly grasp new concepts and demonstrate the ability to apply these concepts.
- A solid work ethic and organizational skills are the most important characteristics of an Advanced student.
- This course is designed to be the first course that will help students continue on the Advanced Placement path.

7th GRADE ELECTIVE INFORMATION

All students are required to take PE, Athletics or Dance in 7th grade. Students will take two additional elective courses.

EXPLORATORY AG - This course is an introductory course designed to expose students to varied aspects of agricultural science. A focus for this course will be hands on activities involving plants, leadership, small shop projects, and animal science.

ART II - Students continue to explore basic elements of art and principles of design to create work using original sources, a variety of media and techniques concentrating on both traditional and contemporary styles. Students will gain an understanding of art history and culture by analyzing artistic styles, historical periods, and a variety of cultures. Students will have the opportunity to participate in competitions. Students may be required to purchase some materials (sketchbook, art kit or supply list). An art fee may be required in some instances.

ATHLETICS - Students continue developing the fundamentals and terminology of Middle School sports as well as organized strength, conditioning, and agility training. Students will be required to have a physical on file BEFORE they can begin practice. The sports offered during school in the 7th grade are:

Girls – Volleyball, Basketball, Track and Field

Boys – Football, Basketball, and Track and Field.

BAND - (Audition required) - The middle school band has a dynamic and exciting band program, which emphasizes the development of instrumental musicianship through performance and competition. Students continue to refine and develop skills of leadership, responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline, and concentration, as well as artistic expression. The middle school bands are state and nationally recognized programs, featuring multiple ability-based concert ensembles. Musicians are auditioned in the spring, and placement is determined by the student's playing ability, experience, and musical aptitude. During the 7th and 8th grade years, we continue to build upon skills from beginning band. Bands compete at UIL in the spring, and participate in invitational festivals as well as community performances throughout the year. Optional trips and social activities are also a feature of the band program. Students may be required to purchase or rent their own instruments, as well as purchase some instructional materials (instruments may be obtained through a rental/purchase agreement). It may be necessary to purchase some materials for uniformity of dress for performance purposes. Note: Finances will not be a reason to exclude a student from participation in band. If there are financial concerns, please reach out to the band director for your campus.

CHOIR II – The fundamentals of Choral Music II are expanded through poise, self-confidence, performance, artistic expression, and competition. Leadership, responsibility, self-discipline, and cooperation are stressed. Sight-singing skills are further developed through two and three-part harmonization. Placement in the Varsity Ensemble is by audition only. There is no audition necessary for the beginning and intermediate ensembles. It may be necessary to purchase some materials for uniformity of dress for performance purposes. Students are required to participate in class performances.

PRINCIPLES OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - (Full year 1 H.S. Credit) – Geared towards engineering, one semester students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. In the Magic of Electrons students will be working with hands-on projects, students explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. They learn knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them. ***The high school course listed above will combine to count as 1.0 high school credit; therefore, in order to receive credit students must meet the 90% attendance requirement set forth by the State of Texas. This course will not count towards High School GPA if taken in Middle School.***

DANCE- Placement audition required OR must have a prerequisite of dance in 6th grade. –Dance is a course for middle school students who have already begun their dance journey. In this course, students will build upon the foundational skills acquired in the beginner level and delve deeper into the world of dance. This intermediate level course is designed to challenge students while encouraging their creativity, self-expression, and technical proficiency. Students are required to participate in one recital each semester. Class fulfills P.E. Requirements.

P.E. – This course is required for all students who need to fulfill year two of their middle school P.E. requirement and who do not desire to be in athletics or dance.

THEATRE ARTS II - This intermediate theatre course is an extension and further exploration of the concepts and training covered in Theatre I. Students of Theatre Arts II will refine skills acting techniques, technical theatre, theatre history, stage movement, voice and diction, theatrical design, and production strategies. Students have opportunities to perform and/or serve on technical crews in class and stage productions. Students are required to attend two live theatrical events.

THEATRE PRODUCTION – Prerequisites Theatre I/Audition This advanced class is intended for students who have a serious interest in studying theatre. The goal for the course is to provide students a variety of performance and production experiences in acting and technical work. Students are required to participate in all productions on their campus either as a performer or technician and attend one live theatrical production per semester. Time outside the school day is required.

