



Fredericksburg ISD

Course Description Guide

2025-2026

Fredericksburg Middle School

We Are One

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Fredericksburg Middle School is pleased to offer students a wide array of educational opportunities through participation in our core curriculum, Advanced curriculum, and electives. Students and parents should use this registration booklet as a guide to choose classes for the coming year. Please talk with your child about his or her interests and goals as you consider plans for the 2025-2026 school year and beyond.

Highly motivated, disciplined, and academically capable students should consider enrollment in Advanced classes. Please also review information, policies, and recommendations related to Advanced courses in this booklet.

Each student is required to complete the course selection process indicating his or her elective and courses. We build the master schedule based on these requests. It is important that students carefully consider their options since it is not always possible to change schedules later.

It is a privilege and pleasure to work with your children. If you have questions, please reach out to one of the counselors- Mrs. Summers (last names A-L) and Mrs. Geletka (last names M-Z). .

We are looking forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Dalen Kirchner, Principal

Estimados Padres/Guardianes:

Fredericksburg Middle School se complace en ofrecer a los estudiantes una ancha serie de oportunidades educativas por la participación en nuestras asignaturas comunes, en el plan de Avanzados , y en optativas. Los estudiantes y los padres deben utilizar este folleto de matrícula como una guía para las elecciones de clase para el año que viene. Por favor hable con sus niños acerca de sus intereses y metas como usted considere los planes de el 2025-2026 año escolar y más allá.

Los estudiantes sumamente motivados, disciplinados y académicamente capaces deben considerar la matriculación en cursos Avanzados de Colocación. Por favor también revisen información de las políticas, y las recomendaciones relacionadas a cursos avanzados en este folleto.

Cada estudiante debe completar las formas de registración escolar que indican sus electivos y/o Avanzados. Nosotros construimos un horario magistral basado por solicitud. Es importante que los estudiantes consideren con cuidado sus opciones porque no es siempre posible cambiar los horarios más tarde.

Es un privilegio y un placer trabajar con sus niños. Si usted tiene preguntas, venga por favor y visitenos para platicar de nuestros programas educativos. Nuestras consejeras, Mrs.Summers (A-L) y Mrs. Geletka (M-Z).

¡Esperamos tener un gran año escolar!

Sinceramente,

Dalen Kirchner, Principal

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Registration Policies

Required Courses

6th Grade - English, Math, Science, World Cultures, Pre-Athletics, Secondary Readiness

7th Grade - English, Math, Science, TX History, PE/Pre-Athletics

8th Grade - English, Math, Science, US History, Health/Career Exploration

- Students in all grades who are below level in reading and math may be placed in an intervention class as an elective.
- All 6th grade students who are identified as GT will be placed in the GT class. All 7th and 8th grade students who are identified as GT will have the option of being served in advanced courses.
- Students who qualify for special programs are subject to schedule changes by the office in order to ensure the best academic program possible.

Schedules

Yearly Registration will be online through Skyward. Go to the FISD website to register. Students may pick up their schedule upon the completion of online registration according to the designated dates. Schedules will also be available for pick up on the first day of school at assigned grade level areas.

PE / Athletics

*** All students are required to take Physical Education in 6th and 7th grade.*

6th Graders - Students will learn basic fundamentals and skills to be used in various sports. Pre-Athletics will help students determine if competitive athletics is the right choice for them. The Wellness and Sexual Health Program will be included in this class. Students are presented with information necessary to help them develop healthy habits and relationships.

7th Graders - Athletics may be substituted for PE in the 7th and 8th grade. ***Students in athletics must have a physical on file in order to practice and participate.*** Students playing any sport will also be required to fill out the RankOne forms on the FISD athletic site. Students are encouraged to take advantage of the free physicals that are at FHS in late Spring.

High School Credit

The following courses are available to 8th grade students only for high school credit:

- **PreAp Algebra 1 (IF in the accelerated math program), Spanish 1, German 1, Art 3 ROTC & Fundamentals of Computer Science**

Disclaimer: Required subjects and elective choices may be changed by FMS staff due to STAAR testing results, staffing changes, legislative mandates, scheduling conflicts, FISD School Board directives or lack of interest.

