Elgin Independent School District
Middle School Course Guide
2025 – 2026



Elgin ISD Changes Lives

One Town

One Team

One Family

2

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District Vision Statement
Elgin ISD changes lives

District Mission Statement
Elgin Independent School District ensures a high-quality education that guarantees a life-changing experience for all.

Elgin Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, or disability in providing education services, activities or programs. It is the intent and policy of this District to conduct its activities in compliance with all Federal and State laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, or disability.

El Distrito Independiente Escolar de Elgin no discrimina a base de raza, sexo, edad, religión, color, origen nacional, o incapacidad en proveer servicios educacionales, actividades, o programas. Es la intención y norma del Distrito de conducir sus actividades de acuerdo con todas las leyes Federales y Estatales prohibiendo discriminación a base de raza, sexo, edad, religión, color, origen nacional o incapacidad.

Elgin Independent School District

- Elgin ISD Changes Lives -

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Dear Parents and Students:

In Elgin Independent School District (Elgin ISD), we believe in careful planning for the academic success and development of each one of our students. We strive to create learning environments that empower and inspire all students to achieve their utmost potential. We believe that our parents and community members are partners with us in this endeavor, and it is to that spirit that we ask you to carefully review the contents of the Elgin ISD Middle School Course Guide.

The guide is designed to provide students, parents, and school staff with a resource for reviewing and selecting course offerings for middle school students.

The course guide is divided into five major sections:

- Elgin Independent School District Information
- Graduation and Endorsement Pathways
- Middle School Offerings

Please note that the course guide is subject to change as needed. Any updates will be posted on the district and campus websites, and the school counseling team will notify students if the changes impact their specific course plan.

Thank you for your partnership and support in planning course selections for the upcoming academic school year. We look forward to working with you to develop your student's program of study!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jana Rueter
Superintendent of Schools

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Elgin Middle School Information

Awarding of Credits

For a two-semester course in which both semesters are completed in the fall and spring of the same school year, each semester's grade stands on its own. Full credit will be awarded if the average of the fall and spring semesters is at least 70. Students transferring in during the spring semester with a failing fall semester grade may receive credit under this policy.

Middle School Grade Level Promotion Policy

To be promoted from Grade 6 to Grade 7, Grade 7 to Grade 8, and Grade 8 to Grade 9, students must meet all the following criteria:

- Earn a yearly average of 70 or above in three of the following areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
- Earn an overall average of 70 when all subjects taken are averaged together.
- Meet the 90 percent state-mandated requirement for attendance.

Transfer Grade Policy

The following numerical values will be used for letter grades transferred to the school:

A+ = 98	B+ = 88	C+ = 79	D+ = 74	F = 65
A = 95	B = 85	C = 77	D = 72	
A - = 90	B- = 80	C- = 75	D- = 70	

Transfers from Home School or Non-Accredited Private School

A student returning to public middle school from homeschooling or a non-accredited private school will need to demonstrate mastery of basic skills up to the grade level to which he or she is assigned. Students will be given a Board-approved Credit by Exam assessment.

Special Programs

Gifted and Talented Program

In Elgin ISD, the needs of Gifted and Talented students are met in several ways. GT students are required to take Algebra I for high school credit, and they may choose to participate in RLA advanced courses. These courses are taught by trained GT teachers. GT students are expected to create a portfolio to showcase their accelerated work.

Advanced Courses

Advanced courses include activities and strategies designed to engage students in active, high-level learning. Students will develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in future AP classes. Depth of material requires students to read and write extensively in and out of class. Advanced courses are offered in grades 6-12.

Advanced course expectations include:

- Independent research and projects (individual or group)
- Maintaining a minimum grade of 70
- If a student's course average drops below 75 or a student is missing 2 or more assignments, the student will be required to attend tutorials until their course average is above 75 and all missing assignments are complete

Requirements to enroll in an Advanced Class:

- **Met or Masters standard** on previous year STAAR for content area
- **Previous** year ELAR final grade average of 85 in an on-level course, or 75 in an advanced course

Are Advanced Courses Right for You?			
Academic Preparation	**Habits of Mind & Study Skills**	**Family & Personal Commitments**	**Future Goals**
● How would teachers/family describe your strengths? ● What are your strong subjects? ● Are your current grades a reflection of your effort/ability? ● Are you satisfied with your current level of challenge? ● How have you performed on STAAR, PSAT, NWEA MAP, and classroom assessments?	● How do you study, take notes, and stay organized? ● When you are confused or absent, do you ask for help and/or access campus resources? ● Do you value hard work and challenging course content over GPA?	● What are your family and extracurricular commitments outside the school day? How do you balance commitments? ● Are you absent six days or less per semester?	● What are your career interests? ● What education is required? ○ 4-year/2-year University ○ Career/ Technology ○ Apprenticeship ○ Military ● Do your selected courses help you reach your goal?

