

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MIDDLE SCHOOL
Course Catalog and College/Career Planning Guide
2025-2026



HARVEST PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL



PLEASANTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



THOMAS HART MIDDLE SCHOOL



PLEASANTON VIRTUAL ACADEMY



The
Pleasanton
Virtual
Academy

Middle School Course Catalog & College/Career Planning Guide 2025 - 2026

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IMPORTANT DATES

DEAR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Welcome to the Pleasanton Unified School District where our vision is “every student will become a resourceful, resilient, responsible, and engaged world citizen.” Recognizing that each child will follow a unique path through this important developmental period, our middle schools provide a variety of programs to support individual growth and success. In addition to our core academic program, a variety of elective and exploratory classes are offered.

This Middle School Course Catalog contains information regarding course requirements and a description of each class by grade level.

Important Dates and Information:

Parents or guardians of **incoming SIXTH graders** are invited to an orientation meeting.

Harvest Park Middle School	Wednesday, 2/12/25	6:00 - 7:00 pm	In Person
Pleasanton Middle School	Tuesday, 3/11/25	6:30 - 7:30 pm	In Person
Thomas Hart Middle School	Tuesday, 5/6/24	5:30 - 6:30 pm	In Person

Parents or guardians of **incoming SEVENTH graders** are invited to an orientation meeting.

Harvest Park Middle School	Tuesday, 1/28/25	6:00 - 7:00 pm	In Person
Pleasanton Middle School	Wednesday, 2/19/25	6:30 - 7:00 pm	Virtual
Thomas Hart Middle School	Wednesday, 1/22/25	5:30 - 6:30 pm	In Person

Parents or guardians of **incoming EIGHTH graders** are invited to an orientation meeting.

Harvest Park Middle School	Wednesday, 1/29/25	6:00 - 7:00 pm	In Person
Pleasanton Middle School	Wednesday, 2/19/25	7:15 - 7:45 pm	Virtual
Thomas Hart Middle School	Wednesday, 1/22/25	5:30 - 6:30 pm	In Person

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION
Our students will make a better world.

WE BELIEVE...

- * With guidance and support all students can reach their greatest potential;
- * All students and staff have the right to a safe and respectful learning environment that fosters positive connections;
- * Public education should focus on the whole child, provide equitable opportunities for all students and create socially responsible individuals with character and integrity;
- * In ensuring a culture and climate that promotes a highly-skilled, dedicated, and passionate educational team;
- * In providing learning that is innovative, irresistible, creative, relevant and rigorous;
- * It is our responsibility to inspire curiosity and a passion for life long learning.

VISION
Every student will be a resourceful, resilient, responsible and engaged world citizen.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION	LEARNING ENVIRONMENT	PERSONAL GROWTH	FISCAL STEWARDSHIP
All students, regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, or gender will be proficient/advanced and college/career ready upon graduation.	All students and staff are provided a high-quality physical environment that facilitates teaching and learning.	Empower all students to develop character, compassion, civility, and community consciousness.	Students will be central to all fiscal decisions.
Optimize student learning by utilizing innovative technologies.	Every student and staff will feel safe, respected, and enjoy positive connections.		Ensure fiscal health through investing in today while planning for tomorrow.

PLEASANTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

<i>Subject Area</i>	<i>Credits Required</i>	<i>Details</i>
English	40	4 years of English
Mathematics	20	2 years of Math 1 year of Algebra or equivalent required
Science	20	Life Science – 1 year Physical Science – 1 year
Social Science	35	Ethnic Studies – 1 semester World History – 1 year US History – 1 year Civics – 1 semester Economics – 1 semester
Physical Education	20	2 years of PE Grade 9 required and usually Grade 10 (see PE information below)
Visual & Performing Arts -or- World Language -or- Career Technical Education	10	1 year in any of these subject areas
Health Education	5	1 semester in Grade 9
Electives	80	
Total Credits Required For Graduation	230	

A grade of D-or higher is a passing grade in a course.

In addition to satisfying the course and credit requirements above, the following are required to receive a high school diploma: ([PUSD Board Policy 6146.1](#))

- Successful completion of a full year of Algebra or the equivalent
- 20 hours of community service completed anytime during grades 9-12. Please see the high schools' websites for specific details.

REPORT CARDS AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Quarter grades reflect the cumulative progress-to-date in a particular course. Semester grades are the final grades (December and May/June) achieved in the student's course. Semester report cards are issued approximately two weeks after the end of the fall and spring semesters and are available to be viewed online in Synergy.

Students and parents/guardians should contact teachers directly with any grade questions.

With the exception of progress reports, which are only generated for students with a grade below C, grades are shared online at the end of each grading term as follows:

Grading Term	Grade Reports Available Online
1st Quarter Progress Report	4 ½ weeks after the start of the 1st quarter
1st Quarter Report Card	9 weeks after the start of the 1st quarter
2nd Quarter Progress Report	4 ½ weeks after the start of the 2nd quarter
1st Semester* Report Card	18 weeks after the start of the 1st semester
3rd Quarter Progress Report	4 ½ weeks after the start of the 3rd quarter
3rd Quarter Report Card	9 weeks after the start of the 3rd quarter
4th Quarter Progress Report	4 ½ weeks after the start of the 4th quarter
2nd Semester* Report Card	18 weeks after the start of the 2nd semester

COLLEGE INFORMATION

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Community colleges are two-year institutions that prepare students for transfer to a four-year college or university or for various careers. Examples of community colleges are Las Positas (Livermore), Ohlone (Fremont), and Diablo Valley College (Concord/San Ramon).

California community colleges are required to admit any California resident possessing a high school diploma or the equivalent. Additionally, California community colleges may admit any nonresident possessing a high school diploma or the equivalent, or anyone (resident or nonresident) over the age of 18 without a high school diploma or the equivalent who, in the judgment of the board, is capable of profiting from the instruction offered.

Community colleges may admit minors who do not hold high school diplomas or the equivalent to credit courses as special part-time or special full-time students and this is often referred to as dual enrollment or concurrent enrollment.

Many students attend community college with a plan to transfer to a four-year college. Students typically spend 2 years at a community college and then 2 years at the college to which they transfer. Students work with their community college counselor to ensure they are taking the correct transfer courses, and then usually transfer as juniors. Those who do not plan to transfer may pursue an AA or AS degree or certificate in many vocational fields with the goal of entering the workforce after community college. Interested students should contact the college's admissions office. See <https://home.cccapply.org/en/> for more information on community college opportunities.

COLLEGE ADMISSION TESTING

The tests below are nationally standardized assessments, which, along with courses taken and GPA, are sometimes used to determine a student’s eligibility for admission, placement, and/or scholarships to some four-year colleges and universities. As students begin their college research, they should monitor the need for these tests at specific institutions on fairtest.org.

PSAT: Preliminary SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) is designed for juniors as a means to prepare for the SAT, enter the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST) competition, and receive information from colleges. This test is given once a year in October in high school. Registration for this test is done through each school.

If a student determines they need an admissions test score after checking fairtest.org, they should visit these websites for information:

- SAT: www.collegeboard.org
- ACT: www.actstudent.org

A-G REQUIREMENTS FOR CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

Both the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) college systems require first-time freshman applicants to complete, with a grade of C-/CR or better in each course, a 15-course comprehensive A-G pattern of college preparatory work. For the purposes of UC/CSU admission, one course equals one academic year or two semesters of study. **The UC system requires students to have 11 of these courses completed prior to the beginning of their senior year.** The UC/CSU systems calculate GPA for eligibility using the 10th and 11th grade years and award extra grade points for grades received in AP and some honors-level courses to a maximum of eight semesters, including no more than two courses taken in the 10th grade.

While A-G courses are required for minimum admission eligibility to the UC/CSU system, all PUSD students are strongly encouraged to complete the A-G course requirements. **To determine which courses meet A-G requirements for your high school, visit <https://hs-articulation.ucop.edu/agcourselist>.**

<i>Required A-G Courses</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>UC/CSU</i>
A	History and Social Science (including 1 year of U.S. history or 1 semester of U.S. history and 1 semester of civics or American government <i>AND</i> 1 year of world history, cultures, and geography)	2 courses
B	English (4 years of college preparatory English)	4 courses
C	Math (including Algebra I, Geometry/Math II, Algebra II/Math III-IV)	3 courses (UC recommends 4 levels)
D	Science (including 1 biological science and 1 physical science)	2 courses (UC recommends 3 courses)
E	Language Other than English (2 levels of the same language; American Sign Language is accepted at UC/CSU; check private universities for policies)	2 courses (UC recommends 3 levels)

F	Visual and Performing Arts (one consecutive year of drama or theater, music, or visual art)	1 course
G	College Preparatory Elective (additional year chosen from the A-G list)	1 course
	Total	15 courses

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The California State University (CSU) is a system of 23 campuses: Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, Fresno, Fullerton, East Bay, Humboldt, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San José, San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, Sonoma, Stanislaus and Maritime Academy. Factors included in CSU admissions can be viewed at www2.calstate.edu/apply. Students should also review the website for the particular campuses of interest for more information.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The University of California (UC) is composed of nine undergraduate campuses: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

The UC system also uses a “Comprehensive Review” to select candidates for enrollment. Factors included in UC admissions can be viewed at www.universityofcalifornia.edu. Students should also review the website for the particular campuses of interest for more information.

CaliforniaColleges.edu

Students are encouraged to utilize their California Colleges.edu accounts to build their four-year high school plan, investigate colleges, explore careers, and record goals and interests. Go to your school’s website, click on Clever, and follow the link to login with Google. Each year, counselors will lead students through their course planner.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Our middle school program is designed to be child-centered and to meet the unique intellectual, social-emotional, and physical needs of young adolescents in grades six through eight. Our program provides a smooth transition from the self-contained elementary school to the departmentalized high school. Following state guidelines for the ideal middle school, all students experience a core curriculum as well as exploratory and elective class offerings. **Please note that the master schedule at each school is built based on student course requests, so some courses may not be offered each year at each school site due to low requests or limited staffing availability.** Middle school students have seven class periods and a lunch period each day. A summary of the schedule for sixth, seventh, and eighth grades is outlined below.

