

Commerce Middle School



2025-2026
Course Guide



Commerce Middle School Course Guide

Dear Commerce Middle School Students, Parents, and Families,

We are honored to welcome your student(s) to our campus for an enriching and successful school year. Commerce Middle School students have choices in their education, and our school is committed to parents and families to support students in reaching their highest potential: academically, socially, and emotionally.

Providing a positive, equitable, and engaging middle school experience for all students is something we as a staff strive for, and that includes providing a well-rounded education through various courses. Please take the time to read and review the informative CMS Course Guide thoroughly.

If you have any questions regarding our course offerings, please do not hesitate to contact our counselor's office or school administration. We will be more than happy to answer your questions.

Warm Regards,

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Disclaimer: Course offerings for the 2025-2026 school year are subject to appropriate funding, staffing, and/or class size. We cannot guarantee availability or placement in an elective course. Students not achieving Satisfactory Performance on the previous grade's STAAR test in any subject may be placed in an accelerated intervention course for additional support per Texas State House Bill 1416. This support class will take the place of one of the elective choices.



Commerce Middle School

Course Guide

This guide has been developed to assist in understanding and planning your student's educational program. The information is designed to assist students and parents in making appropriate choices for the student's middle school and high school career. Your own individual needs should be considered as you select courses. Please select your courses carefully since schedule changes may be limited. **Please take into careful consideration that most of our courses are year-long; therefore, students will be required to remain in those courses for the entire school year.** By choosing a course, the student is committing to remain in that course for the year. Schedule changes will be allowed the first two weeks of school, as the master schedule allows, and with administrative approval beyond the first two weeks.

Different Classes

In middle school, you will switch classrooms for each subject. One of the first things you will learn is where all of your classes are and how long you have to get there during passing periods. Finding your classes is not hard to do. It just takes a little time to learn, and before you know it, you will be an "expert" in no time at all. The teachers, counselor, and administrators will help you as you learn your way around the building.

Homework

You may have more homework in middle school than you did in elementary school. It is important to stay organized and make sure you have plenty of time to get the work done.

Responsibility

As a middle school student, you will need to accept more responsibility in all aspects of your education.

- If you are absent, it will be up to you to ask your teachers for information and assignments you missed while you were gone.
- If you need tutoring, it will be up to you to make arrangements with your teachers and parents.
- It will be up to you to make sure your assignments are turned in on time.
- Attendance is taken every period (8 times a day). It is your responsibility to get to every class on time. You will have approximately 4 minutes in-between each class, so time management is necessary.

Tips for Academic Success

- Use a 3-ring binder notebook and dividers to organize your class information for each subject. Each section should be labeled with the subject and the teacher's name. This will help keep the information for each class organized and easy to locate.
- Use an academic planner or agenda. Take it to class each day and always write down your assignments and due dates. Check your academic planner or agenda when you get home to make sure all of your assignments have been completed.
- Ask questions! If you don't understand an assignment in school, you will likely struggle to work on it at home as well. Usually, if you don't understand, there are probably other students who feel the same way.
- Plan homework time every day. There will be something for you to finish, study, or look over almost every day, so have a set time in your daily schedule for doing homework. During this time, you should:
 - Find a quiet place to work.
 - Gather any supplies you need before you start working.
 - Ask family members not to disturb you. Don't take calls from friends during this study time.
 - Check your backpack or notebook each night before you go to bed! Make sure you have all your homework assignments and any supplies you might need for the next day.

Student Activities

Middle school offers students the opportunity to participate in a variety of organizations, clubs, and activities. Through these different activities, you have the chance to find new interests, develop talents, and build strong friendships. When you begin choosing activities, it is important to weigh all options and be selective about the choices you make. Achieving a balance between academic demands and extracurricular opportunities will make your middle school years rewarding. Also, remember that participation in school clubs and organizations is a privilege, not a right. Make good behavioral choices, do your work, and attend school every day. Doing so will allow you to participate fully in these activities.

Schedule Changes

One of the most critical functions performed by a school is the preregistration of students. Based upon pre-registration information, courses are scheduled and teachers are employed for the next school year. Schedule changes are made under the conditions listed below:

- A change is needed as a result of summer school.
- A change is needed to balance classes within the master schedule.
- A change resulting in the revision of an Individual Education Plan (IEP) by an Admission, Review, and Dismissal Committee (ARD).
- Principal Approval Only.