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Advance Courses

Advanced courses are designed to challenge students beyond grade-level courses and better prepare them for success in AP and Dual Credit courses in high school. Although these are open enrollment, students must maintain at least a 70 average at the end of each designated grade check date in order to stay enrolled in the course. If a 70 is not maintained in the course, students will be removed and placed in the equivalent grade-level course (please refer to designated grade check times). If a schedule change to a grade-level course occurs, the student will continue to receive quality academics that are designed to effectively prepare him/her for our high school curriculum.

Schedule changes out of Advanced/PreAP courses will only be permitted if the student is failing at the designated grade check times. Grade checks to stay in an Advanced course will occur at the following times:

- Accelerated Math or PreAP Algebra 1- Weeks 3, 6, 9, and at Semester
- Advanced English, Social Studies, and Science- Weeks 3, 6, 9, and at Semester

The following should be considered by students and parents/guardians before enrolling:

- Advanced curriculum courses
 - * are more rigorous
 - * require independent learning
 - * move at a faster pace
 - * require outside reading and work
- Students should
 - have proven history of academic success in the subject area (see recommended guidelines on the back)
 - consider balance of outside commitments and academic load
 - maintain good study skills
 - possess strong organization and time management skills
 - be actively engaged in their own learning
 - take responsibility for the workload and ask questions when needed

***Please note, students will not be permitted to enter the accelerated math program beyond 6th grade unless they were previously enrolled and passed the advanced course. The accelerated math curriculum combines 6th, 7th, and 8th grade standards into a compacted 2-year program. Therefore, it requires initial placement to not miss any academic standards.*

Advanced Course Recommended Guidelines:

Recommended guidelines for advanced courses (6th grade only):

- 92 + semester average
- Masters on STAAR assessment

Recommended guidelines moving from grade-level courses to advanced courses (7th and 8th grade):

- 92 + semester average
- Masters on STAAR assessment

Recommended guidelines to stay in advanced courses (7th and 8th grade):

- 80 + semester average
- Meets on STAAR assessment

*** Please note: If your child does not meet the recommended standards, understand that the rigor and expectations are high, and your child will be removed from the advanced class(es) if a 70 average is not maintained. (Removal will only be at times stated at the top of this page, or with administrative approval outside of these dates).*

6th Grade Electives

Art I - Beginning Art

This course focuses on ensuring a solid foundation of the **Elements of Art** and **Principles of Design** through a variety of projects. Students will be exposed to as many mediums and basic techniques as time allows including; pencil, pen and ink, tempera paint, acrylic paint, watercolor, clay and glaze.

Art History will be included as an element of instruction throughout the year as we build our knowledge and take inspiration from the masters. \$10.00 lab fee is required and will cover all necessary materials.

Theatre Arts 1

A beginner's course where students will study Theatre techniques and will be introduced to the art of acting, modeling self-expression and personal growth. Students will also learn how to properly audition for a play and go through the rehearsal process culminating in a production at the end of the semester for an audience.

Beginner Band

This course is for anyone interested in playing one of the following instruments: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba or Percussion. No prior experience needed! Students can expect to learn how to read music, the fundamentals of playing their instrument, ensemble/classroom rehearsal procedures, and how to express themselves through playing an instrument. There will be at least 2 off campus trips, 1 contest, and 4 concerts during beginner band. At the end of beginner band, all students will be placed into either the Honor Band or Symphonic Band, depending on their individual development on their instrument. In band, we will work with all budgets so any student wanting to participate is able to do so.

Beginner Choir

Choir members learn to develop their voices as individuals and as part of a choir. They explore a variety of music and learn the art of performance through 4 concerts, pep rallies and community performances. All students purchase a choir t-shirt which they wear with blue jeans for performances. Students have the opportunity to go on the end of the year field trip.

Gifted and Talented

This course will only be available to students that are already identified.

Secondary Readiness

The goal of Secondary Readiness is to help prepare students with skills to ease their transition into high school and beyond. We will cover topics such as: note taking skills, organization, GPA calculations, public speaking, financial literacy, study skills, and much more! Students will work on skills such as: typing, becoming proficient in Google Docs and Slides, collaboration, research skills, reading and writing, higher order thinking, effective written and verbal communication, appropriate study skills and goal setting.