8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS & REQUIREMENTS

READING LANGUAGE ARTS 8 (RLA 8)

The primary areas of focus for Aledo RLA classes include vocabulary development, reading comprehension in various genres, writing in several forms for specific purposes, listening and speaking skills, and the research process. From year to year, the skills in focus grow in rigor and depth, as do the texts read and analyzed.

In RLA 8, students will

- Further develop their reading skills and focus on becoming an active reader.
- Read a variety of genres to improve independent reading skills.
- Study grammar and the mechanics of writing-including sentence analysis, sentence combining, usage, and punctuation-will be approached primarily through mini-lessons and targeted study of language in context of student work and literature.
- Develop their reading skills while collaborating with peers and exchanging ideas.

ADVANCED RLA 8

Advanced RLA is a TEKS based course that also infuses skills, which will prepare students for future Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

In Advanced RLA 8, students will

- Prepare for Advanced Placement courses in high school.
- Focus on higher order thinking skills such as synthesis and development of evaluative qualities to ensure students can answer complex questions thoroughly.
- Read higher-level texts and complete assessments at a higher-level.
- Write with depth and complexity supported by solid implicit and explicit text evidence.
- Develop their skills for reading while collaborating with peers and exchanging ideas.

RLA 8	Advanced RLA 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focus on active and close reading• Reading and responding to a variety of genres to improve independent reading skills• Development of writing skills and author's tools/craft• Collaborative exchange of ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close-reading of a volume of on-level and higher level texts• Focus on higher-order thinking skills, including synthesis and evaluation of author's tools/craft• Development of writing with depth and complexity• Collaborative exchange of ideas, including debate

Recommendations for enrollment in Advanced RLA 8

- Average of 85 or higher in RLA 7.
- STAAR Reading and Writing scores at "Meets Grade Level".
- Strong work ethic and willingness to work outside of class.

MATH 8

In Math 8, the primary focal areas are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, the foundation of functions; measurement and data. Students will use properties of real numbers and concepts of proportionality to explore and communicate mathematical relationships.

ALGEBRA I

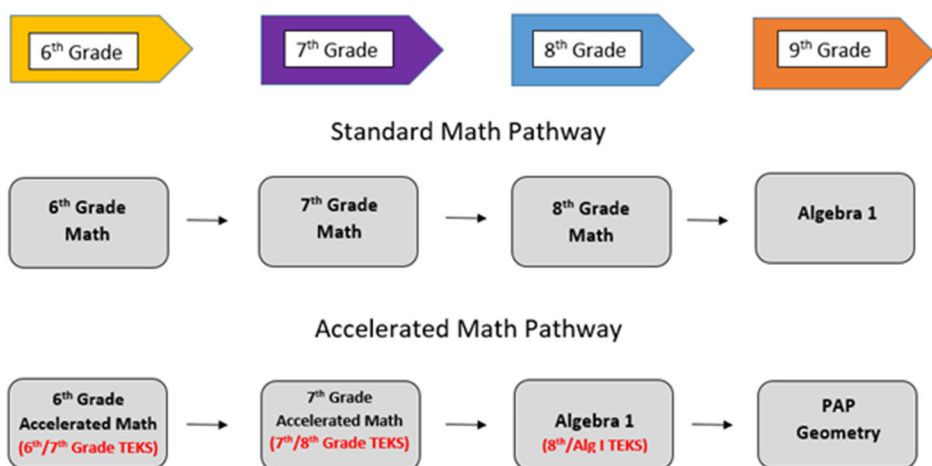
(pre-requisite Accelerated Math 7 or appropriate testing)

Algebra I in 8th grade is designed for students interested in taking 5 or more high school math courses including AP Calculus (Algebra I in 8th grade would be the first of the five). Students will use concrete, numerical, algorithmic, and graphical tools with technology to explore topics that include, but are not limited to, basic concepts of real numbers, algebraic thinking, functions, linear equation/functions, inequalities, quadratic expressions, polynomials, radicals, nonlinear functions, data analysis, graphing of all of the above, and applications. Appropriate technology will be used in the work.