SIXTH GRADE

SEVENTH GRADE

EIGHTH GRADE

<p><i>Sample Schedule:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LANGUAGE ARTS 2. LANGUAGE ARTS 3. HISTORY 4. LUNCH 5. MATH 6 or MATH 6/7 6. P.E. 7. 6th GRADE SCIENCE 8. EXPLORATION WHEEL <i>(may vary from site to site; some proposed course title/description revisions pending - see details in 6th grade section below)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Living • Drama 6 • Exploratory Music 6 • Gateway 6 • Integrated Technology 6 • Middle School Success 6 • Studio Art 6 • World Language 6 <p>INTERMEDIATE BAND or STRINGS I*</p> <p>*Band/Strings students may take: Band/Strings and Exploration Wheel with "A" period PE or Band/Strings with NO "A" period PE.</p> <p>DUAL IMMERSION (DI) at PMS**</p> <p>**DI students may take: DI & Exploration Wheel with "A" period PE or DI ONLY with NO "A" period PE.</p> <p>"A" Period PE is held before school</p>	<p><i>Sample Schedule:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LANGUAGE ARTS 2. LANGUAGE ARTS 3. HISTORY 4. MATH 7 or MATH 7/8 or MATH 8/ALGEBRA I 5. LUNCH 6. P.E. 7. 7th GRADE SCIENCE 8. ELECTIVE: (select one option) <p>1) EXTENDED EXPLORATION <i>(Offerings and structure may vary from school to school; 2-4 electives from the following options; some proposed course title/description revisions pending - see details in 7th grade section below)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food for Life • Gateway 7 • Integrated Technology & Computers 7 • Speech & Drama 7 • Studio Art 7 <p>2) WORLD LANGUAGE*</p> <p>3) BAND/ STRINGS</p> <p>4) CHORUS</p> <p>5) BAND/STRINGS and WORLD LANGUAGE</p> <p><i>*Prerequisite of C+ or above in 6th grade Language Arts block.</i></p> <p>If a student is taking band and world language they will attend an "A" period class before school</p>	<p><i>Sample Schedule:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LANGUAGE ARTS 2. HISTORY 3. MATH 8 or ALGEBRA I or HONORS GEOMETRY 4. P.E. 5. LUNCH 6. 8th GRADE SCIENCE 7. ELECTIVE * 8. ELECTIVE * <p>*Eighth grade students may select from a range of semester and/or yearlong electives.</p>
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MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Please visit the school website for updated information on programs, services, and activities specific to your child's school.

Child Nutrition Services (CNS)

Students will continue to receive “free” breakfast (before the bell) and lunch throughout the 2025-2026 school year. Food is served cafeteria style and students may choose items to make up a full lunch (entrée, fruit, vegetable, and milk). Students can purchase a second meal by depositing money into their MySchoolBucks account. There are no a la carte items to purchase. No cash is accepted at the service line; CNS operates a cashless program to assist with serving students faster through the meal service line. Even though meals will continue to be “Free” families will need to complete a Free or reduced lunch application, which will be available on the CNS website in August.

[Child Nutrition Services](#) (information, menus, online payment options etc.)

CLUBS

Various clubs may meet before, during lunch, and after school. Meeting times and dates are listed in the bulletin that is read daily in Advisement. Please check your school website for updated club information.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Counselors are available to students and to consult with parents/guardians throughout the school year to assist with emotional, social, and academic needs. In alignment with the PUSD Counseling Master Plan and Common Core Standards for Counseling, K-12 counselors will visit classrooms to present information on three main areas: personal/social development, academic development, and college and career readiness. Additionally, counselors are available to assist students and parents/guardians with scheduling questions, meet with students in a classroom setting to explain the next year's program and hand out scheduling materials. Parents/guardians may learn about scheduling options by attending the Incoming Parent Night meetings (see page. 4).

HEALTH SERVICES

Students are screened for vision in sixth grade and for hearing in eighth grade. Seventh grade girls and eighth grade boys are given a scoliosis screening. A health aide is on campus part time to maintain student health records and to assist with minor first aid, administer medication, and assist students who become ill at school. The school does not have a nurse on campus.

INTRAMURALS

Students **may** have the opportunity to participate in lunchtime sports activities including basketball, volleyball, paddleball, football, handball, badminton, and ping pong. Intramurals are offered during lunch periods on a rotating basis pending funding.

LIBRARY SERVICES

The school library is open before and after school. Students may also use the library during the school day and at lunchtime. The library has a computerized check-out system and students will use their student body card to borrow materials. Please refer to the individual school websites for more information about library services and hours of operation at each school site.

STUDENT ADVISEMENT PROGRAM

One of the class periods is lengthened to accommodate advisement. During this time, students are informed of the school activities and other school-wide announcements. It is also an opportunity for students to ask questions and/or address concerns. The advisement teacher will assist students with finding answers and/or ways to address concerns.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

What is Career Technical Education?

Career Technical Education (CTE) is a program of study that involves a multiyear sequence of courses that integrate core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge to provide students with a pathway to post-secondary education and careers. This program of study is commonly referred to as a CTE pathway, and all courses must be taken in high school in order to receive academic credits. Students in 8th grade will view CTE courses in the high school Program Guide before picking high school classes. Students in 5th-7th grade may view CTE middle school courses using the link below.

What are Career Technical Education Pathways?

CTE pathways are classes organized into specific industry sectors that allow students to experience real world, hands-on learning in high-demand career fields. CTE pathways enable students to thrive in independent and collaborative work environments while helping them develop the personal and professional competencies they will need to be successful in their post-secondary education and future career.

What are the goals for Career Technical Education in Middle School?

PUSD's goals for middle school students are twofold: 1) to create K-12 system alignment for all CTE offerings (i.e. courses, extra curricular activities, etc.) to help ensure all students are informed, can participate and ultimately graduate college and career ready; and 2) to organize middle school CTE classes into the CTE sectors and pathways defined by the [State of California](#)

[CTE Middle School Courses](#)

SIXTH GRADE PROGRAM

Most courses listed in this catalog are offered at all three middle schools. In some cases, a course may only be offered at one or two of our middle schools. The key below each course description indicates if the course is only offered at a specific school:

HPMS - Harvest Park Middle School

PMS - Pleasanton Middle School

THMS - Thomas Hart Middle School

6th GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS (Course Code 371011)

The three period humanities block consists of two periods of language arts and one period of history. This block may be taught by a single teacher or by a team of teachers.

The sixth grade year-long English Language Arts course is based on the California State Standards. Students will progress through the areas of reading, writing, written and oral and English conventions, and speaking and listening. In order to meet the California State Standards, teachers will use a variety of optional activities and instructional strategies. Assessments will be given in the areas of reading, writing, and speech.

The history portion of the block focuses on the development of mankind, including geographical, political, economic, cultural, and social structures of the ancient world.

6th HISTORY (Course Code 441012)

Students in sixth-grade world history and geography classrooms learn about the earliest humans, the development of tools, the foraging way of life, agriculture, and the emergence of civilizations in Egypt, ancient Israel, the Indus River valley, China, Mesoamerica, and the Mediterranean basin. Although teachers should keep the focus on ancient events and problems, this course gives students the opportunity to grapple with geography, environmental issues, political systems and power structures, and civic engagement with fundamental ideas about citizenship, freedom, morality, and law, which also exist in the modern world. Students practice history as an interpretive discipline. They read written primary sources and secondary sources, investigate visual primary sources, and learn how to analyze multiple points of view, cite evidence from sources, and make claims in writing and speaking based on that evidence.

6th GRADE MATH

Additional information can be accessed at [Pleasanton Unified School District Math Resource for Parents Website](#) and [Math Pathways for Grades 5-12](#).

MATH 6 (Course Code 381080)

This class covers California State Standards at the 6th grade level and prepares students for Math 7. Main concepts of instruction include: understanding ratio, unit rate, and using ratio and rate reasoning to solve problems; interpreting and computing quotients of fractions; computing fluently with multi-digit numbers, common factors and multiples; applying and extending the understanding of numbers to the system of rational numbers; writing and extending the understanding of arithmetic to algebraic expressions; solving one-variable equations and inequalities; representing and analyzing quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables; finding area; finding and solving mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume; developing the understanding of statistical variability; and summarizing and describing distributions.

MATH 6/7 (Course Code 381013)

Note: Multiple measures of assessment will be used to determine appropriate math placement for the following year. Details will be shared with students and families in the Spring.

This class covers California State Standards at the 6th and 7th grade level and prepares students for Math 8/Algebra. The first semester of Math 6, the instructional concepts include: understanding ratio, unit rate, and using ratio and rate reasoning to solve problems; interpreting and computing quotients of fractions; computing fluently with multi-digit numbers, common factors and multiples; applying and extending the understanding of numbers to the system of rational numbers; writing and extending understanding of arithmetic to algebraic expressions; solving one-variable equations and inequalities; representing and analyzing quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables; finding area and solving mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume; developing understanding of statistical variability; and summarizing and describing distributions. The second semester of Math 7, the instructional concepts include: analyzing proportional relationships and using them to solve real-world and mathematical problems; applying and extending previous understandings of operation with fractions in adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational numbers; using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions; solving real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations; drawing, constructing, and describing geometrical figures and the relationships between them; solving real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume; using random sampling to draw inferences about a population; drawing informal comparative inferences about two populations; investigating chance processes and developing, using, and evaluating probability models.

