IRVING
Independent School District

2026-2027
MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSEWORK

9.21.2025

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Middle School Course Information

How to Use This Guide

This course description guide is provided for the convenience of parents and students in understanding courses offered in middle school. Each course is listed by content area. A description of the course is provided along with the grade level, prerequisite (PR) if any, along with a description of the course.

The state of Texas has described the required curriculum for middle school grade students as follows:

- English Language Arts and Reading,
- Mathematics,
- Science,
- Social Studies,
- Fine Arts-at least one course out of the four disciplines (Art, Dance, Music, Theater),
- Health and Physical Education,
- Technology Applications,
- and to the extent possible, Languages other than English (LOTE)

Department of Career and Technical Education (CTE)
Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in CTE Programs

It is the policy of Irving I.S.D. not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; as amended. Irving I.S.D. will take steps to ensure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational programs and services. Irving Independent School District offers the following Career and Technical Education programs: Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources; Architecture & Construction; Arts, A/V Technology & Communications; Business, Management & Administration; Education & Training; Government & Public Administration; Health Science; Hospitality & Tourism; Human Services; Information Technology; Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security; Manufacturing; Marketing, Sales & Service; Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics; and, Transportation, Distribution & Logistics. Admission to these programs is based on interest, age appropriateness and class space availability.

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Irving ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator at 2621 West Airport Freeway, 972-600-5000, and/or the section 504 Coordinator at 2621 West Airport Freeway, 972-600-5000.

English Language Arts and Reading

English Language Arts Reading 6

Grade: 6

Students in English Language Arts and Reading courses engage in a comprehensive learning environment that includes extensive daily reading and writing, along with academic conversations with their peers. Students read and understand a wide variety of literary and informational texts. Students compose a variety of evidence-based written responses with a clear controlling idea, coherent organization, and sufficient detail. Students are expected to engage in research to know how to locate a range of relevant sources and evaluate, synthesize, and present ideas and information. Students are also expected to listen and speak as well as respond to the ideas of others while contributing their own ideas in conversations and in groups. Students are expected to read and write daily while experiencing a range of genres.

English Language Arts Reading 6 Honors

Grade: 6

Students are expected to read and write beyond the scope of the general education ELAR course in depth and rigor. This course offers material to challenge and encourage the students' independent, critical, and creative thinking skills. Students are encouraged to continue in Honors throughout high school in preparation for AP Language and AP Literature courses.

English Language Arts Reading 6 ESL

Grade: 6

English as a Second Language (ESL) is an English proficiency language study program for non-native speakers in their first or second year in a U.S. school. The goal of an ESL program is to improve students' levels of English. ESL classes teach different language skills, depending on students' English abilities and needs. The focus is on accelerated language acquisition in the domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. This course teaches students conversational English, grammar, reading, listening comprehension, writing and vocabulary.

English Language Arts/Humanities 6 Honors GT - Accelerated

Grade: 6 **PR: Qualified for GT Services in ELAR**

Students in 6th grade GT English Language Arts and Humanities will interact with a wide variety of texts spanning multiple genres. Students will engage with accelerated resources and materials through the lens of depth and complexity. Students compose a variety of written texts as well as engage in meaningful research. Students enrolled in GT sections will engage in the development of innovative and advanced products aligned with the state goal of gifted education through the year-long, R4D research process.

English Language Arts Reading 7

Grade: 7

Students in English Language Arts and Reading courses engage in a comprehensive learning environment that includes extensive daily reading and writing, along with academic conversations with their peers.Students read and understand a wide variety of literary and informational texts. Students read and understand a wide variety of literary and informational texts. Students compose a variety of evidence-based written responses with a clear controlling idea, coherent organization, and sufficient detail. especially focusing on the informational and argumentative essays. Students are expected to engage in research to know how to locate a range of relevant sources and evaluate, synthesize, and present ideas and information. Students are also expected to listen and speak as well as respond to the ideas of others while contributing their own ideas in conversations and in groups. Students should read and write on a daily basis experiencing a range of genres.

English Language Arts Reading 7 Honors

Grade: 7

Students are expected to read and write beyond the scope of the general education ELAR course in depth and rigor. This course offers material to challenge and encourage the students' independent, critical, and creative thinking skills. Students are encouraged to continue in Honors throughout high school in preparation for AP Language and AP Literature courses.