Advanced Academics

Commerce Middle School recognizes that in order for students to perform at high levels in advanced academic courses in high school, students will need to develop the skills and habits of mind to do so beginning in the 7th and 8th grades. Advanced courses are offered in middle schools in reading/language arts, science, social studies, and math as part of an advanced academic pathway to Advanced Placement (AP) or dual credit/dual enrollment courses in which students can earn college credit while in high school. Students may select advanced courses if they meet required course prerequisites. Parents must sign an acknowledgement of understanding before enrolling in all advanced academic courses. The middle school counselor and teachers can provide additional information regarding the academic challenges of advanced courses in middle school.

Successful advanced academic students typically exhibit the following attributes:

- Self-directed learners
- Task and goal oriented
- Exhibit above-average reading skills
- Exhibit above-average writing skills
- Exhibit problem-solving skills
- Can analyze and synthesize information from a variety of sources
- Manage their time effectively

Once a student enters an advanced course, the expectation is that he/she remains in that course for the remainder of the semester. Students and parents should take careful thought before entering the program. A student who does not fulfill his or her commitment to the terms of the agreement, or who has problems with the level of work, may be required to transfer to end on level class at any time during the year.

6TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSES:

Advanced Math 6 - *Prerequisite: Must meet qualifications*

Description: Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points at Grade 6 are using ratios to describe direct proportional relationships involving number, geometry, measurement, and probability and adding and subtracting decimals and fractions. This course addresses the essential knowledge and skills for grade 6 in greater depth at an honors level with increased rigor and a faster pace, along with higher expectations for student performance. If your student is qualified as gifted, there will be elements of advanced & extension opportunities including problem-based learning.

Math 6

Description: Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points at Grade 6 are using ratios to describe direct proportional relationships involving number, geometry, measurement, and probability and adding and subtracting decimals and fractions.

Resource Math 6

Description: This is a locally designed course aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Math 6 and determined by the ARD committee to be a suitable substitute for Math 6.

Accelerated Math 6

Description: Acceleration and an in-depth study of mathematical concepts based on a student's previous state assessment performance. A prescriptive TEKS-based curriculum addresses difficult concepts while integrating targeted instructional strategies that build stronger mathematical thinking and reasoning. **Note:** This course is designed to meet student needs based on the 5th grade STAAR Math State Assessment.

Advanced Reading/Language Arts 6 - *Prerequisite: Must meet qualifications*

Description: This class provides instruction and practice in reading a variety of genres, including media literacy, writing a wide variety of compositions, listening, and speaking at higher levels each year. Students complete research projects that require them to understand and evaluate a variety of textual and visual materials. This course addresses the essential knowledge and skills for grade 6 in greater depth at an honors level with increased rigor and a faster pace, along with higher expectations for student performance. If your student is qualified as gifted, there will be elements of advanced & extension opportunities including problem-based learning.

Reading/Language Arts 6

Description: This class provides instruction and practice in reading a variety of genres, including media literacy, writing a wide variety of compositions, listening, and speaking at higher levels each year. Students complete research projects that require them to understand and evaluate a variety of textual and visual materials. They learn grammar, usage, vocabulary, and other English language skills within the context of reading and writing.

Resource Reading/Language Arts 6

Description: This is a locally designed course aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English 6 and determined by the ARD committee to be a suitable substitute for English 6.

Accelerated Reading 6

Description: Acceleration and an in-depth study of Reading concepts based on a student's previous state assessment performance. A prescriptive TEKS-based curriculum addresses difficult concepts while integrating targeted instructional strategies that build stronger reading comprehension skills as well as thinking and reasoning. **Note:** This course is designed to meet student needs based on the 5th grade STAAR Reading State Assessment.

Science 6

Description: This process-oriented science course involves students in a thematic study of the world around them. Small group and individual laboratory experiments will be utilized for an in-depth integrated study addressing life, Earth, and the physical sciences. Topics will include: energy resources; force, motion, and energy; elements and compounds; organization of the solar system; the role of gravity in the solar system; space exploration; interdependence between organisms and their environments; and the levels of organization within ecosystems.

