



8th Grade Course Descriptions 2025-2026

Eighth grade students are assigned to a team of teachers for their core classes of English, history, mathematics, science, core extensions and physical education. Students will be scheduled into two elective classes which meet every day. Elective classes are a semester in length unless indicated as yearlong.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

GIRLS: Basketball, Cross Country, Track, Volleyball, Soccer, Wrestling

BOYS: Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Track, Soccer, Wrestling

ALGEBRA

Algebra content includes variables, formulas, real numbers, solving linear equations, polynomials, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, solving linear inequalities, graphs of linear equations and inequalities, linear systems in two variables, square roots and operations with radicals, quadratic equations, functions and graphs, and solving rational equations. **Accel math 7 is a prerequisite for this class.**

AMERICAN HISTORY

This is a study of American History from the Pre-Revolutionary War era through Reconstruction. The interactive resource, [History Alive! The United States Through Industrialism](#), is used to help students with diverse learning styles experience history. This class emphasizes note taking and study skills.

CORE EXTENSION

This class is yearlong and meets every other day. The subject material is determined by the team teachers.

ENGLISH

English utilizes the Amplify ELA online platform. Reading objectives include noticing the impact of an author's craft and structure, evaluating the argument and specific claims in a narrative text, applying abstract concepts to an author's character portrayal, synthesizing multiple accounts to develop understanding and empathy, and comparing and contrasting perspectives. Writing modes include narrative, argumentative, poetry, and research. Additionally, students access IXL to improve their reading strategies, vocabulary, writing strategies, and grammar and mechanics.

MATH 8

This is the grade-level eighth grade mathematics course. The focus includes the following concepts: integer exponents and their properties including scientific notation, congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software, Pythagorean Theorem, proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations, analyze and solve linear equations, define, evaluate, and compare functions, volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres, relationships between quantities and investigate patterns of association in bivariate data, and classifying real numbers.

SCIENCE

Eighth grade science explores topics in life, physical and earth science with an emphasis on forces and interactions, energy, waves and electromagnetic radiation, heredity, biological evolution, space systems and the geological history of Earth. Science topics are discovered through virtual as well as hands-on laboratory experiences, scientific inquiry and interactive group activities.

ELECTIVE COURSES:

BAND – yearlong (Students perform in 3 band concerts, as well as multiple combined events with the KHS and HMS bands throughout the school year)

Eighth grade band students begin the year with their first taste of marching band fundamentals as they perform with Horizon Middle School in the UNK Band Day parade. Another highlight of the year is our annual Elementary Tour promoting music, and the band program, at all of the elementary schools that feed into Sunrise. Band students join the Kearney High School band at both a football and basketball pep band over the course of the year. Students are encouraged to supply their own instrument (we have a limited number available to rent from the school for those that qualify). The **Tradition of Excellence Book 3** and reeds (if playing a single or double reed instrument) are supplied by the student. Band members are strongly encouraged to attend the summer marching band camp!

BEGINNING GUITAR - 1 semester

Beginning Guitar is an introductory music course designed for people with no prior music experience, but welcomes anyone with a musical background! Students learn how to count rhythms, read notes on the staff, and basic music vocabulary. Students will be introduced to notes on the strings in first position, basic chords and tablature, picking, and strumming patterns. Guitars and method books are provided by the school, but cannot be taken home. No practice time is required outside of school, but all course material is available online for those students wanting to practice at home. Students work through the method book and learn the chords to one song as a class, but are also given time to learn a song of their choice throughout the semester. In partnership with Yanda's Music, upon completion of the course, guitar students are offered two student-model guitars at a slight discount if they would like to purchase an instrument to continue playing!

BEING HUMAN - 1 semester

In this class, students learn about a variety of family life topics such as self-esteem, different types of families, peer & family relationships, dating, sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, and the consequences of early sexual experimentation. Student expectations are to watch videos, complete projects, take notes and tests as part of the class requirements.

CERAMICS & SCULPTURE: 3D ART 1 semester

This class is designed for students to create three-dimensional works of art with various types of materials. Throughout the course students will learn various sculpture skills and ceramic hand building techniques. Students will experience a studio-based art class in which they will pre-visualize and plan for each project. At the end of the course students will generate a digital portfolio that showcases the art created and skills learned throughout their middle school years.

COMPETITIVE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This is a co-ed class that meets every day for a full semester. This class will be competitive in nature, and focus on the positives of competition through various activities and sports. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of activities that provide the appropriate amount of vigorous physical activity vital for the maintenance of good health and fitness. An emphasis on teamwork, social development, and a positive self-image in a more competitive environment will be demonstrated through physical fitness challenges, team sports, recreational games, cardiovascular training, strength enhancement, and other activities. The class will be accomplishing fitness testing which is essential for achieving optimal growth in development. **In order to participate safely, students are required to dress in appropriate P.E. attire (e.g., T-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes). Padlocks will be furnished. A \$5.00 fee will be charged if the lock is not returned at the end of the school year.**

COMPUTERS/MULTIMEDIA APPLICATIONS- 1 semester

This class is designed to further develop skills in word processing, coding, photo editing, graphic design, and other technological applications. In addition, students will develop skills in video capture and editing, and all aspects of producing videos for the Hawk Talk video program. Students will create and edit graphics, sound, and special effects to be incorporated into video productions. Students will be required to work independently and in small teams to produce commercials, public service announcements, and short features. Students will create storyboards, write and rewrite shooting scripts, record and edit projects.