English Language Arts Reading 7 ESL

Grade: 7

English as a Second Language (ESL) is an English language study program for non-native speakers in their first or second year in a U.S. school. The goal of an ESL program is to improve students' proficiency levels of English. ESL classes teach different language skills, depending on students' English abilities and needs. The focus is on accelerated language acquisition in the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. This course teaches students conversational English, grammar, reading, listening comprehension, writing and vocabulary.

English Language Arts/Humanities 7 Honors GT - Accelerated

Grade: 7 **PR: Qualified for GT Services in ELAR**

Students in 7th grade GT English Language Arts and Humanities will interact with a wide variety of texts spanning multiple genres. Students will engage with accelerated resources and materials through the lens of depth and complexity. Students compose a variety of written texts as well as engage in meaningful research. Students enrolled in GT sections will engage in the development of innovative and advanced products aligned with the state goal of gifted education through the year-long, R4D research process.

English Language Arts Reading 8

Grade: 8

Students in English Language Arts and Reading courses engage in a comprehensive learning environment that includes extensive daily reading and writing, along with academic conversations with their peers.Students read and understand a wide variety of literary and informational texts. Students compose a variety of evidence-based written responses with a clear controlling idea, coherent organization, and sufficient detail. Students are expected to engage in research to know how to locate a range of relevant sources and evaluate, synthesize, and present ideas and information. Students are also expected to listen and speak as well as respond to the ideas of others while contributing their own ideas in conversations and in groups. Students are expected to read and write on a daily basis experiencing a range of genres.

English Language Arts Reading 8 ESL

Grade: 8

English as a Second Language (ESL) is an English language study program for non-native speakers in their first or second year in a U.S. school. The goal of an ESL program is to improve students' proficiency levels of English. ESL classes teach different language skills, depending on students' English abilities and needs. The focus is on accelerated language acquisition in the domains of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. This course teaches students conversational English, grammar, reading, listening comprehension, writing and vocabulary.

English Language Arts Reading 8 Honors

Grade: 8

Students are expected to read and write beyond the scope of the general education ELAR course in depth and rigor. This course offers material to challenge and encourage the students' independent, critical, and creative thinking skills. Students are encouraged to continue in Honors throughout high school in preparation for AP Language and AP Literature courses.

English 1/Humanities 8 Honors GT

Grade: 8 Credit: 1 HS Credit PR: Qualified for GT Services in ELAR

Students in 8th grade GT English Language Arts and Humanities (English 1) will interact with a wide variety of texts spanning multiple genres. Students will engage with accelerated resources and materials through the lens of depth and complexity. Students compose a variety of written texts as well as engage in meaningful research. Students enrolled in GT sections will engage in the development of innovative and advanced products aligned with the state goal of gifted education through the year-long, R4D research process. **Successful completion of this course earns one high school credit for English I.**

Multisensory Reading Instruction

Grade(s): 6-8

Students in Multisensory Reading Instruction will learn to become independent readers through a curriculum that encompasses the structure of the written English language and an instructional approach that incorporates a variety of senses to sustain enduring understanding. The curriculum areas of study include language awareness, alphabet and dictionary skills, phonological awareness, reading, comprehension, spelling, cursive handwriting, and composition.

Mathematics

Math 6
Grade: 6

The primary focal areas in Grade 6 are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students will use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships. An area of emphasis will be the development of algebraic thinking through representation of relationships including equations and inequalities. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. A personal financial literacy component will offer students the opportunity to apply problem solving and develop economic thinking.

Math 6 Honors - Accelerated
Grade: 6

Math 6 Honors Accelerated includes the Math 6 TEKS and half of Math 7 TEKS. The pacing and organization of this course allows students to use investigations to develop their mathematical thinking skills. Class assignments and activities build on and expand higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and integrate units that promote mathematical connections. Students are provided opportunities for extension and application of content and processes. This course will help prepare students to take Math 7 Honors Accelerated in 7th grade.

Math 6 Honors GT - Accelerated
Grade: 6 PR: Qualified for GT Services in Mathematics

Math 6 Honors GT Accelerated includes the Math 6 TEKS and select Math 7 TEKS. Students will engage in learning of the content with increased depth of complexity. Critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills are incorporated throughout this course. Instruction and activities build on and expand higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and integrate units that promote mathematical connections. This course will help prepare students to take Math 7 Honors GT Accelerated in 7th grade.