World Cultures & Geography (Social Studies) 6

Description: Students learn about events, leaders, beliefs, and geography in economic and political systems and cultures. Grade 6 emphasizes modern life in world regions and cultures.

Keyboarding 6

Description: This is an introduction to keyboarding class that is required for all students in the 6th grade. The students will demonstrate mastery of touch keyboarding using correct keying techniques including correct posture and finger placement. The student will improve speed and accuracy in keyboarding by using appropriate drills and timed writings. The emphasis of this class is placed on letters, numbers, symbols, numeric keypad, and basic word processing applications.

6th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHOICES: (THREE YEARS REQUIRED IN MS)

PE 6

Description: Students in 6th grade will understand in greater detail the function of the body and learn to use technology to measure their performance, such as using a pedometer to track physical activity. Students will be able to identify types of physical activities that provide them with enjoyment and challenge to encourage them to be physically active throughout life.

Pre-Athletics 6

Description: Students in 6th grade will understand in greater detail the function of the body and learn to use technology to measure their performance, such as using a pedometer to track physical activity. Students will be able to identify types of physical activities that provide them with enjoyment and challenge to encourage them to be physically active throughout life. This course will have an added focus on sports such as volleyball, football, basketball, and track and field.

Color Guard 6/7/8

Description: Color Guard is a performance-based class that utilizes dance choreography, flags, props, and other equipment to perform to music. The class focuses on rhythm and movement skills, as well as team building, fitness, and work ethic.

Cross Country 6/7/8

Description: Students will learn the fundamentals of long-distance running and physical fitness. Students will learn proper running techniques, build endurance, and develop a sense of teamwork through regular practices and friendly competitions. Emphasis will be placed on setting personal goals, improving stamina, encouraging perseverance, responsibility, and self-discipline while providing a fun, engaging way to stay active and healthy.

6th GRADE FINE ART CHOICES: (ONE YEAR REQUIRED IN MS)

Art 6 (Beginner)

Description: Art courses provide comprehensive learning in visual knowledge and skills. An exploratory and experimental approach is used emphasizing individual growth and freedom of expression and response. Students perceive the world around them; interpret their emotions, feelings, and insights through a variety of media; study works of art and learn to appreciate a variety of art forms, and evaluate their art and the works of other artists.

Band 6 (Beginner)

Description: Students learn the fundamentals of music performance on an instrument that is determined by the instrument fitting interview. Students will be placed in these instrument specific classes for the year. As the band progresses in skill, we will get to perform at the CMS Winter Concert in December and the CMS Spring Concert in May. These concerts are held at the school and begin at 6:30pm. These concerts are always free to attend and are open to the public.

Theatre 6/7/8

Description: This course is activity-centered to help students acquire lifelong skills such as critical thinking, self-discipline, group cooperation, sensory and emotional awareness, and self-confidence. Basic acting techniques are taught through improvisations and pantomimes. Students will also develop and improve memorization skills.

6th GRADE ELECTIVE CHOICES:

Broadcasting/News Crew - *Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/approval.*

Description: This course will provide a hands-on experience using industry standard software to film, edit, and broadcast videos. This class is primarily responsible for the final product of our daily school announcements. Students may also create videos, as needed, for campus needs.

T.L.C. Tiger Leadership Council - *Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/approval.*

Description: This course is a student leadership class that promotes leadership and a culture of kindness at Commerce Middle School, CISD, and our community. This may include planning and preparing campus or community events, learning what it takes to be a leader, and some peer-tutoring/mentoring students with other students needing peer academic and social (friendship) support.

Technology Applications

Description: This is an introductory class for students interested in robotics. Technology Applications for 6th Grade introduces students to various digital concepts, programs, and tools, granting them greater understanding of applications of technology. This project-based course incorporates the study of digital tools, devices, communication, and programming to empower students to apply current and emerging technologies in their careers, education, and beyond.

Multisensory Teaching Approach (MTA): *Placement in this class is made by a campus 504*

Committee or ARD Committee. 5th grade students currently enrolled in MTA will continue MTA in middle school until which time all kits are completed.

Description: This course is designed to provide instructional support in phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, syllabication, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading comprehension, and reading fluency. This class is designed for students who are identified with dyslexia.