6th GRADE SCIENCE with HEALTH (Course Code 431010)

6th Grade Science with Health

All grade six science classes include a six-week Health unit that covers the California Standards for Health Education.

The Next Generation Science Standards for 6th grade includes the following topics woven through storylines - Structure, Function, and Information Processing, Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms Earth's Systems, Weather and Climate, Energy, Human Impacts and Engineering Design. Students approach the topics through the disciplinary core ideas, crosscutting concepts, and the application of science and engineering practices. The sixth grade health unit explores the following topics; Injury prevention and Safety, Alcohol, Tobacco and other drugs, and Mental, Emotional and Social Health.

6th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Course Code 405006)

This course provides students the opportunity to learn through a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive sequentially planned physical education program aligned with the Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools. In 6th grade, the content standards emphasize working cooperatively to achieve a common goal.

The focus of this course is the development of movement skill combinations and movement skill knowledge; the assessment and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health and performance, and the requisite knowledge of physical fitness concepts, principles and strategies; and the application of psychological and sociological concepts, including self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics, in the learning and performance of physical activity.

6th GRADE EXPLORATION WHEEL

Sixth grade students may take a full year of exploration wheel, but these courses are not required and may not be available for students taking skills/intervention classes, Dual Immersion (at PMS), Band, Strings, Chorus, or RS Lab. This means that A or B Period may be optional or may not be available for some students based on scheduling restrictions.

Over the course of the year, students will have an introduction to a series of wheel classes, taken in varying order. Included in each class will be strategies for middle and high school, college and career preparation.

CULINARY PRINCIPLES 6 (Course Code 361004)

This course will teach students food and kitchen safety and sanitation, basic cooking and baking skills, as well as introducing students to new foods and techniques. Students will be encouraged to develop leadership skills, and express their creativity through hands-on labs. This course articulates with the Culinary Skills and Baking and Pastry in the high school.

SEWING AND PERSONAL DESIGN 6 (Course Code 361008)

This course will teach students the operation of sewing machines, color wheel, measurements, using patterns, textiles, creating personal projects in sewing and designing your own personal interior space. Students will learn how to design, sew, and re-style clothing; apply the elements and principles of design in various aspects

of the fashion industry; understand the relationship between history and fashion; know the general characteristics, production, and maintenance of textiles and textile products; study and analyze fashion trends.

DRAMA 6 (Course Code 371025)

The Drama elective is a 6 week course designed to introduce 6th grade students to the basic skills and terminology of the acting process with focus on improvisation. The course may also include exploration in musical theater and dance, directing, stage combat, stagecraft, history of the theater, acting theory work, stage and film make-up, and film study. In addition to course instruction, students will develop social skills by engaging in a positive working relationship with their peers.

Offered at: HPMS & PMS

EXPLORATORY MUSIC 6 (Course Code 391005)

This general introductory music course incorporates the various aspects of music including a basic understanding of the elements of music, music history and its great composers, styles and cultures of music, the development of music listening skills, music appreciation, music performance, and elementary music theory.

Offered only at: THMS

ENGINEERING DESIGN AND ROBOTICS 6 (Course Code 451006)

Students will participate in a project-based curriculum that introduces various disciplines and concepts of engineering, technology and robotics. The core unit introduces engineering and technology and explores the social, cultural, economic, political and environmental consequences of inventions and innovations. Students learn procedures to use and maintain an engineering notebook and learn the steps involved in the engineering design process including documentation procedures. Measurement concepts and skills including both Standard and Metric units, differentiation between accuracy and precision, the use of precision instruments and contextual practice.

MEDICAL SCIENCE AND APPLICATIONS (Course Code 321006)

In this course, students will be referred to as medical interns and given the opportunity to solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs that include but are not limited to the following activities: Students will learn about the use of antibiotics to treat bacterial infections. Students will learn about the Nervous system and the function of the brain to coordinate all functions of the human body. Students will dissect a sheep's brain to discover evidence to diagnose a patient with neurological symptoms. Finally, the students will incorporate all of their skills that they have learned to investigate a disease outbreak and explore how a breakdown with the human body can lead to dysfunction.

Offered only at: PMS

COMPUTER SCIENCE ESSENTIALS 6 (Course Code 321010)

This course will engage students in a variety of aspects including, but not limited to, the use of computers, Internet, programs and applications based on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and Career Technical Education (CTE) Standards. Students will learn computer basics using communication and creativity through a variety of lessons, projects and activities designed to promote learning in the 21st Century. All students should possess strong content mastery, as well as the "Four Cs": critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students will be introduced to other topics in technology and engineering with a

focus on project-based learning.

STEM EXPLORATION AND ESSENTIALS (Course Code 323210)

This course will expose students to a wide variety of career options within STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) career fields such as engineering and computer science fields. Some of the specific topics will include but not be limited to: the use of computers, computer interfaced equipment such as laser cutters and 3D printers, solar energy, hydraulics and pneumatics, flight, space travel, electricity, and computer programming/app design. The intent is to develop student interest in STEM and other CTE pathways by exposing them to these career fields and orienting them to the type of work they should expect in their future secondary and post-secondary classes if this is something they decide to pursue.

INTRO TO SOCIAL MEDIA DESIGN AND VIDEO PRODUCTION (Course Code 323011)

CTE Digital Media Arts is a one year, project-based course introducing students to modern media. Students will develop skills to become responsible creators learning about social media, graphic design, and video making. Students will learn a variety of industry recognized digital software programs and techniques on their journey. This course will explore a variety of possible careers in the Arts, Media and Entertainment industries. Students will showcase their work in a portfolio as well as other exhibition opportunities. Units focus on projects that allow students to design, build, create, or produce various digital media products that can be used and shared on a variety of digital platforms.

PERSONAL FINANCE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (Course Code 311050)

This course is designed to help students with an entrepreneurial interest learn skills related to organization, planning, research, effective decision-making, and goal setting. Students develop comprehensive business plans including research & development of ideas, product planning, operation, finance, and marketing. Students will also receive training in constructing resumes, employment applications, cover letters, and references, in addition to interviewing skills. This class will help students to develop business concepts, leadership, social and professional skills that will build self-confidence for high school, college and career success

Offered at: THMS & PMS

MIDDLE SCHOOL SUCCESS 6 (Course Code 481010)

A 6-week course which focuses on developing college and career readiness skills in the areas of writing, organization, collaboration and study skills. Students will learn a variety of note-taking skills including 2-column notes and Cornell Notes. Students will engage in organizational strategies including, but not limited to, setting up a binder, establishing academic/personal goals and time management strategies, while developing effective uses of an agenda. Students will learn effective collaboration and inquiry techniques which emphasize the Speaking & Listening California State Standards.

STUDIO ART 6 (Course Code 311008)

This introductory studio art course incorporates hands-on art making and art appreciation through historical and cultural examples, materials, techniques, and terminology in sculpture, painting, and drawing. Students are introduced to the elements and principles of art and design and are encouraged to develop and expand their creativity and artistic potential.

WORLD LANGUAGES 6 (Course Code 341007)

In this course, students will be introduced to French and Spanish culture and language. A variety of activities will be used to bring languages to life and to generate interest in further language study.

6th GRADE VOCAL AND INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Students choosing this class *may or may not take an extra class period ("A" period P.E. or another period course offering) that will meet before or after the regular school day.* The Exploration Wheel is not required and may not be available for students taking skills/intervention classes, Dual Immersion (at PMS) or Band, Strings or Chorus. This means that A or B Period may not be available for some students based on scheduling restrictions.

VOCAL MUSIC

CHORUS (Course Code 391009, 391029, 391030)

This course is designed to provide experience and training for students who are interested in vocal performance. Emphasis will be on vocal technique, music notation, sight singing, various styles or genres of choral music, and performance etiquette. This is a yearlong class.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

INTERMEDIATE BAND (Course Code 391007)

This class is designed to provide experience and training for students who have had one to two years playing experience. Students must demonstrate a basic understanding of music notation and instrumental technique. Student placement is determined by audition and includes both a written and a performance component. Students will be informed of the audition times by their current band instructor. There is a performance requirement in this class. *It's recommended that students complete one year of instrumental band, or have equivalent experience, in the 5th grade.*

STRINGS I (Course Code 391070)

This class is designed to provide extensive training for students who play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students must have a minimum of one year prior experience and must demonstrate a basic understanding of music notation and instrumental technique. This class will provide training in a variety of orchestral styles and difficulty levels with concentration on baroque and classical literature. There is a performance requirement in this class.

SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS IMMERSION - DUAL IMMERSION (DI)(Course Code 491040)

This elective course provides grade level development of Spanish language arts and reading skills for students who have completed the elementary dual immersion program and for native Spanish speaking students who have grade level Spanish literacy skills. Literacy skills in language arts, including vocabulary development,

grammar, writing, speaking, and reading, will be taught using grade level Spanish materials.

This class is taught and students are required to respond, both orally and in writing, exclusively in Spanish. Students will interact with peers and community groups to engage in cooperative learning and share their language experiences during the school year.

This course provides multicultural education, with an emphasis on understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking peoples' customs and cultures.

** This elective is offered at the sixth grade level in place of the elective wheel. Spanish language arts immersion is also integrated with other wheel subjects such as art, science, health and world languages. Creative writing, speaking presentations and reading in Spanish will accompany themes of study.*

** If students choose to take the elective wheel courses, along with Dual Immersion, they will be required to take "A" period P.E. which is offered before school.*

Offered only at: PMS

SEVENTH GRADE PROGRAM

Most courses listed in this catalog are offered at all three middle schools. In some cases, a course may only be offered at one or two of our middle schools. The key below each course description indicates if the course is only offered at a specific school:

HPMS - Harvest Park Middle School

PMS - Pleasanton Middle School

THMS - Thomas Hart Middle School

7th GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS (Course Code 331003)

The three period humanities block consists of two periods of language arts and one period of history. This block may be taught by a single teacher or by a team of teachers.