Math 7
Grade: 7

The primary focal areas of seventh grade mathematics are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students will apply operations with rational numbers to problem situations and continue to develop their understanding of proportionality. Emphasis will be placed on developing algebraic reasoning through the study of expressions, equations, and mathematical relationships. Students will communicate these relationships using verbal, graphic, numeric, and symbolic representations of equations and inequalities. Students will continue their study of statistics to include probability, making predictions and determining solutions to problems. Students will use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. A personal financial literacy component will offer the opportunity for students to apply problem solving and develop economic thinking.

Math 7 Honors - Accelerated

Grade: 7 PR: Successful completion of Math 6 Honors

Math 7 Honors Accelerated includes half of Math 7 TEKS and all of Math 8 TEKS. The pacing and organization of this course allows students to use investigations to develop their mathematical thinking skills. Class assignments and activities build on and expand higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and integrate units that promote mathematical connections. Students are provided opportunities for extension and application of content and processes. This course will help prepare students to take Algebra I Honors in 8th grade.

Math 7 Honors GT - Accelerated

Grade: 7 PR: Successful completion of Math 6 Honors GT

Math 7 Honors GT Accelerated includes half of Math 7 TEKS and all of Math 8 TEKS. Students will engage in learning of the content with increased depth of complexity. Critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills are incorporated throughout this course. Instruction and activities build on and expand higher level thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and integrate units that promote mathematical connections. This course will help prepare students to take Algebra 1 Honors GT in 8th grade.

Math 8

Grade: 8

The primary focal areas in eighth grade mathematics are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. Students will extend the concepts of proportionality to analyze geometric relationships and determine proportional and non-proportional situations. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of real numbers to explore mathematical relationships to describe increasingly complex situations. Students begin to develop an understanding of functional relationships. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations, generalize procedures, and solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. A personal financial literacy component will offer the opportunity for students to apply problem solving and lay the foundation to become knowledgeable consumers and investors.

Algebra I Honors

Grade: 8 Credit: 1 PR: 8th Grade Math or Equivalent

In Algebra 1, students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Students will make connections between various mathematical topics in both mathematical and real-world situations. Technology will be used to collect and explore data and analyze statistical relationships. In addition, students will study polynomials of degree one and two, radical expressions, sequences, and laws of exponents. Students will generate and solve linear systems with two equations and two variables and will create new functions through transformations. Honors Algebra I will include a more in-depth study of the topics covered in Algebra I. A strong emphasis is placed on increasing the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Algebra I Honors GT

Grade: 8 Credit: 1 PR: 8th Grade Math or Equivalent, Qualified for GT Services in Mathematics

In Algebra 1, students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Students will make connections between various mathematical topics in both mathematical and real-world situations. Technology will be used to collect and explore data and analyze statistical relationships. In addition, students will study polynomials of degree one and two, radical expressions, sequences, and laws of exponents. Students will generate and solve linear systems with two equations and two variables and will create new functions through transformations. Honors Algebra I will include a more in-depth study of the topics covered in Algebra I. A strong emphasis is placed on increasing the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Science

Science 6

Grade: 6

Grade 6 science is interdisciplinary in nature with content focused on matter and energy, force and motion, earth and space, and organisms and the environment. National standards in science are organized as multi-grade blocks such as Grades 5-8 rather than individual grade levels. To follow the grade level format used in Texas, the various national standards are found among Grades 6, 7, and 8. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale.

Science 6 Honors

Grade: 6

Grade 6 science is interdisciplinary in nature with content focused on matter and energy, force and motion, earth and space, and organisms and the environment. National standards in science are organized as multi-grade blocks such as Grades 5-8 rather than individual grade levels. To follow the grade level format used in Texas, the various national standards are found among Grades 6, 7, and 8. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale. This course explores the same concepts in the general education course and uses Honors strategies with depth and complexity to ensure career and college readiness. Students are encouraged to continue in Honors throughout high school until enrollment is available in one or more AP science courses (AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Environmental Science).

Science 6 Honors GT - Accelerated

Grade: 6 PR: Qualified for GT Services in Science

Grade 6 GT blends physical, life, and earth and space science. This course teaches a combination of 6th and 7th Science grade TEKS. National standards in science are organized as multi-grade blocks such as Grades 5-8 rather than individual grade levels. To follow the grade level format used in Texas, the various national standards are found among Grades 6, 7, and 8. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale. This course explores the same concepts in the general education course and uses Honors strategies with depth and complexity to ensure career and college readiness. Students are encouraged to continue in Honors GT courses throughout high school until enrollment is available in one or more AP science courses (AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Environmental Science).