7th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

Pre-Algebra (Advanced Math 7) - Prerequisite: *Must meet qualifications*

Description: Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal point of Pre-Algebra is using basic principles of algebra to analyze and represent both proportional and non-proportional linear relationships and using probability to describe data and make predictions. NOTE: 7th grade Pre-Algebra students will take the 8th grade STAAR Mathematics exam. This course addresses the essential knowledge and skills for grade 8 math in greater depth at an honors level with increased rigor and a faster pace, along with higher expectations for student performance. If your student is qualified as gifted, there will be elements of advanced & extension opportunities including problem-based learning.

Math 7

Description: Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points in Grade 7 are using direct proportional relationships in number, geometry, measurement, and probability; applying addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals, fractions, and integers; and using statistical measures to describe data.

Resource Math 7

Description: This is a locally designed course aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Math 7 and determined by the ARD committee to be a suitable substitute for Math 7.

Accelerated Math Grade 7

Description: Acceleration and an in-depth study of mathematical concepts based on a student's previous state assessment performance. A prescriptive TEKS-based curriculum addresses difficult concepts while integrating targeted instructional strategies that build stronger mathematical thinking and reasoning. **Note:** This course is designed to meet student needs based on the 6th grade STAAR Math State Assessment.

Advanced Reading/Language Arts 7 - Prerequisite: Must meet qualifications

Description: This class provides instruction and practice in reading a variety of genres, including media literacy, writing a wide variety of compositions, listening, and speaking at higher levels each year. Students complete research projects that require them to understand and evaluate a variety of textual and visual materials. They learn grammar, usage, vocabulary, and other English language skills within the context of reading and writing. At an advanced level, this course addresses the essential knowledge and skills for grade 7 in greater depth with increased rigor and a faster pace, along with higher expectations for student performance.

Reading/Language Arts 7

Description: Students in English 7 master previously learned skills in increasingly complex reading selections and written compositions. Seventh-grade students read and respond to literature, learning to make inferences, recognize the purpose of essential literary devices, and reflect on understanding to monitor comprehension. In reading informational text, students use different organizational patterns to summarize and form an overview of different kinds of expository text. Students determine the meaning of grade-level academic English words derived from Latin, Greek, or other roots and affixes. They search multiple texts to complete research reports and projects. Students produce an organized presentation with a specific point of view, participate in discussions, and work productively with others.

Resource Reading/Language Arts 7

Description: This is a locally designed course aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English 7 and determined by the ARD committee to be a suitable substitute for English 7.

Accelerated Reading 7

Description: Acceleration and an in-depth study of Reading concepts based on a student's previous state assessment performance. A prescriptive TEKS-based curriculum addresses difficult concepts while integrating targeted instructional strategies that build stronger reading comprehension skills as well as thinking and reasoning. **Note:** This course is designed to meet student needs based on the 6th grade STAAR Reading State Assessment.

Science 7

Description: This laboratory-oriented course allows students to become actively involved in scientific processes and provides them with the opportunity to use technology as a tool and resource for learning the world around them. Science 7 is a thematic interdisciplinary approach to life sciences. Students will understand the relationships that exist between organisms and their environment through the understanding of earth science and physical science disciplines.

Texas History 7

Description: Students learn about events, leaders, beliefs, and geography in economic and political systems and cultures. Grade 7 studies Texas geography and history.

Web Communications (One-Half HS Credit)

Description: Students explore applications encompassing: digital citizenship, information literacy, creative credit/copyright, online/in-person collaboration, designing/developing accessible websites as an avenue to personal creativity, and understanding structural aspects of computing.

****Note:** Grades earned in high school courses taken in middle school are included in the high school GPA and must meet the 90% attendance requirement in order to receive high school credit.

Touch System Data Entry (One-Half HS Credit)

Description: Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment. Students will need to apply touch system data entry for production of business documents. The Business Management and Administration Career Cluster focuses on careers in planning, organizing, directing, and evaluating business functions essential to efficient and productive business operations.

****Note:** Grades earned in high school courses taken in middle school are included in the high school GPA and must meet the 90% attendance requirement in order to receive high school credit.