Math 8	Algebra I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8th Grade TEKS Standard-paced Curriculum Development of numeracy skills and mathematical problem solving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/3 MATH 8 TEKS & All Algebra I TEKS Fast-paced Curriculum Application of numeracy skills and mathematical problem solving High School Credit Course 90% attendance requirement Follows HS Grading Guidelines Significant out of class commitment
8 th Grade STAAR Test	Algebra I EOC – satisfies graduation requirement

Middle School Math Pathways

The graphic below shows two pathways for middle school math courses in Aledo ISD.



Movement from one pathway to the other:
Please see school counselor for additional information.

SCIENCE 8

Focuses on a study of the Earth and solar system and how living systems, chemistry, and physics interact to form our exosphere. The sequence of the course follows a coordinated thematic approach. To develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world, students must become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, ways of formulating questions, ways of proposing explanations, and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on evidence derived from their work.

ADVANCED SCIENCE 8

This course is designed to meet the needs of gifted and high-achieving students. Curriculum follows a coordinated thematic approach. Learning in each of these topics will be accomplished through the presentation of complex concepts and explanations of science related phenomena and additional laboratory activities. Advanced Science class will move through the basic objectives very quickly in order to provide students the opportunity to learn concepts at a greater depth to form a solid foundation for high school level PAP sciences. The majority of grades are based on the ability to draw conclusions based on evidence provided, collaborative work, and content-driven projects completed independently. Homework will consist of preparing for quizzes and exams, completing lab reports or analysis questions.

<u>Science 8</u>	<u>Advanced Science 8</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concentration of TEKS development and mastery• Work collaboratively with peers• Mastery Learning Applied to Assessment• Uses Argument Driven Inquiry to support claims, evidence, and justification, with additional support from teacher• Flexibility to meet all learner's needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extension of TEKS at a greater depth for mastery• Work collaboratively with peers• Independent motivation of assessments• Uses more complex Argument Driven Inquiry to support claims, evidence, and justification• Focus on critical thinking and analysis• Independent content-driven projects• Fast paced curriculum with advanced rigor

Recommendations for Advanced Science 8:

- Self-motivated, hardworking, organized, and committed to completing work within the timeframe allotted.
- Consistently demonstrated a 90% average or greater in Science 7 or an 85% average or higher in Advanced Science 7.

Things to consider:

- This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Placement program through sustained habits necessary for success in the College Board's AP Program.
- There is an expectation for deeper understanding and applications of concepts.
- Designed for students who quickly grasp new concepts and demonstrate the ability to apply these concepts.
- Students wishing to take PAP Biology as a freshman should pass the Grade 8 Science STAAR in the spring.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

In Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will take United States History since 1877 to the present in their 11th grade year. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact.

ADVANCED SOCIAL STUDIES 8

For differences between Social Studies 8 and Advanced Social Studies 8 see chart below.

<u>Social Studies 8</u>	<u>Advanced Social Studies 8</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concentration of TEKS mastery of the course description above.• Mastery Learning Applied to Assessment• Document-Based Question Essay Writing with more assistance• In-class application of concept	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extension of TEKS of the course description above.• In-Class Practice in Conjunction with Out-of-Class Application• Advanced Rigor• Focus on Historical Thinking Skills• Document-Based Question Essay Writing• Increased independent application of concepts which may require work outside of class• See additional recommendations <i>below</i>

Recommendations for Advanced Social Studies 8 registration:

- Consistently demonstrated a 90% average or greater in Social Studies 7 or an 85% average or higher in Advanced Social Studies 7.

Things to consider:

- There is an expectation for deeper understanding and application of concepts.
- Advanced Social Studies 8 is designed for students who quickly grasp new concepts and demonstrate the ability to apply these concepts.
- A solid work ethic and organizational skills are the most important characteristics of an advanced student.
- This course is designed to be help students continue on the Advanced Placement (AP) path.

8th GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All 8th grade students are required to take the College & Career Readiness course. Additionally, two other elective courses must be selected. There is no requirement for PE, Athletics or Dance in 8th grade.