7th Grade Electives

Art I - Beginning Art

This course focuses on ensuring a solid foundation of the **Elements of Art** and **Principles of Design** through a variety of projects. Students will be exposed to as many mediums and basic techniques as time allows including; pencil, pen and ink, tempera paint, acrylic paint, watercolor, clay and glaze. Art History will be included as an element of instruction throughout the year as we build our knowledge and take inspiration from the masters.

\$10.00 lab fee is required and will cover all necessary materials.

Theatre Arts 1

A beginner's course where students will study Theatre techniques and will be introduced to the art of acting, modeling self-expression and personal growth. Students will also learn how to properly audition for a play and go through the rehearsal process culminating in a production at the end of the semester for an audience.

7th & 8th Grade Electives

Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is usually made up of 7th and 8th graders, with mostly 7th graders. Symphonic Band is the natural progression from 6th grade to 7th grade. If students are placed in the Symphonic Band, they can expect to continue working on their own individual playing through in class playing assignments and at home practice. Students will focus on tone production, rhythmic and harmonic understanding, ensemble and individual playing and ensemble rehearsal procedures. Students in Symphonic Band are encouraged to audition at region band in the fall. All eligible students in 7th and 8th Grade will have 2 trips, 2 contests, 4 concerts and will perform at every pep rally!

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Honor Band

Honor Band is usually made up of 7th and 8th graders, with mostly 8th graders. Honor Band is the advanced version of Band. If students are placed in the Honor Band, they can expect to continue working on their own individual playing through in class playing assignments and at home practice. Students will focus on tone production, rhythmic and harmonic understanding, ensemble and individual playing and ensemble rehearsal procedures. Students in Honor Band are required to audition at region band and attend the clinic and concert. The Honor Band will perform at the Veteran's Day Assembly. All eligible students in 7th and 8th grade will have 2 trips, 2 contests, 4 concerts and perform at every pep rally!!

Jazz Band

Jazz Band is a course for 7th and 8th grade students who are already in band and wish to learn how to play in the Jazz style. Styles will include, but are not limited to, Swing, Funk, Latin and Pop. Students can expect to improve their own playing abilities through in class performances and individualized feedback. The main focus of this class will be teaching students how to play with a great jazz style and students can expect to learn the foundations of jazz improvisations. Students wishing to be in the Jazz Band must be concurrently enrolled in either Symphonic Band or Honor Band.

7th & 8th Grade Electives (continued)

Art II - Intermediate Art (Art I is a prerequisite)

Building on the foundation of Art I, students will further incorporate the **Principles of Design** to their knowledge base and repertoire. Students will continue to work with a variety of mediums and will add more advanced techniques where applicable. Students will also be introduced to new mediums and techniques.

Art History will be included as an element of instruction throughout the year as we continue to build our knowledge and take inspiration from the masters.

\$15.00 lab fee is required and will cover all necessary materials.

Theatre Arts 2 (Theatre Arts I is a prerequisite)

An advanced course where students will learn the fundamentals of the understanding of a character including analysis work. This course will get students ready for high school or One Act next year. The students will perform a total of two shows. One each semester and understand the basics of what goes on backstage during a performance.

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Choir

Students continue to develop their voices individually and as a part of the whole choir. They explore advanced music and learn the art of performance through All-Region Choir, 4 concerts, UIL Concert and Sight reading Contest, pep rallies and community performances. All students purchase a choir t-shirt which they wear with blue jeans. The school provides “formal uniforms,” but girls must purchase black dress shoes and boys must purchase black dress shoes or boots. Students have the opportunity to go on the end of the year field trip.

Digital Publishing

The class will include the following topics/activities: yearbook production, photography (yearbook), creating social media posts for the campus, video announcements, and creative writing for yearbook and possible school newsletter and/or literary magazine. This is a great class for students interested in writing, art, journalism, photography, social media, theatre, and video production. ***Application is required for this class.***

Fundamentals of Computer Science

Students will learn the basics of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The material emphasizes computational thinking and helps develop the ability to solve complex problems. This course covers the basic building blocks of programming along with other central elements of computer science.