7th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHOICES: (THREE YEARS REQUIRED IN MS)

PE 7

Description: Students in 7th-grade physical education will apply similar concepts from one sport or movement setting to another. At this grade level, students are expected to participate in physical activity both in and out of school, while maintaining a healthy level of fitness as their bodies grow and change. Their knowledge of safety and the ability to manage their own behavior is reinforced. Instruction is directed toward encouraging the incorporation of physical activity into a daily routine and less toward functional skill development.

Athletics 7 - Prerequisite: Pre-Athletics

Description: Students will participate in athletic activities during this class, which can be substituted for a physical education credit. Students will learn grade-level physical education curriculum during the off-season. Sports offered at our school are volleyball, football, basketball, and track.

Color Guard 6/7/8

Description: Color Guard is a performance-based class that utilizes dance choreography, flags, props, and other equipment to perform to music. The class focuses on rhythm and movement skills, as well as team building, fitness, and work ethic.

Cross Country 6/7/8

Description: Students will learn the fundamentals of long-distance running and physical fitness. Students will learn proper running techniques, build endurance, and develop a sense of teamwork through regular practices and friendly competitions. Emphasis will be placed on setting personal goals, improving stamina, encouraging perseverance, responsibility, and self-discipline while providing a fun, engaging way to stay active and healthy.

Cheer 7/8 - **Must have already gone through the tryout process and made the CMS cheer team.*

Description: As a team we follow the UIL and NCA/UCA safety and performance guidelines. This class works on techniques, jumps, stunting, tumbling, and cheer/chants for the cheer season. During the season we work on preparing pep rally performances and cheering at football games.

7th GRADE ELECTIVE CHOICES:

Beginner Band (1st Year)

Description: Students learn the fundamentals of music performance on an instrument that is determined by the instrument fitting interview. Students will be placed in these instrument specific classes for the year. As the band progresses in skill, we will get to perform at the CMS Winter Concert in December and the CMS Spring Concert in May. These concerts are held at the school and begin at 6:30pm. These concerts are always free to attend and are open to the public.

Band 7/8 (Symphonic Band)

Description: Band is offered at two levels of instruction. The Symphonic Band is our Non-Varsity Band. This group will learn and perform music intended to meet the needs of our younger, less experienced band members. This band will get to perform at the Winter Concert in December and the Spring Concert in May. Additionally, the Symphonic Band will perform at a festival in May.

Band 7/8 (Honors Band)

Description: Band is offered at two levels of instruction. The Honors Band is our Varsity Band. This band will learn and perform music that will challenge our most experienced and skilled band members. Placement into this band is earned by an audition for the band director(s). This band is required to participate in the All Region Band auditions(November), UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest(March), and the C.I.S.D. Solo & Ensemble Contest(May).

Theatre 6/7/8

Description: This course is activity-centered to help students acquire lifelong skills such as critical thinking, self-discipline, group cooperation, sensory and emotional awareness, and self-confidence. Basic acting techniques are taught through improvisations and pantomimes. Students will also develop and improve memorization skills.

Intermediate Art 7 - Prerequisite: Beginner Art

Description: Art courses provide comprehensive learning in visual knowledge and skills. An exploratory and experimental approach is used emphasizing individual growth and freedom of expression and response. Students perceive the world around them; interpret their emotions, feelings, and insights through a variety of media; study works of art and learn to appreciate a variety of art forms; and evaluate their own art and the works of other artists.

Broadcasting/News Crew - Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/approval.

Description: This course will provide a hands-on experience using industry standard software to film, edit, and broadcast videos. This class is primarily responsible for the final product of our daily school announcements. Students may also create videos, as needed, for campus needs.

T.L.C. Tiger Leadership Council - Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation/approval.

Description: This course promotes leadership and a culture of kindness at Commerce Middle School, CISD, and in the community. The focus of this course is on the development of student character and vision so students will be prepared for the challenges of leadership while learning how to make good impressions, present ideas, become independent thinkers, work with difficult people, and see personal excellence. This may include planning and preparing campus or community events, learning what it takes to be a leader, and some peer-tutoring/mentoring students with other students needing peer academic and social (friendship) support.