The seventh grade year-long course is aligned to the California State English-Language Arts Standards so that all students are working toward the same goal: the ability to communicate well; to read, write, listen and speak effectively. The common core standards of reading encompass analysis, comprehension, and literary response of different genres found in the textbook, core literature, supplemental and recreational literature. Through the writing process, students are taught to write clear, precise, coherent sentences and paragraphs that address narrative, informative and argumentative as outlined in the California State Standards. Students will use technology and text resources to develop and pursue research skills. Grammar is taught through a variety of methods blended into units. Students are required to develop organized responses using accurate conventions for all written and oral work. Students participate in both formal and informal speaking and listening activities throughout the year as addressed in the standards.

7th WORLD HISTORY (Course Code 441013)

The medieval and early modern periods provide students with opportunities to study the rise and fall of empires, the diffusion of religions and languages, and significant movements of people, ideas, and products. During these periods, the regions of the world became more and more interconnected. Although societies were quite distinct from each other, there were more exchanges of people, products, and ideas in each century. For this reason, world history during the medieval and early modern periods can be a bewildering catalog of names, places, and events that impacted individual societies, while the larger patterns that affected the world are lost.

7th GRADE MATH

Additional information can be accessed at [Pleasanton Unified School District Math Resource for Parents Website](#) and [Math Pathways for Grades 5-12](#).

MATH 7 (Course Code 381011)

This class covers California State Standards 7th grade content standards and prepares students for Math 8, which includes algebra skills. The main concepts of instruction include: analyzing proportional relationships and using them to solve real-world and mathematical problems; applying and extending previous understandings of operations with fractions in adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational numbers; using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions; solving real-life and mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations; drawing, constructing, and describing geometrical figures and the relationships between them; solving real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume; using random sampling to draw inferences about a population; drawing informal comparative inferences about two populations; investigating chance processes and developing, using, and evaluating probability models.

MATH 7/8 (Course Code 381090)

Note: Students will be placed in an advanced math class if they pass the placement test for the class—given at the end of the school year. Qualified students will be scheduled into an advanced class.

This class covers California State Standards 7th and 8th grade content standards and prepares students for Algebra. The main concepts of instruction include: applying and extending the understanding of operations with fractions in adding; subtracting, dividing and multiplying rational numbers; understanding that irrational numbers exist and how to approximate them by rational numbers; using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions; working with radicals and integer exponents; solving real-life mathematical problems using numerical and algebraic expressions and equations; working with radical and integer exponents; understanding connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations; analyzing and solving linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations, using random sampling to draw inferences about a population; drawing informal comparative inferences about two populations; investigating chance processes and developing, using and evaluating probability models; constructing, and describing geometrical figures and the relationships between them; understanding congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software; and, solving real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume.

MATH 8/ALGEBRA 1 (Course Code 381060)

Note: Students will be placed in an advanced math class if they pass the placement test for the class—given at the end of the school year. Qualified students will be scheduled into an advanced class.

This class covers -California State Standards 8th and 9th grade content standards and prepares students for Geometry. In the first semester of Math 8, the main instructional concepts include: understanding rational and irrational numbers; working with radicals and integer exponents; understanding the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations; analyzing and solving linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations; defining, evaluating, and comparing functions; using functions to model relationships between quantities; understanding congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software; understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem; and, investigating patterns of association in bivariate data.

In the second semester of Algebra, main instructional concepts include: reasoning quantitatively and using units to solve problems; creating equations that describe numbers or relationships; understanding solving equations as a process of reasoning and explaining reasoning; solving equations and inequalities in one

variable; solving systems of equations; representing and solving equations and inequalities graphically; extending the properties of exponents to rational exponents; using properties of rational and irrational numbers; analyzing and solving linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations; defining, evaluating, and comparing functions; using functions to model relationships between quantities; understanding the concept of a function and using function notation; interpreting functions that arise in application in terms of the context; analyzing functions using different representations; building a function that models a relationship between two quantities; building new functions from existing functions; constructing and comparing linear, quadratic, and exponential models and solving problems; summarizing, representing, and interpreting data on a single count or measurement variable; summarizing, representing, and interpreting data on two categorical and quantitative variables; interpreting linear models; investigating patterns of association in bivariate data; interpreting structure of expressions; writing expressions in equivalent forms to solve problems; performing arithmetic operations on polynomials; and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

** This middle school course is equivalent to a high school course. It is important to note that this course will appear as an informational footnote on a student's high school transcript. The footnote will display the letter grade earned, but will not count toward credit for graduation and will not be calculated in a student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA). The course may not be removed from the student's permanent transcript per California Education Code 49066.*

7th GRADE SCIENCE with HEALTH (Course Code 431014)

7th Grade Science with Health

All grade seven science classes include a six-week Health unit that covers the California Standards for Health Education.

In this one year integrated science course, students will explore the relationships between natural processes and human activities that cause energy to flow and matter to cycle through Earth's systems. Students will develop conceptual understanding and skills related to the following topics: matter, thermal energy transfer, chemical reactions, Earth's natural resources, Earth's cycling of matter and energy, plate tectonics, ecosystems, biodiversity, and engineering as outlined for 7th grade by the California Next Generation Science Standards. The seventh grade health unit explores the following topics; Growth and Development, Alcohol, Tobacco and other drugs, and Mental, Emotional and Social Health.

7th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Course Code 405007)

This course provides students the opportunity to learn through a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive sequentially planned physical education program aligned with the Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools. In 7th grade, the content standards emphasize meeting challenges and making decisions.

Upon completion of the State Mandated Fitness Testing, the focus of this course is the application of movement skills and knowledge of individual and dual physical activities; the assessment and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health and performance, and the requisite knowledge of physical fitness concepts, principles and strategies; and the application of psychological and sociological concepts, including self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics in the learning and performance of physical activity. Units of study may include activities such as track and field, softball, racquet and paddle sports, dance, basketball, football, soccer, or volleyball.

7th GRADE ELECTIVES

Seventh grade students have the opportunity to take one of the four following elective choices:

- 1) Extended Exploration Wheel
- 2) World Languages
- 3) Chorus or
- 4) Instrumental Music (Band/Strings).
- 5) Mentoring Through Agriculture
- 6) Advanced STEAM

More specific descriptions of each of these elective options are included below.

7th GRADE EXTENDED EXPLORATION

Based on enrollment and school offering, this yearlong program may provide two to four of the following courses. Courses may be offered for either a quarter or a semester, depending on individual school needs and student interest:

CULINARY PRINCIPLES 7 (Course Code 361005)

This course will teach students food and kitchen safety and sanitation, basic cooking and baking skills, as well as introducing students to new foods and techniques. Students will be encouraged to develop leadership skills, and express their creativity through hands-on labs. This course articulates with the Culinary Skills and Baking and Pastry in the high school.

SEWING AND PERSONAL DESIGN 7 (Course Code 399901)

This course will teach students the operation of sewing machines, color wheel, measurements, using patterns, textiles, creating personal projects in sewing and designing your own personal interior space. Students will learn how to design, sew, and re-style clothing; apply the elements and principles of design in various aspects of the fashion industry; understand the relationship between history and fashion; know the general characteristics, production, and maintenance of textiles and textile products; study and analyze fashion trends.

ENGINEERING DESIGN AND ROBOTICS 7 (Course Code 451007)

Students will participate in a project-based curriculum that introduces various disciplines and concepts of engineering, technology and robotics. The core unit introduces engineering and technology and explores the social, cultural, economic, political and environmental consequences of inventions and innovations. Students learn procedures to use and maintain an engineering notebook and learn the steps involved in the engineering design process including documentation procedures. Measurement concepts and skills including both Standard and Metric units, differentiation between accuracy and precision, the use of precision instruments and contextual practice.

COMPUTER SCIENCE ESSENTIALS 7 (Course Code 321005)

This course will engage students in a variety of aspects including, but not limited to, the use of computers, Internet, programs and applications based on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and Career Technical Education (CTE) Standards. Students will learn computer basics using communication and creativity through a variety of lessons, projects and activities designed to promote learning in the 21st Century. All students should possess strong content mastery, as well as the “Four Cs”: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students will be introduced to other topics in technology and engineering with a focus on project-based learning.

SPEECH & DRAMA 7 (Course Code 371024)

The Speech & Drama elective is designed to provide students with the instruction and opportunity to improve their public speaking abilities, as well as to develop more confidence in performing a variety of assignments for different audiences. After a brief introduction to the history and terminology of theatre, students will produce, develop, design, and evaluate skits, monologues, and improvisations. They will write, develop, memorize and perform each assignment in front of an audience of their peers.

STUDIO ART 7 (Course Code 311007)

This 7th grade studio art course offers opportunities for students to develop art works over a longer duration of time, empowering them to develop and expand their individual creativity and artistic voice. Through a variety of materials, techniques, and terminology in sculpture, painting, and drawing, students begin to understand the historical, cultural and aesthetic significance of art.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Students may choose World Languages if they meet the following recommended criteria: 1) a yearlong average grade of “C+” in sixth grade block, 2) strong study habits, and 3) a strong commitment to school work. If you feel that your child should be in a World Language, but s/he does not meet the above criteria, contact your school counselor.

SPANISH 1A (Course Code 341015)

Spanish 1A is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Students study basic speech patterns, vocabulary and elementary grammar. The class involves a great deal of oral communication. Homework is assigned daily and reinforces the vocabulary and grammar concepts learned in class. There are frequent tests and quizzes.