State Assessments

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is the criterion-referenced assessment program that has been in place since 2011-2012. STAAR includes the five high school end-of-course (EOC) assessments mandated by HB 5 in 2013 and grade 3–8 assessments mandated by HB 3 in 2009. The tests are rigorous, emphasizing alignment with college and career readiness standards.

The following STAAR tests are required at each grade level in Middle School:

- 7th Grade: Math and Reading
- 8th Grade: Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies

Note: Students that fail to perform satisfactorily on a state-mandated assessment are required to complete 15-30 hours of accelerated instruction per failed content area test. Summer school or after-school hours may be required to complete this legal mandate.

Texas Success Initiative Assessment

While enrolled at Elgin Middle School, 8th grade students take the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) Assessment to determine if the students are ready to take advanced-level high school courses for college credit. This assessment focuses on the general areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. If students do not show proficiency at this time, they will have other opportunities to take the TSI in high school.

Earning High School Credit While in Middle School

The expectation is that each middle school student leaves 8th grade with a minimum of one high school credit. High school courses offered at the middle school include Algebra I, Art I, Choir I, Dance I, Fundamentals of Computer Science, Journalism (Yearbook), Spanish courses, and Theatre Arts I. Satisfactory completion of high school courses taken before high school shall be reflected on the student's academic achievement record, and the student will be awarded state graduation credit.

Note: Grades earned in these classes will be calculated using high school grading guidelines. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA and class rank. In addition, some high school credit courses taken prior to high school may count towards NCAA eligibility requirements.

The chart below shows the requirements for graduation from Elgin ISD. The courses highlighted in the chart below are classes available to middle school students to take for high school credit.

Chart – Elgin ISD Graduation Requirements Summary

English Language Arts	4 Credits • English I, English II, English III, English IV	***Languages Other than English (LOTE)***	2 credits in the same language or computer programming language (*Spanish offered in middle school*)
Mathematics	4 Credits • *Algebra I*, Geometry, Algebra II, Advanced math course	***Fine Arts***	1 credit *(Art, Theatre Arts, Choir* offered in middle school)
Science	4 Credits • Biology, Chemistry, Physics, advanced science course	***Physical Education***	*1 credit*
Social Studies	4 Credits • World Geography, World History, US History, US Government, and Economics	**Electives**	7 credits Including Speech (0.5)
Total Credits Required	At least 27		

**Italicized* courses are offered at the middle school for high school credit.

Endorsement Pathways for Graduation

Endorsement Pathways allow students to study a particular field in depth. In high school, students are required to complete a coherent sequence of four or more credits in their chosen endorsement for graduation requirements.

In 8th grade, students will begin to explore different career options and determine which ones interest them. Students will choose an endorsement pathway prior to registering for high school courses. The chart below lists the endorsement pathways offered by Elgin ISD at the high school.

Arts & Humanities	***Business & Industry***	***Public Services***	***STEM***	***Multidisciplinary***
Dance	Animal Science	Healthcare Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services	Math	Advanced Placement
Instrumental	Automotive and Collision Repair	Health Sciences Academy (ACC)	Math & Science	Early College High School (ACC)
Languages	Business Management	Law Enforcement	Programming & Software Development	
Social Studies	Digital Communications	Military	Apple Swift Coding (ACC)	
Theatre	Entrepreneurship	Teaching & Training	Science	

Visual Arts	Food Science & Technology	Educator Career Academy (ACC)		
Vocal	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC)			
	Advanced Journalism: Yearbook			
	Plant Science			
	P-TECH: Welding (ACC)			
	Welding			

Elgin Middle School Curriculum

Curriculum Philosophy and Framework

Elgin Independent School District provides middle school students with a well-balanced, rigorous curriculum that meets the requirements set forth by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

A key focus of the Elgin ISD middle school academic program is to make certain all students are prepared for the high school curriculum by focusing on the attainment of the essential skills in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

The instructional program delivered at the middle school is based on the official curriculum defined by the state, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), developed in collaboration between TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The district has also adopted the TEKS Resource System as our framework for teaching the state standards. These learning standards are designed to represent a full range of knowledge and skills that students need to succeed in entry-level college courses, as well as in a wide range of majors and careers. By implementing these required standards, our schools will advance the mission of Texas to develop college and career-ready students.