Robotics I (One HS Credit)

Description: Robotics I introduces students to the fundamental concepts and applications of robotics. This course will cover topics like robotics terminology, basic mechanical design, electronics, and programming for robots. As this is a hands-on, lab-based course, students will learn how to design, build, and program robotic devices, exploring both theory and practical application through projects.

Note: Grades earned in high school courses taken in middle school are included in the high school GPA and must meet the 90% attendance requirement and pass the Algebra 1 End of Course (EOC) Exam in order to receive high school credit.

MULTISENSORY TEACHING APPROACH (MTA): *Placement in this class is to be made by a campus 504 Committee or ARD Committee.*

Description: This course is designed to provide instructional support in phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, syllabication, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading comprehension, and reading fluency. This class is designed for students who are identified with dyslexia.

8th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

Algebra I (One HS Credit) - Prerequisite: PreAlgebra

Description: Some eighth grade students may choose to take Algebra I, which is a high school credit course. Only students who have mastered the material taught in mathematics in grades 6-8 should take this course. Students who complete any high school mathematics course in grades 7 and/or 8 may use the credit earned to satisfy the requirement of four courses of mathematics in grades 9-12.

Note: *Grades earned in high school courses taken in middle school are included in the high school GPA and must meet the 90% attendance requirement and pass the Algebra 1 End of Course (EOC) Exam in order to receive high school credit.*

Math 8

Description: Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points at Grade 8 are using basic principles of algebra to analyze and represent both proportional and non-proportional linear relationships and using probability to describe data and make predictions. NOTE: Eighth grade students must pass 8th grade STAAR Mathematics to be promoted to high school courses. A Grade Placement Committee will determine promotion/retention based on STAAR, course grades, and attendance criteria.

Resource Math 8

Description: This is a locally designed course aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Math 8 and determined by the ARD committee to be a suitable substitute for Math 8.

Advanced Reading/Language Arts 8 - Prerequisite: Must meet qualifications

Description: This class provides instruction and practice in reading a variety of genres, including media literacy, writing a wide variety of compositions, listening and speaking at higher levels each year. Students complete research projects that require them to understand and evaluate a variety of textual and visual materials. At an advanced level, this course addresses the essential knowledge and skills for grade 8 in greater depth with an increased rigor and a faster pace, along with the higher expectations for student performance. If your student is qualified as gifted, there will be elements of advanced & extension opportunities including problem-based learning.

NOTE: 8th graders must pass the 8th grade STAAR Reading test to be promoted to high school English courses. A Grade Placement Committee will determine promotion/retention based on STAAR, course grades, and attendance criteria.

Reading/Language Arts 8

This class provides instruction and practice in reading a variety of genres, including media literacy, writing a wide variety of compositions, listening and speaking at higher levels each year. Students complete research projects that require them to understand and evaluate a variety of textual and visual materials. NOTE: 8th graders must pass the 8th grade STAAR Reading test to be promoted to high school English courses. A Grade Placement Committee will determine promotion/retention based on STAAR, course grades, and attendance criteria.

Resource Reading/Language Arts 8

Description: This is a locally designed course aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for English 8 and determined by the ARD committee to be a suitable substitute for English 8.

Accelerated Reading 8

Description: Acceleration and an in-depth study of Reading concepts based on a student's previous state assessment performance. A prescriptive TEKS-based curriculum addresses difficult concepts while integrating targeted instructional strategies that build stronger reading comprehension skills as well as thinking and reasoning. **Note:** This course is designed to meet student needs based on the 7th grade STAAR Reading State Assessment.

Advanced Science 8 - Prerequisite: Must meet qualifications

Description: Science 8 is a laboratory-oriented course that continues the interdisciplinary approach to the life, earth, and physical science disciplines begun in Science 6 and 7. Heavy emphasis will be placed on science processes and the relationship of fundamental science concepts to our daily lives. The following topics are explored: matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; cycles with the Sun, Earth, and Moon systems; characteristics of the universe; interactions between organisms in ecosystems; and the impact of man on the Earth. At an honors level, this course addresses the essential knowledge and skills for grade 8 in greater depth with an increased rigor and a faster pace, along with the higher expectations for student performance. If your student is qualified as gifted, there will be elements of advanced & extension opportunities including problem-based learning.