Science 7

Grade: 7

Grade 7 science is interdisciplinary in nature and builds on content from Grade 6. National standards in science are organized as multi-grade blocks such as Grades 5-8 rather than individual grade levels. To follow the grade level format used in Texas, the various national standards are found among Grades 6, 7, and 8. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale.

Science 7 Honors

Grade: 7

Grade 7 science is interdisciplinary in nature and builds on content from Grade 6. National standards in science are organized as multi-grade blocks such as Grades 5-8 rather than individual grade levels. To follow the grade level format used in Texas, the various national standards are found among Grades 6, 7, and 8. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale. Students are encouraged to continue in Honors throughout high school until enrollment is available in one or more AP science courses (AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Environmental Science).

Science 7 Honors GT - Accelerated

Grade: 7 PR: Qualified for GT Services in Science

Grade 7 GT blends physical, life, and earth and space science. This course teaches a combination of 7th and 8th grade Science TEKS. National standards in science are organized as multi-grade blocks such as Grades 5-8 rather than individual grade levels. To follow the grade level format used in Texas, the various national standards are found among Grades 6, 7, and 8. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale. This course explores the same concepts in the general education course and uses Honors strategies with depth and complexity to ensure career and college readiness. Students are encouraged to continue in Honors GT courses throughout high school until enrollment is available in one or more AP science courses (AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Environmental Science).

Science 8
Grade: 8

Grade 8 science is interdisciplinary in nature and builds on content from Grades 6 and 7. National standards in science are organized as multi-grade blocks such as Grades 5-8 rather than individual grade levels. To follow the grade level format used in Texas, the various national standards are found among Grades 6, 7, and 8. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale.

Science 8 Honors
Grade: 8

Grade 8 science is interdisciplinary in nature and builds on content from Grades 6 and 7. National standards in science are organized as multi-grade blocks such as Grades 5-8 rather than individual grade levels. To follow the grade level format used in Texas, the various national standards are found among Grades 6, 7, and 8. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale. This course explores the same concepts in the general education course and uses Honors strategies with depth and complexity to ensure career and college readiness. Students are encouraged to continue in Honors throughout high school until enrollment is available in one or more AP science courses (AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Environmental Science).

Biology 8 Honors GT
Grades: 8 Credit: 1 HS Credit PR: Qualified for GT Services in Science

In Biology, students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students in Biology study a variety of topics, including biomolecules and structures and functions of cells and viruses; mechanisms of genetics; biological evolution; matter cycling and energy flow in organisms; living systems; and ecosystems and the environment. This course explores the same concepts in the general education course and uses Honors strategies with depth and complexity to ensure career and college readiness. Students are encouraged to continue in Honors GT courses throughout high school until enrollment is available in one or more AP science courses (AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Environmental Science).

Social Studies

Social Studies 6
Grade: 6

This course is a study of people and places in the contemporary world. Students identify the geographic characteristics of regions/societies and describe the economic and government systems of these regions/societies. The students will use this information to explain and compare cultures of the past and present.

Social Studies 6 Dual (Travis MS)

Grade: 6

This course is a study of people and places in the contemporary world. Students identify the geographic characteristics of regions/societies and describe the economic and government systems of these regions/societies. The students will use this information to explain and compare cultures of the past and present. This course is taught **in Spanish** and is only offered at Travis Middle School.

Social Studies 7

Grade: 7

This course involves a detailed study of Texas from the period of discovery and exploration through the twenty-first century. The study of the building of our state will not only stress historical facts but also promote an appreciation of the cultural heritage and geographic diversities, which have shaped the destiny of Texas.

Social Studies 7 Dual (Travis MS)

Grade: 7

This course involves a detailed study of Texas from the period of discovery and exploration through the twenty-first century. The study of the building of our state will not only stress historical facts but also promote an appreciation of the cultural heritage and geographic diversities, which have shaped the destiny of Texas. This course is taught **in Spanish** and is only offered at Travis Middle School.