DRAWING & PAINTING: 2D ART 1 semester

This class is designed for students to work on drawing and painting skills while exploring multiple mediums such as colored pencil, printmaking, watercolor, acrylics and more. Students will practice technical skills being taught in class that focus on the elements of art and principles of design. Throughout the semester students will create multiple 2D artworks that explore creative expression and identity which will be generated into an online art portfolio at the end of the course.

FCS II - 1 semester

This class is a continuation of 7th grade FACS I class where students are involved in individual learning modules emphasizing real life application & hands-on experience. Modules include Foods & Nutrition, Consumer Awareness, Family Relations, Conflict Resolution, Cooking, Sewing, Laundry Care, Interior Design, Time & Money Management, Fashion Design... Students participate in a specific module for 9 class periods. Job skills include time management, working with a variety of people, following written directions, working on your own....

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY - 1 semester

Students have the opportunity to explore different areas of Industrial Technology. Areas of study include manufacturing, energy-power, and transportation. Power tools and saws are used in this class. **A parent permission sheet is sent home and must be signed before using any equipment. A course fee of \$30 (per student) is required for the materials used in this course. Safety glasses are provided.**

JOURNALISM / YEARBOOK – yearlong

This course will provide students with skills in managing digital programs and basic photography equipment. Students will also learn about ethical journalism and digital citizenship. Major projects include creating virtual communications via social media, newsletter, yearbook, and cafeteria slides.

LIFESTYLE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This is a co-ed class that meets every day for a full semester. The class exposes students to a wide variety of activities to provide the appropriate amount of physical activity that is vital for the maintenance of good health and fitness. An emphasis on teamwork, social development, and a positive self-image will be demonstrated through physical fitness challenges, team sports, recreational games, rhythms, aerobics, cardiovascular training, strength enhancement, and other activities. The class will be accomplishing fitness testing which is essential for achieving optimal growth in development. **In order to participate safely, students are required to dress in appropriate P.E. attire (e.g., T-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes). Padlocks will be furnished. A \$5.00 fee will be charged if the lock is not returned at the end of the school year.**

MUSIC EXPLORATIONS - 1 semester This non-performance course introduces students to the fundamentals of music through group singing, music theory, music history, and music terminology. Students will also develop skills in music technology, including basic music composition, sound mixing, and sound engineering. This class provides a structured approach to understanding and creating music in a collaborative learning environment.

HONOR CHOIR is an auditioned group for advanced singers and is available by invitation only.

Current students will receive invitations for this class in February, the year before enrollment. Students transferring to Sunrise must audition to enroll. The class will focus on learning and performing a variety of music. Multiple performances will be scheduled throughout the year, including participation in the KPS Middle School Choral Festival in February. Students may also have the opportunity to audition for additional honor choirs, such as the NMEA Middle Level Honor Choir and Singing Youth of Nebraska.

PERSONAL FINANCE AND CAREERS - 1 semester

This class is designed to teach students the foundations of personal finance. Students will develop skills in saving and budgeting, credit and debit, education, careers, and entrepreneurship. Students will also learn about investing, insurance, identity theft, global economics, marketing, and consumerism. The students will use the Dave Ramsey Curriculum, Foundation in Personal Finance Middle School Edition. Students will also explore various fields of work in a career educational model. Students will develop educational and career goals using the Nebraska Career Education Model. Once they learn about the job, students will participate in an activity that relates to the job to create a greater understanding of the jobs available and its various responsibilities.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY - 1 semester

In this introductory woodworking class, students will learn basic woodworking skills including measuring, cutting, fasteners, gluing-clamping, plan reading, materials list, and finishing techniques. Students will also be introduced to many different hand and power tools during this course. Safety and responsibility are stressed at all times, as the students complete many different projects as they learn about woodworking. **A parent permission sheet will be sent home and must be signed before using any equipment. A course fee of \$30 (per student) is required for the materials used in this course. Safety glasses are provided.**

ORCHESTRA – *yearlong* (previous string experience is a prerequisite) (Students are required to participate in 3 concerts throughout the school year, as well as the Strictly Strings Festival in Grand Island and the Spring Elementary School Tour) Eighth grade orchestra students will begin refining their ensemble playing through daily rehearsals. Students will be introduced to more challenging music and additional opportunities to perform. Students are highly encouraged to provide their own instruments and accessories. For more information, visit our website at www.kpsorchestra.org.

SPANISH I – *yearlong* (You must be enrolled in a grade level English course and a suggested grade of C or better in 7th grade Spanish, English, and Reading) Spanish I is the equivalent to Spanish I at the high school. Level I is an important first step in second language acquisition. Students will learn basic knowledge of the language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. An integrated, hands-on curriculum is used to introduce vocabulary and sentence structure necessary in building beginning conversational skills. The course also emphasizes the study of Hispanic countries, customs and cultures.