In addition to certain required courses, students may choose optional courses (electives) in fine arts, languages other than English, technology education, and physical education. Elective course offerings may vary from grade to grade based on student requests and staff availability.

Grading and Evaluation

Report cards will be issued every nine weeks throughout the school year. In addition to report cards, the school will distribute interim progress reports every three weeks.

Suggested Course Sequences

7th Grade	8th Grade
English Language Arts and Reading (on-level or Advanced)	English Language Arts and Reading (on-level or Advanced)
Math (Pre-Algebra)	Algebra I
Science	Science

Social Studies (Texas History)	Social Studies (U.S. History)
PE/Athletics	College and Career Exploration (semester) and Health (semester)
Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective

Fine Arts Requirement
Pursuant to HB 3, all middle school students must complete at least one fine arts course while in middle school. This requirement may be fulfilled during their 6th, 7th, and/or 8th grade school year.

Physical Education Requirement
State law requires that students complete at least four semesters (or two years) of Physical Education in grades 6-8.

Summer School
Summer school may be required for students who do not pass certain courses or state assessments

7th Grade Core Content Courses

English Language Arts and Reading (6171, 6172, 6173)
Full Year **Grade: 7**
Prerequisite: None
This course is designed to emphasize the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the study of foundational language skills, comprehension, response, multiple genres, author's purpose and craft, and inquiry and research. Students develop knowledge and skills while reading authentically and writing reflectively with increased complexity and nuance. Students are expected to participate in discussions, engage in reading and writing daily, and complete assignments, essays, and exams. (03200520)

Advanced English Language Arts and Reading (6170, 6179)
Full Year **Grade: 7**
Prerequisite: None
Advanced ELA curriculum serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program. Emphasis is placed on the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the study of foundational language skills, comprehension, response, multiple genres, author's purpose and craft, and inquiry. Students develop critical and creative thinking skills and analyze the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Summer reading is required. (03200520)

English Learners Language Arts (ELLA) (6191)
Full Year, two class periods **Grade: 7**
Prerequisite: State and District Criteria
This course is designed specifically for Emergent Bilingual students. The course mirrors the grade-level expectations of English Language Arts and Reading along with additional language supports. This course counts as the Language Arts credit for Grade 7. Emphasis is placed on the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking and their application in order to accelerate the acquisition of language skills so that students develop high levels of social and academic language proficiency. Students study foundational language skills, comprehension, response, multiple genres, author's purpose and craft, and inquiry and research. Students develop knowledge and skills while reading authentically and writing reflectively with increased complexity and nuance. Students are expected to participate in discussions, engage in reading and writing daily, and complete assignments, essays, and exams. (03200531)

Math- Grade 7
Full Year **Grade: 7**
Recommended Prerequisite: none
This course focuses on number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships, including numbers, geometry and measurement, and statistics and probability. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Advanced Math- Pre-Algebra (6270, 6278, 6279)
Full Year **Grade: 7**
Recommended Prerequisite: none
This course precedes the Algebra I for High School Credit course offered in 8th grade. The course reviews mathematical procedures and begins a student's investigation of algebraic concepts. Students use linear equations to represent real-world situations and develop an understanding of slope as a rate of change. Students increase fluency in number, operation, and quantitative reasoning; analyze two- and three-dimensional space and uses of statistical data; and develop and describe geometric and mathematical patterns all leading to sustainable algebraic thinking. (03103000)

Science
Full Year **Grade: 7**
Prerequisite: None
This course is designed to enhance the development of critical and creative thinking skills. Students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem-solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on organisms and the environment. Topics of study include the flow and conservation of energy through living systems, force, motion, and energy observed in living systems and the environment, Earth and space phenomena, relationships between living organisms and their environment, genetics, plant and animal cell structures, and human body systems. Students engage in relevant and rigorous hands-on laboratory investigations that emphasize process skills, such as experimental design, and use tools and technology to collect, record, and analyze data. (03060700)