Social Studies 7 Honors

Grade: 7

Honors Social Studies 7 includes the basic understanding of the Social Studies 7 curriculum with added rigor, depth, use of historical thinking skills, global connections, and expectations of sophistication in student learning. The intent of this course is to lead to future participation in one or more of the following Advanced Placement Social Studies courses: Human Geography, World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics, Psychology, or European History.

Social Studies 8

Grade: 8

This course covers the beginning of America through the era of Reconstruction. Students will be introduced to the social, cultural, political, geographic, and economic happenings which shaped early America. Studies will focus on contributions of various early groups and the basic elements of United States citizenship, including introduction to the Constitution, the structure and function of our national government, and the implications of the Bill of Rights.

Social Studies 8 Honors

Grade: 8

Honors Social Studies 8 includes the basic understanding of Social Studies, Grade 8 curriculum with added rigor, depth, use of historical thinking skills, global connections, and expectations of sophistication in student learning. The intent of this course is to lead to future participation in one or more of the following Advanced Placement Social Studies courses: Human Geography, World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics, Psychology, or European History.

Health/Physical Education

Health/Physical Education 6-8

Grades: 6, 7, 8

The middle school health/physical education program's primary purpose is to equip students with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to lead a healthy, physically active, and productive lifestyle. Students will have the opportunity to develop confidence and competence in a variety of team, individual, and dual physical activities, as well as how to maintain personal fitness and understand why it is important. Other health topics related to primary prevention strategies are also built into this course, and emphasis is placed on the importance of taking responsibility for one's own health. Topics covered include alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, nutrition, human sexuality education, stress, mental/emotional/social health, risky behavior, body systems, and hygiene. Active participation and positive social interaction is always encouraged and expected.

Pre-Athletics

Grade 6

This course is designed for boys and girls who anticipate participating in extracurricular sports activities in the 7th grade year. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of team sports that include skills, rules, game strategy, and overall physical fitness. Skills and techniques for the sports of volleyball, football, and basketball will be emphasized. This course will follow all requirements established for Physical Education by the state of Texas.

Spanish

District Criteria: Students will be assigned to a language class based on their readiness, as determined by a district placement instrument. Those who complete the district placement process will also be accredited for the levels they are placed in. For instance, if a student is placed in Spanish 3, they will receive credit for both Spanish 1 and 2.

Spanish 1

Grade: 7 Credits:1 PR: None

Level I introduces the beginning foreign language student to the basic reading, speaking, and writing skills and concepts necessary for communication in daily situations. Pronunciation skills will be developed through the accurate reproduction of native sounds.

Spanish 2

Grade: 7, 8 Credit: 1 PR: Spanish I

Level II reviews the basic structures learned in Level I and continues with additional structures, expressions, and vocabulary. Listening and speaking skills will be further developed. Conversation in different social situations will be stressed through creative oral activities.

Spanish 3 Honors

Grade: 7, 8 Credit: 1 PR: Spanish I & II or District Criteria (Placement Assessment)

On Level III, students are provided opportunities to comprehend native speakers in controlled situations, sustain conversation on familiar subjects, do intensive and extensive reading, and write original compositions. Activities are geared toward the development of higher level and critical thinking skills, which address a variety of learning styles.

AP Spanish Language Level IV Dual Language

Grades: Only 8th graders Credit: 1 HS Credit PR: Dual Language Program (Travis MS)

AP Spanish Language emphasizes the use of Spanish for active communication and encompasses listening and speaking skills, reading comprehension, grammar, and composition. Course objectives help students to learn at a higher level to comprehend formal and informal spoken Spanish as well as accurate reading of newspaper and magazine articles and synthesis of several sources. Students will be required to take the AP exam. Only for 8th graders in the Dual Language program at Travis MS and Houston MS.

Spanish Dual Level 2

Grades: 6 Credit: 1 PR: In Two-Way Dual Language Program (Travis MS)

During the third year of study, students are provided opportunities to comprehend native speakers in controlled situations, sustain conversation on familiar subjects, do intensive and extensive reading, and write original compositions. Activities are geared toward the development of higher level and critical thinking skills which address a variety of learning styles in preparation for AP Spanish.

Spanish Dual Level 3 Honors

Grade: 7 Credit: 1 PR: Spanish 3A Dual Language (Travis MS)

This course is specifically designed for dual language students. This course will apply the skills of comprehension in both listening and reading activities. Students will also utilize their knowledge of the language in conversation and writing activities on selected topics. Because the cultures of the countries in which the language is spoken contribute to its history and development, their study will also be a major focal point. This course prepares students for success in AP Spanish Language.