** This middle school course is equivalent to a semester high school course. It is important to note that this course will appear as an informational footnote on a student's high school transcript. The footnote will display the letter grade earned, but will not count toward credit for graduation and will not be calculated in a student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA). The course may not be removed from the student's permanent transcript per California Education Code 49066.*

FRENCH 1A (Course Code 341030)

French 1A is an introduction to the French language and culture. Students study basic speech patterns, vocabulary and elementary grammar. The class involves a great deal of oral communication. Homework is

assigned daily and reinforces the vocabulary and grammar concepts learned in class. There are frequent tests and quizzes.

**This middle school course is equivalent to a semester high school course. It is important to note that this course will appear as an informational footnote on a student's high school transcript. The footnote will display the letter grade earned, but will not count toward credit for graduation and will not be calculated in a student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA). The course may not be removed from the student's permanent transcript per California Education Code 49066.*

SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS IMMERSION (Course Code 491050)

This elective course provides grade level development of Spanish language arts and reading skills for students who have completed the elementary dual immersion program and native Spanish speaking students who have grade level Spanish literacy skills. Literacy skills in language arts, including vocabulary development, grammar, writing, speaking, and reading, will be taught using grade level Spanish materials.

This class is taught and students are required to respond, both orally and in writing, exclusively in Spanish. Students will interact with peers and community groups to engage in cooperative learning and share their language experiences during the school year.

This course provides multicultural education, with an emphasis on understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking peoples' customs and cultures.

Offered only at: PMS

VOCAL MUSIC

CHORUS (Course Code 391009, 391029, 391030)

This course is designed to provide experience and training for students who are interested in vocal performance. Emphasis will be on vocal technique, music notation, sight singing, various styles or genres of choral music, and performance etiquette. This is a yearlong class.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

CONCERT BAND (Course Code 391002)

This class is designed to provide experience and training for students who have had two to three years playing experience. Emphasis will be on intermediate music concepts, intermediate to advanced rhythms, and intermediate to advanced instrumental techniques. Student placement is by audition and determined by the band instructor. There is a graded performance requirement for this class.

SYMPHONIC BAND (Course Code 391004)

This class is designed to provide experience and training for students who have had two to three years of playing experience. Emphasis will be on advanced music concepts, advanced rhythms, and advanced instrumental techniques. Student placement is by audition and determined by the band instructor. There is a graded performance requirement in this class.

WIND ENSEMBLE (Advanced Symphonic Band) (Course Code 391025)

This class is designed for musicians who have a minimum of two years of playing experience. Class placement is determined by audition and instructor approval. The audition will include a prepared solo, knowledge of major, arpeggios, rhythm, and sight reading. Knowledge of musical terminology is required. Wind Ensemble is a performance oriented class designed to allow experienced musicians to improve and maximize their capabilities on their given instruments. Students will learn and perform advanced music of symphonic band literature. Performances will include a winter and spring concert and various concert festivals and competitions in which the ensemble is entered. Attendance at all performances is required.

JAZZ BAND (Course Code 391020)

Advanced instrumental techniques, theory, improvisation, and a variety of jazz styles are taught in this select class. Instrumentation is limited to saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and a rhythm section of bass, piano, and drum set. All musicians must demonstrate advanced skills, and participation is determined by auditions. This is a competitive band that may meet during “B” period (PMS) and during “A” period (HPMS & HP). Participation in performances is part of the student’s grade.

MARIACHI BAND (Course Code 391075)

Grade 7 and 8

Students will explore the vibrant world of Mariachi instrumentation, practicing the art of playing iconic Mariachi instruments such as the violin, trumpet, guitarrón, and vihuela as well as vocal stylings. Beyond honing their musical skills, students will delve into the captivating history and culture of Mexico, gaining a deep appreciation for the roots and evolution of Mariachi. Through engaging lessons and spirited rehearsals, students will not only become skilled musicians but also experience the joy of live performance, culminating in exciting showcases that celebrate the spirit and energy of Mariachi music for both the school and community.

STRINGS II (Course Code 391080)

This class is designed for musicians who have two or more years playing experience. Emphasis will be on learning advanced musical literature, theory, history, and instrumental techniques. Student placement is determined by the orchestra instructor. There is a performance requirement in this class.

STRING ORCHESTRA (Advanced Strings II) (Course Code 391035)

This class is designed for musicians who have a minimum of two years of playing experience. Class placement is determined by audition and instructor approval. The audition will include a prepared solo, knowledge of all major minor scales, arpeggios, rhythm, and sight reading. Knowledge of musical terminology is required. String Orchestra is a performance oriented class designed to allow experienced String musicians to improve and maximize their capabilities on their given instruments. Students will learn and perform advanced music of String and Full Orchestra literature. Performances will include a winter and spring concert and various concert festivals and competitions in which the ensemble is entered. Attendance at all performances is required.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC AND WORLD LANGUAGES

(Note Special Circumstances)

Students who choose to take both band/strings and a world language in seventh grade may be scheduled for "A" period P.E. "A" period meets in the morning before the regular school day. "A" period may be provided for 7th grade band/strings students who wish to take the world language option. This means that A or B Period may not be available for some students based on scheduling restrictions.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

MENTORING THROUGH AGRICULTURE (Course Code 323100)

This year-long course will allow middle school students to mentor and support preschool students in the natural outdoor learning environment that stimulates the diversity of the child's learning experience and contributes to their healthy development. The Garden/Greenhouse Lab includes activities in the areas of Science and Agriculture.

Offered only at: HPMS & THMS

ADVANCED STEAM (Course Code 323200)

This is a combination of the middle school technology and art courses that will expose students to the interconnected nature of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math and that will engage students in a variety of aspects. Some of the topics will include but not be limited to, the use of computers, Internet, hands-on art techniques, programs and applications based on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and Career Technical Education (CTE) Standards. Students will learn at an advanced level how to combine art techniques with computer and technology basics using communication and creativity through a variety of lessons, projects and activities designed to promote learning in the 21st Century. All students should possess strong content mastery, as well as the "Five C's": critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and Common Core. Students will be introduced to other topics in technology, art, design and engineering with a focus on project-based learning. Primary focus will be placed on the commonality between the 8 Studio Habits of Mind and the Engineering Design Process.

Offered only at: THMS

EIGHTH GRADE PROGRAM

Most courses listed in this catalog are offered at all three middle schools. In some cases, a course may only be offered at one or two of our middle schools. The key below each course description indicates if the course is only offered at a specific school:

HPMS - Harvest Park Middle School

PMS - Pleasanton Middle School

THMS - Thomas Hart Middle School

8th LANGUAGE ARTS (Course Code 331005, 371013)

This eighth grade year-long language arts course is based on the California State Standards for English-Language Arts. Students will progress through the standards of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language using core and supplemental materials. The literature and informational reading and writing elements of this course will introduce students to the art of using technical vocabulary and conventions. Assessments will be given in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language.

8th US HISTORY (Course Code 441014)

The eighth-grade course of study begins with an intensive review of the major ideas, issues, and events that shaped the founding of the nation. In their study of this era, students will view American history through the lens of people who were trying—and are still trying—to fulfill the promise of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Throughout their eighth-grade United States history and geography course, students will confront the themes of freedom, equality, and liberty and their changing definitions over time. This course will explore the geography of place, movement, and region, starting with the Atlantic seaboard and then American westward expansion and economic development, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and finally, industrialization.

8th GRADE MATH

Additional information can be accessed at [Pleasanton Unified School District Math Resource for Parents Website](#) and [Math Pathways for Grades 5-12](#).

MATH 8 (Course Code 381190)

This class covers California State Standards in 8th grade, which includes Algebra foundation skills, and prepares students for Algebra in 9th grade. Main concepts include: know that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximate them by rational numbers; work with radicals and integer exponents; understand the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations; analyze and solve linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations; define, evaluate, and compare functions; use functions to model relationships between quantities; understand congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software; understand and apply the Pythagorean Theorem; investigate patterns of association in bivariate data.

ALGEBRA I (Course Code 381120)

Note: Students will be placed in an advanced math class if they pass the placement test for the class given at the end of the school year. Qualified students will be scheduled into an advanced class.

This is a high school level course. The class covers California State Standards in Algebra and prepares students for Geometry. Main concepts include: reason quantitatively and use units to solve problems; create equations that describe numbers or relationships; understand solving equations as a process of reasoning and explain reasoning; solve equations and inequalities in one variable; solve systems of equations; represent and solve equations and inequalities graphically; extend the properties of exponents to rational exponents; use properties of rational and irrational numbers; understand the concept of a function and use function notation; interpret functions that arise in application in terms of the context; analyze functions using different representations; build a function that models a relationship between two quantities; build new functions from existing functions; construct and compare linear, quadratic, and exponential models and solve problems; summarize, represent, and interpret data on a single count or measurement variable; summarize, represent, and interpret data on two categorical and quantitative variables; interpret linear models; interpret structure of expressions; perform arithmetic operations on polynomials. **This middle school course is equivalent to a high school course. It is important to note that this course will appear as an informational footnote on a student's high school transcript. The footnote will display the letter grade earned, but will not count toward credit for graduation and will not be calculated in a student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA). The course may not be removed from the student's permanent transcript per California Education Code 49066.*

HONORS GEOMETRY (Course Code 381045)

Note: Students will be placed in an advanced math class if they pass the placement test for the class—given at the end of the school year. Qualified students will be scheduled into an advanced class.