Science 8

Description: Science 8 is a laboratory-oriented course that continues the interdisciplinary approach to the life, earth, and physical science disciplines begun in Science 6 and 7. Heavy emphasis will be placed on science processes and the relationship of fundamental science concepts to our daily lives. The following topics are explored: matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; cycles with the Sun, Earth, and Moon systems; characteristics of the universe; interactions between organisms in ecosystems; and the impact of man on the Earth.

Advanced U.S. History 8 - *Prerequisite: Must meet qualifications*

Description: Students learn about events, leaders, beliefs, and geography in economic and political systems and cultures. Grade 8 studies United States history from exploration to 1877. This course examines the economic, political, and social events and issues from the early colonial period through Reconstruction, including the independence movement, creation, and ratification of the United States. At an honors level, this course addresses the essential knowledge and skills for grade 8 in greater depth with an increased rigor and a faster pace, along with the higher expectations for student performance. If your student is qualified as gifted, there will be elements of advanced & extension opportunities including problem-based learning.

U.S. History 8

Description: Students learn about events, leaders, beliefs, and geography in economic and political systems and cultures. Grade 8 studies United States history from exploration to 1877. This course examines the economic, political, and social events and issues from the early colonial period through Reconstruction, including the independence movement, creation, and ratification of the United States.

8th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION CHOICES: (THREE YEARS REQUIRED IN MS)

PE 8

Description: Students will apply similar concepts from one sport or movement setting to another. At this grade level, students are expected to participate in physical activity both in and out of school, while maintaining a healthy level of fitness as their bodies grow and change. Their knowledge of safety and the ability to manage their own behavior is reinforced. Instruction is directed toward encouraging the incorporation of physical activity into a daily routine and less toward functional skill development.

Athletics 8 - *Prerequisite: Pre-Athletics*

Description: Students will participate in athletic activities during this class, which can be substituted for a physical education credit. Students will learn grade-level physical education curriculum during the off-season. Sports offered are volleyball, football, basketball, and track.

Color Guard 6/7/8

Description: Color Guard is a performance-based class that utilizes dance choreography, flags, props, and other equipment to perform to music. The class focuses on rhythm and movement skills, as well as team building, fitness, and work ethic.

Cross Country 6/7/8

Description: Students will learn the fundamentals of long-distance running and physical fitness. Students will learn proper running techniques, build endurance, and develop a sense of teamwork through regular practices and friendly competitions. Emphasis will be placed on setting personal goals, improving stamina, encouraging perseverance, responsibility, and self-discipline while providing a fun, engaging way to stay active and healthy.

Cheer 7/8 - **Must have already gone through the tryout process and made the CMS cheer team.*

Description: As a team we follow the UIL and NCA/UCA safety and performance guidelines. This class works on techniques, jumps, stunting, tumbling, and cheer/chants for the cheer season. During the season we work on preparing pep rally performances and cheering at football games.

8th GRADE ELECTIVES

Symphonic Band 7/8

Description: Band is offered at two levels of instruction. The Symphonic Band is our Non-Varsity Band. This group will learn and perform music intended to meet the needs of our younger, less experienced band members. This band will get to perform at the Winter Concert in December and the Spring Concert in May. Additionally, the Symphonic Band will perform at a festival in May.

Honors Band 7/8

Description: Band is offered at two levels of instruction. The Honors Band is our Varsity Band. This band will learn and perform music that will challenge our most experienced and skilled band members. Placement into this band is earned by an audition for the band director(s). This band is required to participate in the All Region Band auditions(November), UIL Concert and Sightreading Contest(March), and the C.I.S.D. Solo & Ensemble Contest(May).

Jazz Band 8:

Description: Jazz Band is an option for current band members (entering grade 8) who wish to add an additional band class to learn about and explore different styles of music. This ensemble performs at various school and community functions throughout the year. Any band instrument is welcome into this introductory class.

Applied Music 8

Description: This class is available to currently enrolled band students only; to be taken *in addition to* the Symphonic or Honors Band class period. The purpose of this class is for students to practice their band instrument and/or receive extra help or enrichment opportunities.

Theatre 6/7/8

Description: This course is activity-centered to help students acquire lifelong skills such as critical thinking, self-discipline, group cooperation, sensory and emotional awareness, and self-confidence. Basic acting techniques are taught through improvisations and pantomimes. Students will also develop and improve memorization skills.