ART III - Students continue to practice and apply the basic elements of art and principles of design to create original artwork from direct observation and original sources. Students continue their progress with more advanced techniques, both traditional and contemporary, using a variety of media. Originality of work and creativity are stressed in order to develop the higher-order thinking skills of evaluation, reasoning, and justification. Students are encouraged to take creative risks, thus improving their self-concept through competency with techniques and various mark making tools. Students will continue to study art history and culture by analyzing artistic styles, historical periods, and a variety of cultures. Creating a portfolio of original works, including the sketchbook is required. Students will have the opportunity to participate in competitions. Students may be required to purchase some materials (sketchbook, art kit or supply list).

ATHLETICS – Students should only sign up for this course if they made a team last school year. If a student was in Athletics or PE last year, they are not required to sign up for this course again. If your student was successful in athletics last year, then most likely, they will want to sign up for this elective again this year. Students will be required to have a physical on file BEFORE they can begin practice.

BAND - (Audition required) - The middle school band has a dynamic and exciting band program, which emphasizes the development of instrumental musicianship through performance and competition. Students continue to refine and develop skills of leadership, responsibility, cooperation, self-discipline, and concentration, as well as artistic expression. The middle school bands are state and nationally recognized programs, featuring multiple ability-based concert ensembles. Musicians are auditioned in the spring, and placement is determined by the student's playing ability, experience, and musical aptitude. During the 7th and 8th grade years, we continue to build upon skills from beginning band. Bands compete at UIL in the spring, and participate in invitational festivals as well as community performances throughout the year. Optional trips and social activities are also a feature of the band program. Students may be required to purchase or rent their own instruments, as well as purchase some instructional materials (instruments may be obtained through a rental/purchase agreement). It may be necessary to purchase some materials for uniformity of dress for performance purposes. Note: Finances will not be a reason to exclude a student from participation in band. If there are financial concerns, please reach out to the band director for your campus.

CHOIR III – Emphasis is placed on developing a mature singing voice using three and four-part harmony. Vocal and ensemble techniques are reinforced. Choral singing allows students to use the skills of good musicianship, tone production, and stage presence through performance and competition. Sight-reading skills will continue to be developed. Leadership skills, cooperation, and self-discipline are reinforced through individual responsibility and teamwork. Placement in the Varsity Ensemble is by audition only. There is no audition necessary for the beginning and intermediate ensembles. It may be necessary to purchase some materials for uniformity of dress for performance purposes. Students are required to participate in class performances.

ADVANCED DANCE - (Placement audition required OR must have a prerequisite of dance in 6th grade & dance in 7th grade.) - This course is designed for middle school students who are passionate about dance and have already demonstrated a strong foundation in dance technique and artistry. This course is tailored to challenge and inspire young dancers to reach new heights in their skills, creativity, and understanding of dance as a performing art. Students are required to participate in one recital each semester. Class fulfills P.E. Requirements.

P.E. – This course is for students who need to fulfill their middle school P.E. requirement and do not desire to be in athletics or dance.

THEATER ARTS III - Prerequisite: Theatre Arts I, II/Teacher approval

This advanced theatre course is an extension and further exploration of the concepts and training covered in Theatre II. Students of Theatre Arts III will refine skills acting techniques, technical theatre, theatre history, stage movement, voice and diction, theatrical design, and production strategies. Students have opportunities to perform and/or serve on technical crews in class and stage productions. Students are required to attend two live theatrical events.

THEATRE PRODUCTION – Prerequisites Theatre I/Audition This advanced class is intended for students who have a serious interest in studying theatre. The goal for the course is to provide students a variety of performance and production experiences in acting and technical work. Students are required to participate in all productions on their campus either as a performer or technician and attend one live theatrical production per semester. Time outside the school day is required.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

If successfully completed, the following courses count as high school credit. These courses will count as elective credit and are available to 8th grade students only. Courses for high school credit that are completed in middle school DO NOT factor into a student's high school grade point average.