This is a high school level course. The class covers California State Standards in Geometry and prepares students for Honors Intermediate Algebra 2. Main concepts include: experiment with transformations in the plane; understand congruence in terms of rigid motions; prove geometric theorems; make geometric constructions; understand similarity in terms of similarity transformations; prove theorems involving similarity; define trigonometric ratios and solve problems involving right triangles; apply trigonometry to general triangles; apply geometric concepts in modeling situations; explain volume formulas and use them to solve problems; visualize relationships between two-dimensional and three-dimensional objects; translate between the geometric description and the equation for a conic section; use coordinates to prove simple geometric theorems algebraically; understand and apply theorems about circles; find arc lengths and areas of sectors of circles; understand independence and conditional probability and use them to interpret data; use the rules of probability to compute probabilities of compound events in a uniform probability model; use probability to evaluate outcomes of decisions. **This middle school course is equivalent to a high school course. It is important to note that this course will appear as an informational footnote on a student's high school transcript. The footnote will display the letter grade earned, but will not count toward credit for graduation and will not be calculated in a student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA). The course may not be removed from the student's permanent transcript as per California Education Code 49070.*

8th GRADE SCIENCE with HEALTH (Course Code 431018)

8th Grade Science with Health

All grade eight science classes include a six-week Health unit that covers the California Standards for Health Education.

The emphasis of this one-year course is integrated science. Included in the course is an introduction to the foundational concepts pertaining to physical and life sciences. Major topics of study include Human Energy, Forces & Motion, Light Waves, Magnetism, Earth, Moon, & Sun, Natural Selection, and Evolutionary History. In addition, there will be a six-week course which includes Mental, Emotional, & Social health, Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Drugs, and Growth, Development, & Sexual Health.

8th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Course Code 405010, 405008, 405009)

This course provides students the opportunity to learn through a developmentally appropriate, comprehensive sequentially planned physical education program aligned with the Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools. In 8th grade, the content standards emphasize working as a team to solve problems.

The focus of this course is the application of movement skills and knowledge (including offensive and defensive strategies) of team-based activities, fundamental gymnastics/tumbling and square dance; the assessment and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health and performance, including a regularly scheduled cardio activity; the requisite knowledge of physical fitness concepts, principles and strategies to improve health and performance; the application of psychological and sociological concepts, including self-responsibility, positive social interaction, and group dynamics in the learning and performance of physical activity. Units of activity may include: cooperative games, flag football, lacrosse, volleyball, basketball, hockey, soccer, softball, team handball, Frisbee, dance, track and field, and racquet/paddle sports.

8th GRADE ELECTIVES

The elective classes are designed to provide students with a more in-depth study of a variety of subject areas. Eighth grade electives are organized into semester or year long blocks of time. The elective classes that eighth grade students may choose are as follows:

YEARLONG ELECTIVES

WORLD LANGUAGES

Note: For four year college admission, students will need to take a world language in high school. If taken in eighth grade, level 1A is the first semester and 1B is the second semester.

** These middle school courses are equivalent to a high school course. It is important to note that these courses will appear as an informational footnote on a student's high school transcript. The footnote will display the letter grade earned, but will not count toward credit for graduation and will not be calculated in a student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA). The course may not be removed from the student's permanent transcript per California Education Code 49066.*

SPANISH 1A (Course Code 341015)

Spanish 1A is an introduction to the Spanish language and culture. Students study basic speech patterns, vocabulary and elementary grammar. The class is open to eighth graders who have a good command of English grammar and good study habits. There will be daily homework and frequent tests. **Eighth graders may enroll only if space is available.** A grade of C+ or higher in 7th grade Language Arts is strongly recommended to enroll in this class.

SPANISH 1B (Course Code 341016)

Spanish 1B continues the work completed in Spanish IA (in 7th grade). The course will cover more advanced grammar, more complex conversational patterns, and simple compositions. Successful completion of two years of Spanish at the middle school is the equivalent of one year of high school Spanish. Advanced high school placement is based on teacher recommendation. A grade of C+ or higher in 7th grade Language Arts is strongly recommended to enroll in this class.

FRENCH 1A (Course Code 341030)

French 1A is an introduction to the French language and culture. Students study basic speech patterns, vocabulary and elementary grammar. Oral communication is an important component of the class. The class is open to eighth graders who have a good command of English grammar and good study habits. There will be daily homework and frequent tests. **Eighth graders may enroll only if space is available.** A grade of C+ or higher in 7th grade Language Arts is strongly recommended to enroll in this class.

FRENCH 1B (Course Code 341035)

French 1B is a continuation of French IA (in 7th grade). The course covers more advanced grammar, more complex conversational patterns, simple compositions and some simple French literature. Successful completion of two years of French at the middle school is the equivalent of one year of high school French. Advanced high school placement is based on teacher recommendation. A grade of C+ or higher in 7th grade Language Arts is strongly recommended to enroll in this class.

SPANISH LANGUAGE ARTS IMMERSION (Course Code 491060)

This elective course provides grade level development of Spanish language arts and reading skills for students who have completed the elementary dual immersion program and native Spanish speaking students who have grade level Spanish literacy skills. Literacy skills in language arts, including vocabulary development, grammar, writing, speaking, and reading, will be taught using grade level Spanish materials.

This class is taught and students are required to respond, both orally and in writing, exclusively in Spanish. Students will interact with peers and community groups to engage in cooperative learning and share their language experiences during the school year.

This course provides multicultural education, with an emphasis on understanding and appreciation of Spanish-speaking peoples' customs and cultures.

Offered only at: PMS

VOCAL MUSIC

CHORUS (Course Code 391009, 391029, 391030)

This course is designed to provide experience and training for students who are interested in vocal performance. Emphasis will be on vocal technique, music notation, sight singing, various styles or genres of choral music, and performance etiquette. This is a yearlong class.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

SYMPHONIC BAND (Course Code 391004)

This class is designed for musicians who have had three to four years playing experience. Emphasis will be on learning advanced musical literature, theory, history, and instrumental techniques. Student placement is determined by the band instructor. There is a performance requirement in this class.

Prerequisite: Completion of Concert Band or audition.

WIND ENSEMBLE (Advanced Symphonic Band) (Course Code 391025)

This class is designed for musicians who have a minimum of two years of playing experience. Class placement is determined by audition and instructor approval. The audition will include a prepared solo, knowledge of major, arpeggios, rhythm, and sight reading. Knowledge of musical terminology is required. Wind Ensemble is a performance oriented class designed to allow experienced musicians to improve and maximize their capabilities on their given instruments. Students will learn and perform advanced music of symphonic band literature. Performances will include a winter and spring concert and various concert festivals and competitions in which the ensemble is entered. Attendance at all performances is required.

JAZZ BAND (Course Code 391020)

Advanced instrumental techniques, theory, improvisation, and a variety of jazz styles are taught in this select class. Instrumentation is limited to saxophones, trumpets, trombones, and a rhythm section of bass, piano, and drum set. All musicians must demonstrate advanced skills, and participation is determined by auditions held in September. This is a competitive band that may meet during “B” period (PMS) and during “A” period (HPMS & THMS). Participation in performances is part of a student’s grade.

MARIACHI BAND (Course Code 391075)

Grades 7 and 8

Students will explore the vibrant world of Mariachi instrumentation, practicing the art of playing iconic Mariachi instruments such as the violin, trumpet, guitarrón, and vihuela as well as vocal stylings. Beyond honing their musical skills, students will delve into the captivating history and culture of Mexico, gaining a deep appreciation for the roots and evolution of Mariachi. Through engaging lessons and spirited rehearsals, students will not only become skilled musicians but also experience the joy of live performance, culminating in exciting showcases that celebrate the spirit and energy of Mariachi music for both the school and community.

STRINGS II (Course Code 391080)

This class is designed to provide extensive training for students who play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students must have a minimum of one year prior experience and must demonstrate a basic understanding of music notation and instrumental technique. This class will provide training in a variety of orchestral styles and difficulty levels with concentration on Baroque and Classical literature. There is a performance requirement in this class.

STRING ORCHESTRA (Advanced Strings II) (Course Code 391035)

This class is designed for musicians who have a minimum of two years of playing experience. Class placement is determined by audition and instructor approval. The audition will include a prepared solo, knowledge of all major minor scales, arpeggios, rhythm, and sight reading. Knowledge of musical terminology is required. String Orchestra is a performance oriented class designed to allow experienced String musicians to improve and maximize their capabilities on their given instruments. Students will learn and perform advanced music of String and Full Orchestra literature. Performances will include a winter and spring concert and various concert festivals and competitions in which the ensemble is entered. Attendance at all performances is required.

AVID 8 (Advancement Via Individual Determination) (Course Code 481050)

Prerequisites: Students must have a GPA between 2.0 and 3.0, average or above average standardized test scores, enrollment in pre-Algebra or Algebra 1, student interview, student motivation, and a parent/guardian contract. AVID is an application-based academic elective course which seeks to close the opportunity gap and prepare historically underserved students for college readiness using an equity lens. AVID is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course.

Students will learn and apply skills and strategies including note taking, outlining, writing, speaking, reading, and test taking, to improve performance in all content areas. Additional activities may include: guest speakers,; college campus visits, collaborative tutorials, and Socratic Seminar.

MENTORING THROUGH AGRICULTURE (Course Code 323100)

Middle school students will mentor and support preschool students in the natural outdoor learning environment that stimulates the diversity of the child's learning experience and contributes to their healthy development. Preschool students will experience hands-on learning in Harvest Park's Garden/Greenhouse Lab this includes activities in the areas of Science and Agriculture.

Offered only at: HPMS

YEARBOOK 8 (Application required) (Course Code 371023)

The focus of this yearlong class is the production of the school yearbook. The students are responsible for all aspects of the yearbook, including its design, creation, and distribution. Using the latest graphic publications computer technology, including digital photography, students will write the copy, take photographs, and create the layouts necessary to produce the yearbook. Students need to be able to work both independently and cooperatively with other members of the yearbook staff. Students may need to devote time outside of school hours to meet deadlines. Computer knowledge and/or photography skills are a plus, but not a necessity.