Texas History
Full Year **Grade: 7**
Prerequisite: None
This course develops the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Topics include Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. Students identify the regions of Texas and describe the structure and functions of government. Students examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens, identify different ethnic groups who contributed to Texas culture, and analyze the impact of science and technology on the development of Texas in various industries. (03343000)

8th Grade Core Content Courses

English Language Arts and Reading
Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: None
This course is designed to emphasize the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the study of foundational language skills, comprehension, response, multiple genres, author's purpose and craft, and inquiry and research. Students develop knowledge and skills while reading authentically and writing reflectively with increased complexity and nuance. Students are expected to participate in discussions, engage in reading and writing daily, and complete assignments, essays, and exams. (03200530)

Advanced English Language Arts and Reading
Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: None
Advanced ELA curriculum serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program. Emphasis is placed on the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the study of foundational language skills, comprehension, response, multiple genres, author's purpose and craft, and inquiry. Students develop critical and creative thinking skills and analyze the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Summer reading is required (03200530)

English Learners Language Arts (ELLA)
Full Year, two class periods **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: State and District Criteria
This course is designed specifically for Emergent Bilingual students. The course mirrors the grade-level expectations of English Language Arts and Reading along with additional language supports. This course counts as the Language Arts credit for Grade 8. Emphasis is placed on the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking and their application in order to accelerate the acquisition of language skills so that students develop high levels of social and academic language proficiency. Students study foundational language skills, comprehension, response, multiple genres, author's purpose and craft, and inquiry and research. Students develop knowledge and skills while reading authentically and writing reflectively with increased complexity and nuance. Students are expected to participate in discussions, engage in reading and writing daily, and complete assignments, essays, and exams.(03200531)

Algebra I for High School Credit
HS Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or its equivalent
This course expands students' understanding of numbers, operation, and quantitative reasoning; patterns, relationships, and algebraic thinking; geometry; measurement; and probability and statistics. Special emphasis is placed on problem-solving and the application of skills and concepts. Students are instructed in the use of the graphing calculator. Students who satisfactorily complete Algebra I prior to high school will continue with higher-level mathematics courses in grades 9-12. Students are expected to take four additional years of high school math while in high school. Upon successful completion, this course grants high school credit. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA and class rank. (03100500)

Science
Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: None
This course is designed to enhance the development of critical and creative thinking skills. Students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem-solving. The concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on earth and space science. Topics of study include properties of matter and chemical reactions; the relationship between forces and motion explained by Newton's three laws; cycles within the Sun, Earth, and Moon systems (seasons, tides, lunar phases, origin of universe, plate tectonics, topographic maps, interaction of solar, weather, and ocean systems, interactions within ecosystems, and environmental changes). Students engaged in relevant and rigorous hands-on laboratory investigations that emphasize process skills, such as experimental design, and use tools and technology to collect, record, and analyze data. (03060800)

U.S. History
Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: None
This course utilizes strategies that develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to study the history of the United States from colonization through Reconstruction. Students analyze political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges of the early Republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students examine the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on how and where Americans lived, the American beliefs and principles reflected in historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution, the effects of major Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of science and technology on the development of the U.S. (03343100)

Physical Education

Athletics

Boys: 7th – 6770, 8th – 6780; Girls: 7th – 6771, 8th – 6781

Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**

Prerequisite: None

This course may include football, basketball, volleyball, track and field, golf, and tennis for UIL competition. Students must have a physical examination by a medical doctor to participate in competitive athletics. Students try out for each sport. Those who are placed on a team are required to attend before or after-school practice on a regular basis. These students also participate in strength and conditioning activities during the off-season to enhance their opportunities for success in seasonal competition. Tennis and cross country are sports offered on an outside-of-school basis, and those students are not required to be in the athletic period. Attendance at all practices and competitions is required. (03823000)

Physical Education

Boys: 7th – 6772, 8th – 6782 ; Girls: 7th – 6773, 8th – 6783

Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**

Prerequisite: None

Students continue to improve and develop their fitness knowledge and level through a variety of individual and team sports and activities. All activities are designed to improve their personal fitness level and acquire health and fitness information necessary to become healthy and active adults. State fitness testing is also included in this course. Students are required to dress out in campus-specific fitness attire. Grades are based on participation, skills, and written tests. (03823000)