Landscape Design and Management

This course will provide opportunities for students to develop an understanding of landscape design and management techniques and practices. To prepare for careers in horticultural systems, students must attain academic skills and knowledge, acquire technical knowledge and skills related to horticultural systems and the workplace, and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, and industry expectations.

One Act Play/Theatre 3

This course is offered to students who have auditioned for the class and have the director’s approval.

Technology Applications

The Technology Application course includes the teaching and learning of technology skills and the use of computers and other related electronic tools. In the Technology Applications class, the students will focus on creating, accessing, manipulating, utilizing, communicating, and publishing information during the learning process.

Wood Shop

The primary emphasis of this class will be on safety, basic tool use and measurement. Projects may include whirly-gig, puzzle, pasta scoop, bird house, penny soccer board fishing lure, wooden key ring and shop improvement. Safety care, general knowledge and the use of most power equipment will be included. Students will be shown proper hand placement, technique and safety considerations for all tools used. The second semester will include more advanced projects such as shop improvement and tool maintenance, octagonal washer boxes, bird feeder, wood strip canoe, trebuchet design and building, and more advanced wood turning (wooden pen, bowl). Students will focus on one area of the shop to improve, make it safer, or more functional. This class is a great introduction to construction classes at FHS.

8th Grade Electives

Spanish 1

H/S Credit

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to understand the fundamentals of spoken and written Spanish. Students will acquire a general knowledge of various aspects of Spanish-American life and specific knowledge of Mexican culture. Students are expected to use/practice the language in and out of the classroom. Oral participation with partners, small groups and whole groups is also an expectation in the classroom.

*Spanish 1 is a demanding, fast paced course. Students that are failing at semester checks will be subject to being removed from this class.

Art III - Advanced Art (Art II is a prerequisite)

H/S Credit

This course is similar to an pre-ap/advanced course in rigor and serves as a high school fine arts credit. Students who are considering committing to Art III should have completed Art I and Art II as well as be willing and able to “juggle” several different projects at a time and work independently to develop a personal voice as an artist. Students should have a good work ethic, attention to detail, as well as an enthusiasm for learning and exploring new things. If a student wonders if Art III is for them, please visit with the Art teacher.

Techniques and mediums from Art 1 and Art 2 will be further explored and employed. Students will add more advanced techniques where applicable. Students will also be introduced to new mediums and techniques not accessible to the younger students. Students will be encouraged to work with more “open-ended” projects with much more freedom in the final product. Art History will be included as an element of instruction throughout the year as we continue to build our knowledge and take inspiration from the masters.

\$15.00 lab fee is required and will cover all necessary materials

ROTC (High School Credit Elective or PE Credit)

****H/S Credit****

The NJROTC program mission is to instill in students in United States secondary educational institutions the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment. The NJROTC curriculum emphasizes citizenship and leadership development, as well as our maritime heritage, the significance of sea power, and naval topics such as the fundamentals of naval operations, seamanship, navigation, and meteorology. Classroom instruction is augmented throughout the year by community service projects, drill competition, field meets, visits to naval activities, marksmanship training, and other military training. *1st year can satisfy 1 High School PE requirement.

Schedule Flow Chart

Period	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
1	<i>English or Advanced English</i>	<i>English or Advanced English</i>	<i>English or Advanced English</i>
2	<i>English or Advanced English</i>	<i>Math or Accelerated Math</i>	<i>Math or Pre-AP Algebra 1(HS Credit)</i>
3	<i>Math or Accelerated Math</i>	<i>Science or Advanced Science</i>	<i>Science or Advanced Science</i>
4	<i>Science or Advanced Science</i>	<i>History or Advanced History</i>	<i>History or Advanced History</i>
5	<i>History or Advanced History</i>	<i>PE or Athletics</i>	<i>PE, Athletics or Elective</i>
6	<i>Pre-Athletics</i>	<i>Elective</i>	<i>Health / Career Exploration</i>
7	<i>Secondary Readiness</i>	<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>
8	<i>Fine Arts Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>	<i>Elective</i>

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