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

ART A (Course Code 311008)

Through informative, narrative lessons and studio production activities, students will further develop the skills for looking at, interpreting, creating, and evaluating works of art. In addition, they are provided opportunities to understand and analytically evaluate the meaning, components, and impact of visual culture in their environment.

Students explore several art styles and use a variety of art materials and mediums. Students are encouraged to expand their creativity through drawing, painting, and graphic design. They will further develop their technical knowledge and production skills by developing two-dimensional artworks.

ART B (Course Code 311009)

Through informative, narrative lessons and studio production activities, students will develop the skills for looking at, interpreting, and creating works of art. In addition, they are provided opportunities to understand and evaluate the meaning, components, and impact of visual culture in their environment. Students explore several art movements and use a variety of art materials and mediums. Students will expand their creative abilities using construction and modeling techniques. They will further develop their technical knowledge and production skills by developing three-dimensional artworks.

CERAMICS 8 (Course Code 311010)

Ceramics is a semester-long course where students explore and learn about the historical background, aesthetic traditions, and artistic properties of ceramics through a variety of studio experiences. Emphasis will be placed on the design elements; line, shape, texture, and color. Focus will be on the hand building techniques; pinch, coil and slabs. Functional as well as sculptural applications will be explored. The student will acquire knowledge of form, volume, and space relationships by construction hand-built and wheel-thrown forms of clay. Various glaze and decoration techniques for finishing work will be introduced in the beginning class.

Offered only at: PMS

COMPUTER SCIENCE ESSENTIALS 8 (Course Code 321007)

This course will engage students in a variety of aspects including, but not limited to, the use of computers, Internet, programs and applications based on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and Career Technical Education (CTE) Standards. Students will learn computer basics using communication and creativity through a variety of lessons, projects and activities designed to promote learning in the 21st Century. All students should possess strong content mastery, as well as the “Four Cs”: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity. Students will be introduced to other topics in technology and engineering with a focus on project-based learning.

VIDEO GAMES DESIGN AND CODING (Course Code 321003)

This engaging and hands-on course introduces students to the exciting world of game design. Students will explore the theories and principles that make games fun, engaging, and meaningful. From analyzing game mechanics, player motivation, and storytelling to understanding the balance between challenge and reward, students will develop a robust foundation in the art and science of game design.

DIGITAL ART AND MEDIA (Course Code 311045)

This is a combination of the middle school technology and art courses that will expose students to the interconnected nature of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math and that will engage students in a variety of aspects. Some of the topics will include, but not be limited to, the use of computers, Internet, hands-on art techniques, programs and applications based on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and Career Technical Education (CTE) Standards. Students will learn at an advanced level how to combine art techniques with computer and technology basics using communication and creativity through a variety of lessons, projects and activities designed to promote learning in the 21st Century. All students should possess strong content mastery, as well as the “Five Cs”: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and Common Core. Students will be introduced to other topics in technology, art, design and engineering with a focus on project-based learning.

SEWING AND PERSONAL DESIGN 8 (Course Code 361010)

This course will teach students the operation of sewing machines, color wheel, measurements, using patterns, textiles, creating personal projects in sewing and designing your own personal interior space. Students will learn how to design, sew, and re-style clothing; apply the elements and principles of design in various aspects of the fashion industry; understand the relationship between history and fashion; know the general characteristics, production, and maintenance of textiles and textile products; study and analyze fashion trends.

CULINARY PRINCIPLES 8 (Course Code 361009)

This course will teach students food and kitchen safety and sanitation, basic cooking and baking skills, as well as introducing students to new foods and techniques. Students will be encouraged to develop leadership skills, and express their creativity through hands-on labs. This course articulates with the Culinary Skills and Baking and Pastry in the high school.

ENGINEERING DESIGN AND ROBOTICS 8 (Course Code 451008)

Students will participate in a project-based curriculum that introduces various disciplines and concepts of engineering, technology and robotics. The core unit introduces engineering and technology and explores the social, cultural, economic, political and environmental consequences of inventions and innovations. Students learn procedures to use and maintain an engineering notebook and learn the steps involved in the engineering design process including documentation procedures. Measurement concepts and skills including both Standard and Metric units, differentiation between accuracy and precision, the use of precision instruments and contextual practice.

GREEN ARCHITECTURE AND ROBOTICS (Course Code 451009)

Students will explore dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability and use what they have learned to design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software. Students will increase their exploration of mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics platform, students will apply what they know to design and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, robotic arms, wind turbines, and other solutions to automated problems. Finally, students will play the role of real-life engineers and architects. They will be presented with design and building challenges where they will demonstrate skills in using robots in sustainable construction and automated solutions to community and industrial needs.

JOURNALISM (Course Code 371021)

Journalism is an English elective class for students who are responsible, independent, and self-directed learners. Students will investigate and create interesting articles while working in a collaborative environment. Aspects of newspaper editing, writing, and production will be explored. Students should be willing to pursue new ideas, follow up leads, interview a variety of people, and submit their articles on established deadlines. Students enrolled in this class should have basic computer skills and familiarity with word processing and internet search techniques. Admission to the journalism class is subject to instructor approval.

Offered only at: PMS

LEADERSHIP (Application required) (Course Code 441020)

This course is for the highly motivated student who has a real desire to become involved in student activities, student government and school/community service. It is strongly recommended that student body officers choose the semester Leadership class as an elective. Students learn about student government, leadership styles, communication, time management, goal setting, decision-making, self-esteem and life skills. Students develop their own leadership skills through direct participation in planning and organizing a variety of programs. Some examples of these opportunities include: managing the student store, orchestrating school dances, and carrying out student and staff recognition programs. Students have the opportunity to create and implement new activities, continue traditions, foster change and make a difference in their own unique style. Selection is based on student application, interviews and recommendations from teachers and administrators. Parents and students should be aware that the class requires an extensive time commitment outside of class.

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS (Application may be required) (Course Code 323005)

Students engage in projects from many areas of media, including broadcasting, graphic design, photography, digital editing, interviewing, and storyboarding. Students are responsible for the production of the daily television program. Some time is required outside of class. Regular school attendance is critical. Video projects include stop motion, documentaries, interviews, and news reporting. Students work as part of a team most of the time but must also be able to work independently.

SPEECH & DRAMA (Course Code 371022)

The Speech & Drama elective is a semester-long course designed to provide eighth grade students with the instruction and opportunity to improve their public speaking abilities, as well as to develop more confidence in performing a variety of assignments for different audiences. After a brief introduction to the history and terminology of theatre, students will produce, develop, design, and evaluate skits, monologues, and improvisations. They will write, develop, memorize and perform each assignment in front of an audience of their peers.

ADVANCED DRAMA (Course Code 371210)

The drama elective is a year long course designed for students to be members of an extensive performance Company. Company will introduce students to the acting process with a final performance in musical theater, straight plays, one-acts, video production as well as team improv competitions. Within the acting process students will learn acting terminology, theories, rules and positions of the production process, history of the

theater, costume design, set design, theater make-up, stage combat, technology in theater using video, wireless microphone systems, lighting boards, theater technology and more. In addition to the production process, students will develop social skills, and work as an ensemble.

TEACHER’S ASSISTANT (TA) (Application required) (Course Code 779350)

Eighth grade students have the opportunity to use one semester elective to be a teacher assistant. This program provides students with the opportunity to work as an assistant to a teacher, the library clerk, cafeteria staff, or office staff. There may also be an opportunity to be an elementary school teacher assistant. Teacher assistant selections are made on the basis of the student’s academic grades (students may not have any F’s), citizenship and faculty recommendations. Students must sign up for an elective, which they may drop if chosen to be a teacher assistant. Students must fill out a separate application form for this program. These forms are available in the counseling office. Students may apply to TA for only one semester of their 8th grade year. Grading for Teacher’s Assistant elective is Pass/No Pass (P/NP) and is not computed in the GPA. **8th graders may not take A-period PE in order to have a TA position as an additional elective.**

ADVANCED STEAM (Course Code 323200)

This is a combination of the middle school technology and art courses that will expose students to the interconnected nature of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math and that will engage students in a variety of aspects. Some of the topics will include but not be limited to, the use of computers, Internet, hands-on art techniques, programs and applications based on the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) and Career Technical Education (CTE) Standards. Students will learn at an advanced level how to combine art techniques with computer and technology basics using communication and creativity through a variety of lessons, projects and activities designed to promote learning in the 21st Century. All students should possess strong content mastery, as well as the “Five C’s”: critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity and Common Core. Students will be introduced to other topics in technology, art, design and engineering with a focus on project-based learning. Primary focus will be placed on the commonality between the 8 Studio Habits of Mind and the Engineering Design Process

SPECIAL PROGRAMS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

ENGLISH LEARNERS (EL)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (ELD)

English Learners are offered the opportunity to explore American culture, practice speaking, and focus on reading, listening and writing to increase comprehension and vocabulary, as well as to develop reading, writing, listening and speaking skills across the Language Arts and History curricula.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT I (Course Code 331015)

Grades 6, 7, 8

The purpose of English Language Development (ELD) I is to provide English Learners with the skills and content knowledge to increase their proficiency level in ELD. The course's academic emphasis is on oral language development, accelerated academic vocabulary acquisition, expository writing, and reading comprehension with the use of California ELD standards in tandem with the California State Standards in English-Language Arts. Thematic units are organized to ensure that students make connections to other core content areas (science, math, social studies). This course employs an inquiry-based process and builds student achievement through real-life applications. Students learn organizational and study skills, develop their critical thinking, learn to be resourceful, and participate in motivational enrichment activities. Students will engage in research-based lessons with culminating writing projects and oral presentations. Reading, writing, listening and speaking skills will be assessed periodically using multiple measures.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT II (Course Code 331007)

Grades 6, 7, 8

The purpose of ELD II is to provide English Learners with the skills and content knowledge to increase their current ELD level and meet reclassification requirements. The course's academic emphasis is on oral language development, accelerated academic vocabulary acquisition, expository writing, and reading comprehension with the use of California ELD standards in tandem with California State Standards in English-Language Arts. Thematic units are organized to ensure that students make connections to other core content areas (science, math, social studies). This course employs an inquiry-based process and builds student achievement through real-life applications. Students learn organizational and study skills, develop their critical thinking, learn to be resourceful, and participate in motivational enrichment activities. Students will engage in research-based lessons with culminating writing projects and oral presentations. Reading, writing, listening and speaking skills will be assessed periodically using multiple measures.