Health

Health for Middle School

Semester **Grade: 8**

Prerequisite: None

In this course, students develop an understanding of health information and skills in the following areas: physical health and hygiene; mental health and wellness; healthy eating and physical activity; injury and violence prevention and safety; and alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Reproductive and sexual health is also covered for those students whose parents opt-in. Essential skills taught include decision-making, problem-solving, maintaining healthy relationships with self and others, seeking help and support, and recognizing various influences on health. (03813000)

Career Development & Technical Education

College and Career Exploration – 6089

Semester **Grade: 8**

Prerequisite: None

Students use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths. Students use strategies to prepare for the TSI test in preparation for high school dual credit courses. (12700300)

Electives for Middle School

English Language Development and Acquisition (ELDA) I

ELDA for High School Credit

HS Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 7-8**

Prerequisite: must qualify based on English proficiency

This course is designed to provide instructional opportunities for secondary recent immigrant students with little or no English proficiency. This course enables students to become increasingly more proficient in English in all four language domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This course validates a student's native language and culture as a valuable resource and as a foundation to attain the English language. It will develop social language, survival vocabulary, and the basic building blocks of literacy for newly arrived and preliterate students. (03200800

Languages Other Than English Courses

Spanish I for High School Credit
HS Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
Prerequisite: None
Endorsement Pathway: Arts & Humanities – LOTE
This course provides an introduction to the five Cs: *communication* (speaking, listening, reading, writing); *culture* (understanding of the people, practices, products, and perspectives); *connections* (with other subject areas); *comparisons* (own culture/language with another); and *communities* (using language beyond the school setting for personal and career development). **This course satisfies one of the two LOTE credits required for high school graduation.** (03440100)

Advanced Spanish for Spanish Speakers I for High School Credit
Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
Prerequisite: Heritage Spanish speaker who possesses a wide range of communicative abilities in the language.
Endorsement Pathway: Arts & Humanities - LOTE
This accelerated course is for students for whom Spanish is a native or heritage language. It provides those students with the opportunity to expand their existing proficiency and develop their reading and writing skills. Orthography, diacritics and vocabulary development are stressed. Emphasis is placed on the usage of language appropriate to academic and professional settings. **This course satisfies one of the two LOTE credits required for high school graduation.** (03440110)

Advanced Spanish for Spanish Speakers II for High School Credit
Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
Prerequisite: Heritage Spanish speaker who possesses a wide range of communicative abilities in the language. This is an accelerated course. Successful completion or demonstration of equivalent proficiency of Level I
Endorsement Pathway: Arts & Humanities - LOTE
This course is designed for students for whom Spanish is a native or heritage language. Students expand their existing proficiency and develop their reading and writing skills. Orthography, diacritics, and vocabulary development are stressed. Emphasis is placed on the usage of language appropriate to academic and professional settings. **If combined with a Spanish I course, this course satisfies the second of the two LOTE credits required for high school graduation.** (03440220)

Advanced Spanish for Spanish Speakers III for High School Credit
Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: Heritage Spanish speaker who possesses a wide range of communicative abilities in the language. This is an accelerated course. Successful completion or demonstration of equivalent proficiency of Level II
Endorsement Pathway: Arts & Humanities - LOTE
This course emphasizes creative self-expression in the written language. This compacted and rigorous curriculum expands reading and interpretation of texts from various literary genres and various content areas. Provides extensive practice in the presentation of oral and written narratives and reports. Promotes understanding of cultural practices and products, and fosters use of Spanish for future careers and personal enrichment. (03440330)

Technology Courses

Fundamentals of Computer Science for High School Credit
Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade 7-8**
Prerequisite: Proficiency in knowledge and skills relating to Technology Applications
Endorsement Pathway: STEM – Programming & Software Development
This course is intended as a first course for those students just beginning the study of computer science. Students learn about the computing tools that are used every day. Students foster their creativity and innovation through opportunities to design, implement, and present solutions to real-world problems. Students collaborate and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. Students learn problem-solving and reasoning skills that are foundational to computer science. (03580140)

Fine Arts

Beginning Art for Middle School 1
Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**
This course is for students who have not taken art previously as a 6th or 7th grader. In this beginner's course, students begin to develop visual literacy skills using critical thinking, imagination, and the senses to observe and explore the world. Students understand and apply the elements of art and principles of design as well as discuss expressive properties of artworks. Students create and produce original artworks using problem-solving and begin their own art portfolios. Students create written or oral responses to artwork using appropriate vocabulary. Students also explore historical and political influences on art in society. Supplies or a supply fee may be required. (03154110)