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE I (Year Long/1 H.S. Credit) – Acquiring ASL incorporates expressive and receptive communication skills. Students develop these communication skills by using knowledge of the language including grammar, culture, communication and learning strategies, technology and content from other subject areas to socialize, to acquire and provide information, to express feelings and opinions, and to get others to adopt a course of action. While knowledge of other cultures, connections to other disciplines, comparisons between languages and cultures and community interaction all contribute to and enhance the communicative language learning experience, communication skills are the primary focus of language acquisition. **Note: Two credits of the same language other than English (LOTE) are required for high school graduation per state law.**

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS (Year Long/1 H.S. Credit) – Students will use self-knowledge as well as educational and career information to analyze various careers within the State Career Clusters. Students are introduced to societal influences of education and various school models. Additionally, students learn the role and responsibilities of a classroom educator. Students will develop a graduation plan that leads to a specific career choice in the student's interest area. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. **This course is required for all 8th grade students.**

COMPUTER SCIENCE I (Year Long/1 H.S. Credit)

Computer Science I will foster students' creativity and innovation by presenting opportunities to design, implement, and present meaningful programs through a variety of media. Students will collaborate with one another, their instructor, and various electronic communities to solve the problems presented throughout the course. Through data analysis, students will identify task requirements, plan search strategies, and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. By using computer science knowledge and skills that support the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results. Students will learn digital citizenship by researching current laws and regulations and by practicing integrity and respect. Students will gain an understanding of the principles of computer science through the study of technology operations, systems, and concepts. The six strands include creativity and innovation; communication and collaboration; research and information fluency; critical thinking; problem solving, and decision making; digital citizenship; and technology operations and concepts.

PRINCIPLES OF APPLIED ENGINEERING (Year Long/1 H.S. Credit) – One semester of this year long course will be dedicated to Flight and Space where students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars. One semester will be dedicated to Design and Modeling where students will discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

P.E. – ADVENTURE/OUTDOOR EDUCATION (Year Long/1 H.S Credit) – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department developed the Outdoor Education course to enhance and educate students in outdoor activities and wildlife conservation. The curriculum includes: The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Hunter Education, Boater Education, and Angler Education courses. Wilderness Survival, Trip planning, Wildlife conservation, camping, backpacking, orienteering, archery and tackle crafts, are also areas of exploration for the student. Emphasis is placed on ethics, safety, conservation, laws, responsibilities, and physical fitness. Student participation in many activities creates the appreciation of the outdoors as well as an opportunity to find a particular activity that may lead to a lifetime of enjoyment. There will be fees associated with this course. The State of Texas has mandatory hunting and boating laws that require the student to successfully complete a course in these disciplines should they desire to engage in that activity. The fee for Hunter Education is \$15.00 and the fee for Boater Education is \$20.00. At present, there is no fee for Angler Education. There will also be an activity fee to cover disposables related to outdoor cooking and ropes course fees.

PRINCIPLES OF ARTS, A/V, & COMMUNICATIONS, YEARBOOK (Year Long/1 H.S Credit) – This course focuses on the theory and practice of gathering, processing, and delivering news as both journalists and photo-journalists. In addition, it allows students the opportunity to explore print journalism, news editing, and news managing. Students will receive instruction in news writing and editing; reporting; photo-journalism (newspaper as well as yearbook); layout and graphic design (newspaper as well as yearbook); professional standards and ethics; and research methods. This course is for highly motivated writers who are interested in becoming active members of the newspaper, newsletter, and yearbook staff. Interested students must have maintained at least an 85 average in Language Arts during 7th grade.

PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES (Year Long/1 H.S Credit) - This full year introductory course emphasizes the importance of the Agricultural industry and how it influences each of our daily lives. Career development, historical, current, and future significance of the agricultural industry, leadership skills, food and fiber, communication skills, agricultural research methods, breeds of livestock, livestock selection and evaluation, plant growth, soil fertility testing, soil conservation, and basic woodworking are all topics covered in the class.

SPANISH I (Year Long/1 H.S. Credit) – This class is designed to introduce Spanish vocabulary and grammar to students. Students will learn how to speak and write basic sentences in Spanish, as well as studying various traditional aspects of the Spanish culture. In order to be successful in this class, it is highly recommended that the student meet the following criteria: have maintained an 80 or higher in 7th grade Language Arts, have a strong knowledge of the English language, have excellent attendance, and be self-motivated and self-disciplined. **Note: Two credits of the same language other than English (LOTE) are required for high school graduation per state requirements.**

The high school courses listed above will count as a high school credit; therefore, in order to receive credit students must meet the 90% attendance requirement set forth by the State of Texas. These courses will not count towards High School GPA if taken in Middle School.