6th SHELTERED HISTORY (Course Code 441012)

See History description above.

7th SHELTERED HISTORY (Course Code 441013)

See History description above.

8th SHELTERED HISTORY (Course Code 441014)

See History description above.

ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION (AVID)

AVID is an application-based academic elective course which seeks to close the opportunity gap and prepare historically underserved students for college readiness using an equity lens. AVID is scheduled during the regular school day as a year-long course. Each week students receive instruction utilizing a rigorous curriculum provided by AVID Center with tutor-facilitated study groups and strengthen metacognitive development, analytical reading and writing, communication skills, and academic success skills. In AVID, students participate in activities that incorporate strategies focused on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support their academic growth. Students will increase awareness of their personal contributions to their learning, as well as their involvement in their school and community. Students will refine study skills and test-taking, note-taking, and research techniques. Applications for admission to the program are available during the course selection process.

GIFTED AND TALENTED EDUCATION (GATE)

District Philosophy

The Pleasanton Unified School District currently offers the opportunities for all students, including students identified as gifted and talented to develop academically and socially. In addition to providing opportunities for talent development, enrichment, and access to resources and services, the District has made a solid commitment to providing a differentiated core curriculum offering depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration. We believe this approach will ultimately benefit all students in PUSD.

GATE testing is administered by the Assessment and Accountability Department. The areas of giftedness assessed by the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) are verbal (language arts), quantitative (math), and non-verbal (visual-spatial/science). Students must score in the 98th percentile on the Cognitive Abilities Test CogAT to qualify for GATE designation in the Pleasanton Unified School District. The areas of giftedness assessed by the CogAT are verbal (language arts), quantitative (math), and non-verbal (visual-spatial/science). For further information regarding GATE testing, contact the Assessment and Accountability Department.

OTHER ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH A GATE DESIGNATION

Students may also choose from a menu of electives including classes in the Unified Arts, Yearbook, Visual and Performing Arts, Instrumental Music, Chorus, Leadership, Media, and World Languages. ***Please note: some of these classes may require applications.*** If offered at your child's school, students may participate in academic competitions such as: MATHCOUNTS, The National Geographic Bee, the Scripps-Howard National Spelling Bee, the Tri-Valley Science and Engineering Fair and the Johns Hopkins University Talent Search.

DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION

The Spanish Dual Language Immersion (DLI) is an aligned pathway from Valley View Elementary School and continues at Pleasanton Middle School, and then into Foothill High School, pending student interest.

This path can lead to a Seal of Biliteracy for students. The Seal of Biliteracy takes the form of a gold seal that appears on the transcript or diploma of the graduating senior and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and for college admissions. In addition to the Seal of Biliteracy that marks the attainment of high level mastery of two or more languages, schools and districts are also instituting Bilingual Pathway Awards, recognizing significant steps toward developing biliteracy along a student's trajectory from preschool to high school.

Spanish Dual Language Immersion Pathway to the State Seal of Biliteracy

Valley View Elementary School

Spanish is used as the language of instruction throughout the primary grades. English is introduced gradually into the curriculum.

Grades K—2

- All subjects are taught in Spanish
- Kindergarten—10% English instruction
- First Grade—10% English instruction
- Second Grade—20% English instruction

Grade 3

- English language arts is formally introduced
- 30% English instruction

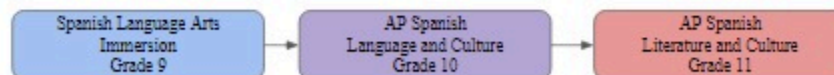
Grades 4-5

- Instructional time is evenly divided between English and Spanish
- The two languages are used separately during different periods of instruction

Pleasanton Middle School

The elective course provides grade level development of Spanish language arts and reading skills for students who have completed the elementary dual language immersion program and native Spanish speaking students who have grade level Spanish literacy skills. There is a single elective period at grades 6, 7, and 8.

Foothill High School



State Seal of Biliteracy. See program section for additional information

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Special education programs are available for eligible students with a current Individual Education Program (IEP). A continuum of services and classes are available based on individualized goals and services as outlined in the student’s IEP. See a vice principal for questions about eligibility.

Special Education programs are offered at the following school sites:

School	Speech and Language	Resource	Related Services	Special Day Class (SDC) Mild to Moderate	SDC Moderate to Severe
Hart MS	X	X	X	X	
Harvest Park MS	X	X	X	X	X
Pleasanton MS	X	X	X	X M/M and Counseling Enriched Class (CEC)	X

LANGUAGE ARTS 6/ENGLISH 6: (Course Code 331001)

The sixth grade year-long course is aligned to the California State English-Language Arts Standards so that all students are working toward the same goal: the ability to communicate well; to read, write, listen and speak effectively. The California State Standards of reading encompass analysis, comprehension, and literary response of different genres found in the textbook, core literature, supplemental and recreational literature. Through the writing process, students are taught to write clear, precise, coherent sentences and paragraphs that address narrative, informative and argumentative as outlined in the California State Standards. Students will use technology and text resources to develop and pursue research skills. Grammar is taught through a variety of methods blended into units. Students are required to develop organized responses using accurate conventions for all written and oral work. Students participate in both formal and informal speaking and listening activities throughout the year as addressed in the standards. (There is two core literature novels that must be taught in sixth grade (see Instructional Materials). This course closely aligns with grade level standards. Placement is determined by eligibility and the Individual Education Plan (IEP) team.

LANGUAGE ARTS 7/ENGLISH 7: (Course Code 331003)

The seventh grade year-long course is aligned to the California English-Language Arts Standards so that all students are working toward the same goal: the ability to communicate well; to read, write, listen and speak effectively. The California State Standards of reading encompass analysis, comprehension, and literary response of different genres found in the textbook, core literature, supplemental and recreational literature. Through the writing process, students are taught to write clear, precise, coherent sentences and paragraphs that address narrative, informative and argumentative as outlined in the California State Standards. Students will use technology and text resources to develop and pursue research skills. Grammar is taught through a variety of methods blended into units. Students are required to develop organized responses using accurate conventions for all written and oral work. Students participate in both formal and informal speaking and

listening activities throughout the year as addressed in the standards. (There are one to two core literature novels that must be taught in seventh (7th) grade (see Instructional Materials). This course closely aligns with grade level standards. Placement is determined by eligibility and the Individual Education Plan (IEP) team.

LANGUAGE ARTS 8/ENGLISH 8: (Course Code 331005)

The eighth grade year-long course is aligned to the California State English-Language Arts Standards so that all students are working toward the same goal: the ability to communicate well - to read, write, listen and speak effectively. The California State English-Language Arts Standards of reading encompass analysis, comprehension, and literary response of different genres found in the textbook, core literature, supplemental and recreational literature. Through the writing process, students are taught to write clear, precise, coherent sentences and paragraphs that address narrative, informative and argumentative as outlined in the California State Standards. Students will use technology and text resources to develop and pursue research skills. Grammar is taught through a variety of methods blended into units. Students are required in organized responses using accurate conventions for all written and oral work. Students participate in both formal and informal speaking and listening activities throughout the year as addressed in the standards. (There are one to two core literature novels that must be taught in seventh (8th) grade (see Instructional Materials). This course closely aligns with grade level standards. Placement is determined by eligibility and the Individual Education Plan (IEP) team.

PLEASANTON VIRTUAL ACADEMY (PVA)

An Independent Study Program

Program Description: The Pleasanton Virtual Academy (PVA) is the Independent Study program for Pleasanton Unified School District and is a flexible option that allows students to learn from home, in-person, and online. Upon request, students will be enrolled at PVA if space is available. This option provides excellent PUSD support for families who choose to homeschool their students. Students work under the supervision of a credentialed PUSD teacher with whom they meet on a regular, weekly basis, in person or online via Zoom. Instructional materials are supplied by PUSD. There is no cost to families for enrollment in the program. Students are assigned a weekly appointment time to meet with their supervising teacher. The teacher evaluates the quality of the work submitted and provides assistance if necessary. Weekly assignments must be submitted on time, per contract. Students who would like to participate must be capable of learning on their own. Students must sign a contract that stipulates the terms and conditions of the program and serves as the master agreement for the duration of the student enrollment. Students who fail to adhere to the terms of the agreement will be transferred to the comprehensive school site.

Enrollment Process: Students may request enrollment into PVA at any time during the school year with the exception of the last four weeks of each semester. Parents/guardians or students should contact their student's school counselor or administrator for more information and to be scheduled for an intake meeting. For students in special education, a change-in-placement IEP meeting will need to be held to discuss and consider the requested placement.

Academic Schedule: Full-time PVA middle school students take 6 courses. Students who desire to maintain elective courses that are not offered in PVA may do so at their school of residence with the understanding that daily, in-person attendance is required for the course(s) taken at the school of residence. While daily, in-person attendance is not a requirement for PVA, occasional in-person activities (such as exams) may be required. Optional in-person activities are offered throughout the school year. A student in good standing according to district guidelines may participate in school activities such as dances and sports at their comprehensive school of residence.

Please refer to the website for the Pleasanton Virtual Academy: <https://www.pleasantonvirtualacademy.com/>.