Intermediate Art for Middle School 2
Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**
Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Art for Middle School 1
This course is a continuation of the previously learned skills and techniques. At this stage, students are starting to refine their visual literacy skills using critical thinking, imagination, and the senses to observe and explore the world. In this course, students compare and contrast the elements of art and principles of design as well as understand and apply expressive properties of artworks. Students create original artworks by effectively applying technical skills using a variety of materials and developing a portfolio that demonstrates progress. Students create written or oral responses about personal or collaborative artworks. Students also analyze global, cultural, historical, and political influences on art in society. Students begin to identify career possibilities in art. Supplies or a supply fee may be required. (03154210)

Advanced Art for Middle School 3
Full Year
Prerequisite: Intermediate Art for Middle School 2 **Grade: 7 - 8**
This course advances previously learned skills and techniques. At this stage, students enhance their visual literacy skills using critical thinking, imagination, and the senses to observe and explore the world. In this course, students evaluate the elements of art and principles of design as well as compare and contrast expressive properties of artworks. Students create original artworks expressing certain themes and select the appropriate materials to convey their message. Students begin to explore experimental artworks. Students create written or oral responses about personal or collaborative artworks, including critique methods. Students also analyze global, contemporary, historical, and political influences on art in society. Students compare and contrast career possibilities in art. Supplies or a supply fee may be required. (03154310)

Art I for High School Credit
HS Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: Art Portfolio; Recommended Prerequisite: Advanced Art for Middle School 3
Students may fulfill their fine arts or elective requirements for high school graduation by successfully completing this course. Art I is an introductory art course that integrates art production with the study of basic design and drawing principles, art history, art criticism, and exploration. Students will be expected to learn new vocabulary related to each unit studied and express ideas through original artworks using a variety of media such as pencil, charcoal, pastel, colored pencil, collage, scratchboard, watercolor, tempera paint, and clay. The goal is for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of art. **This course satisfies the high school fine arts graduation requirement.** (03500100)

Band for Middle School
Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Concert Band
Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
Prerequisite: by Audition; Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Band for Middle School I
These full-year courses focus on the study of instrumental music. There are several concert performances, parade performances, and competitions in solo and ensemble each year. Band members perform individually at concerts and may compete at the University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading Competition in the spring. Attendance at rehearsals and all after-school performances is required. (03154230) (03154330)

Intermediate Choir for Middle School 2
Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Choir for Middle School 1
The primary focus of choral music is to instruct students in the basic skills of voice production, choral technique, and musicianship in order to sing as a performing group. Sight-reading, voice control, harmony, and ear training are emphasized. Choral music serves as an initial study of vocal music. (03154231)

Varsity Choir for Middle School 3
Full Year **Grade: 7**
Recommended Prerequisite: Intermediate Choir for Middle School 2
This course prepares students to take Choir I for High School Credit in their eighth-grade year. The focus of choral music is to instruct students in the basic skills of voice production, choral technique, and musicianship in order to sing as a performing group. Sight-reading, voice control, harmony, and ear training are emphasized. These choir members perform individually at concerts and may compete at the University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading Competition in the spring. Attendance at rehearsals and all after-school performances is required. (03154331)

Choir I for High School Credit
HS Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: by Audition; Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Choir for Middle School 1 or Intermediate Choir for Middle School 2
This course focuses on the basic skills of voice production, choral technique, and musicianship in order to sing as a performing group. Sight-reading, voice control, harmony, and ear training are emphasized. Choir members perform individually at concerts and may compete at the University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading Competition in the spring. Attendance at rehearsals and all after-school performances is required. **This course satisfies the high school fine arts graduation requirement.** (03150900)

Beginning Guitar for Middle School 1
Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
This is a beginning mariachi strings course where students may learn guitar, vihuela, or guitarron. (03154133)

Beginning Violin for Middle School 1
Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
This is a beginning mariachi violin class designed for students to be able to play violin in the Mariachi ensembles in subsequent years. (03154132)

Mariachi for Middle School 2
Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
This is an intermediate-level Mariachi Ensemble Class. Open by audition/recommendation from the Mariachi teacher. (03154233)

Mariachi for Middle School 3
Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
This is an advanced-level Mariachi Ensemble Class. Open by audition/recommendation from the Mariachi teacher. (03154333)