Broadcasting/News Crew - Prerequisite – Teacher recommendation/approval.

Description: This course will provide a hands-on experience using industry standard software to film, edit, and broadcast videos. This class is primarily responsible for the final product of our daily school announcements. Students may also create videos, as needed, for campus needs.

T.L.C. Tiger Leadership Council - Prerequisite – Teacher recommendation/approval.

Description: This course promotes leadership and a culture of kindness at Commerce Middle School, CISD, and in the community. The focus of this course is on the development of student character and vision so students will be prepared for the challenges of leadership while learning how to make good impressions, present ideas, become independent thinkers, work with difficult people, and see personal excellence. This may include planning and preparing campus or community events, learning what it takes to be a leader, and some peer-tutoring/mentoring students with other students needing peer academic and social (friendship) support.

MULTISENSORY TEACHING APPROACH (MTA): Placement in this class is to be made by a campus 504 Committee or ARD Committee.

Description: This course is designed to provide instructional support in phonological awareness, sound-symbol association, syllabication, orthography, morphology, syntax, reading comprehension, and reading fluency. This class is designed for students who are identified with dyslexia.

8th GRADE ELECTIVES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Note: Grades earned in high school courses taken in middle school are included in the high school GPA and must meet the 90% attendance requirement in order to receive high school credit.

Business Information Management (One HS Credit)

Description: Business Information Management (BIM) is a high school credit course that prepares students to apply technology skills to personal and workplace business situations. Students develop mastery in using MS Office applications (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher). Additional applications may include: Multimedia software, Publisher; and Web 2.0 tools. This course is highly recommended for preparing students for career and college entry.

The Principles of Education Training (One HS Credit)

Description: This course introduces learners to various potential careers in education. During this course, students will study the societal context that influences schools, as well as various educational models. In addition, they will learn the basic responsibilities of a classroom educator. Lessons include education theories, teaching practices and strategies, and careers in education and training.

Professional Communications (One-Half HS Credit)

Description: This course blends written, oral, and graphic communication. Careers in the global economy require creativity, with a strong background in computer/technology applications, a solid academic foundation, and a proficiency in professional oral/written communication. Within this context, students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research.

Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness (One-Half HS Credit)

Description: This course helps students develop the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions that allow them to stay active, safe, and informed. Students learn about the components of a healthy lifestyle and learn strategies for making healthy choices. Instructional material introduces students to the concepts of mental health, emotional health, social health, consumer health, and physical health. It presents opportunities for students to apply their value systems to decisions concerning their own nutrition. Students develop communication skills in this course that allow them to demonstrate wellness choices with respect for self, family, and others.

Robotics I (One HS Credit)

Description: Robotics 1 introduces students to the fundamental concepts and applications of robotics. This course will cover topics like robotics terminology, basic mechanical design, electronics, and programming for robots. This is a hands-on, lab-based course; students will learn how to design, build, and program robotic devices, exploring both theory and practical application through projects.

Robotics II (One HS Credit) - Prerequisite: Robotics I

Description: Robotics II courses build upon foundational knowledge, delving deeper into robotics principles and applications. Students often engage in more complex projects, such as designing and building autonomous robots, and exploring advanced topics like AI in robotics and robotics programming. These courses emphasize hands-on experience, teamwork, and applying engineering principles to solve real-world problems.

Principles of Art, Audio/Video Technology & Communication (One HS Credit) -

Prerequisite: *Teacher recommendation/approval.*

Description: This course is designed to develop technical knowledge and skills needed for success in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Career Cluster®. Students will be expected to develop an understanding of the industry with a focus on pre-production, production, post-production audio/video products through daily announcements and other avenues.

Spanish I (One HS Credit)

Description: Students receive instruction in speaking, listening, reading, and writing the Spanish language. Students also learn about the culture of the country or countries where the language is spoken. Students are expected to complete both semesters to receive high school credit.

Art 1 (One HS Credit) - Prerequisite: Beginner Art, Intermediate Art (additional: teacher approval)

Description: High School Art 1 is a course that provides an introduction to art through a multimedia experience. Students will learn and apply the elements and principles of design to produce creative art projects that reflect their understanding of these concepts.