Intermediate Dance for Middle School 2
Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
Prerequisite: by Audition; Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Dance for Middle School 1
In this course, students develop perceptual thinking and movement abilities, promoting an understanding of themselves and others. Students develop movement principles and technical skills and explore choreographic and performance qualities. Students develop self-discipline and healthy bodies that move expressively, efficiently, and safely through space and time with a sensitive kinesthetic awareness. Students recognize dance as a vehicle for understanding historical and cultural relevance, increasing awareness of their heritage and traditions and those of others, and enabling them to participate in a diverse society. Evaluating and analyzing dance allows students to strengthen decision-making skills, develop critical and creative thinking, and develop artistic creative processes. Students continue to explore technology and its application to dance and movement, enabling them to make informed decisions about dance. (03154220)

Dance I for High School Credit (PE credit)
Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: None
This course introduces students to the fundamental skills of recreational dancing as well as dance history, terminology, choreography, and costuming. Students learn the basics of various styles (modern, lyrical, jazz, hip-hop, etc.) and how to evaluate and understand them as performing arts and transmitters of culture. **This course satisfies the high school physical education graduation requirement.** (PES00014)

Beginning Theatre for Middle School 1
Through the creative expression strand, students communicate in a dramatic form, engage in artistic thinking, build positive self-concepts, relate interpersonally, and integrate knowledge with other content areas in a relevant manner. Through the historical and cultural relevance strand, students increase their understanding of heritage and traditions in theatre and the diversity of world cultures as expressed in theatre. Through the critical evaluation and response strand, students engage in inquiry and dialogue, accept constructive criticism, revise personal views to promote creative and critical thinking, and develop the ability to appreciate and evaluate live theatre. (03154140)

Intermediate Theatre for Middle School 2
Full Year **Grade: 7-8**
Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre for Middle School 1
This course focuses primarily on theater history and explores the changes and similarities of theatre over time. This is a more reading-intensive course that is both challenging and rewarding to students. In addition to studying the history of Western Theatre, students study how acting styles have changed over time. This class requires outside participation in the spring semester, although students are encouraged to get involved in any production. (03154240)

Theatre I for High School Credit
HS Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**
Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre for Middle School 1, Intermediate Theatre for Middle School 2, or Theatre Appreciation for Middle School 3
Prerequisite: by Audition
This course is an advanced theatre class at the middle school level. Fall semester is devoted to acquiring and applying broad technical theatrical knowledge through student production projects that test students' skills and know-how. At the end of the semester, students have a firm grasp of the work required to put on full-scale productions. The spring semester is devoted solely to the application of broad theatrical knowledge through the use of a full-scale spring production and a student production project. Students participate in their theatrical productions. Theatre I requires participation outside of class, especially in the spring as we approach our One Act Play contests and student productions. Accommodations can be made for students who are involved in other extracurricular activities. **This course satisfies the high school fine arts graduation requirement.** (03250100)

Locally Developed Courses & Special Programs

Accelerated Math Strategies
Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**
Prerequisite: Campus recommendation
The course is in addition to the grade-level mathematics course. It is designed to assist students who have not performed well on the mathematics portion of STAAR. The course provides targeted instruction and includes reviewing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; decimals; perfect squares; integers; mental math skills; estimation skills; and analysis of word problems. Placement in this course is by campus recommendation. (80800MAT)

Accelerated Reading Strategies
Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**
Prerequisite: Campus recommendation
This course is in addition to the grade-level language arts course. It is designed for students who are reading below grade level. The course provides individualized instruction to meet each student's unique needs in decoding, fluency, vocabulary development, and comprehension. (80800REA)

Yearbook
Full Year **Grade: 7- 8**
Prerequisite: None
This course is designed for highly motivated, independent, and creative individuals who wish to learn how to create and design a school yearbook using desktop publishing software. Students learn all aspects of marketing, creating and producing a yearbook on a tight schedule. Students think outside the box and create unique computer-based designs (85000YBK)

Yearbook for High School Credit (Journalism)
Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: Yearbook
Endorsement Pathway: Business & Industry – Audio Visual Communications
Students enrolled in this course are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions for the school yearbook, carefully examining their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English. Students become analytical consumers of media and technology to enhance their communication skills. Published work of professional journalists, technology, and visual and electronic media are used as tools for learning as students create, clarify, critique, write, and produce effective communications. Students learn journalistic traditions, research self-selected topics, write journalistic texts, and learn the principles of publishing. (03230100)