Visual Arts

Beginning Art

Grades: 6, 7, 8

Beginning Art is a yearlong course where students will explore the elements and principles of art as they create original works of art. Students will learn the design basics as they draw, paint, sculpt and create works of art through manipulation of a wide variety of materials such as pencil, paper, watercolor, chalk, crayons, pastels, paint, clay, and yarn.

Intermediate Art

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Beginning Art

Intermediate Art is a yearlong course where students will develop design skills through the creation of original works of art. Students will use a variety of media such as pencil, paper, watercolor, chalk, crayons, pastels, paint, clay, and fibers.

Advanced Art (2D/3D)

Grade: 8 PR: Instructor Approval, Beginning and Intermediate Art Recommended

Advanced Art 2D / 3D is a yearlong course where students will continue developing their design skills as they create original works of art. Students will build on the knowledge of the elements and principles of design. They will use a variety of materials such as pencil, paper, cardboard, watercolor, acrylic paint, tempera paint, crayons, chalk and oil pastels, clay and fibers.

Band

Beginner Band

Grades: 6, 7

Beginner Band is a yearlong course designed to teach students the fundamentals of playing a band instrument including Trumpet, Horn, Low Brass, Flute/Double Reed, Clarinet, Saxophone (woodwind, brass, or percussion) in like-instrument classes. This includes understanding and comprehending basic playing techniques, music reading, theory skills, concert etiquette, and general listening skills. Prior musical knowledge is not required to be enrolled in a beginner band. Membership and instrument selection are determined by the director and student in the previous spring. Students will have required musical performances and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. An instrument use/band fee may be required.

Sub Non-Varsity Band

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

The Sub Non-Varsity Band is a yearlong course designed to be a continuation of learning fundamentals of a band instrument (woodwind, brass or percussion) in a concert band setting. Students will increase their understanding and comprehension of playing techniques, music reading and theory, concert etiquette, and listening skills. Students may have required musical performances (contest and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. Students are encouraged to demonstrate and audition for placement into the advanced bands. An instrument use/band fee may be required.

Non-Varsity Band

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

The Non-Varsity Band is a yearlong course designed to be a continuation of learning fundamentals of a band instrument (woodwind, brass or percussion) in a full concert band setting. Students will increase their understanding and comprehension of playing techniques, music reading and theory, concert etiquette, and listening skills. Students will have required musical performances (UIL Contest, festivals, and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. Students are encouraged to demonstrate improvement and audition for placement into the varsity level band. An instrument use/band fee may be required.

Varsity Band

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

Varsity Band is a yearlong course designed for the most advanced instrumental (woodwind, brass, & percussion) students in the program. Membership is by audition only. Students demonstrate a high level of proficiency on their instruments along with increased listening, reading, and theory skills. Students will have required musical performances (UIL Contest, festivals, and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. An instrument use/band fee may be required.

Orchestra

Beginner Orchestra

Grades: 6, 7

Beginner Orchestra is a yearlong course designed to teach students the fundamentals of playing a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, and bass) in like-instrument classes. This includes understanding and comprehending basic playing techniques, music reading and theory, concert etiquette, and general listening skills. Prior musical knowledge is not required to be enrolled in Beginner orchestra. Membership and instrument selection are determined by the director and student in the previous spring. Students will have required musical performances and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. An instrument use/orchestra fee may be required.

Sub Non-Varsity Orchestra

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

Sub Non-Varsity Orchestra is a yearlong course designed to be a continuation of learning fundamentals of a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, and bass) in an orchestra setting. Students will increase their understanding and comprehension of playing techniques, music reading and theory, concert etiquette, and listening skills. Students may have required musical performances (contest and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. Students are encouraged to demonstrate improvement and audition for placement into the advanced orchestras. An instrument use/orchestra fee may be required.

Non-Varsity Orchestra

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

Non-Varsity Orchestra is a yearlong course designed to be a continuation of learning fundamentals of a string instrument (violin, viola, cello and bass) in an orchestra setting. Students will increase their understanding and comprehension of playing techniques, music reading and theory, concert etiquette, and listening skills. Students will have required musical performances (UIL Contest, festivals, and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. Students are encouraged to demonstrate improvement and audition for placement into the varsity level orchestra. An instrument use/orchestra fee may be required.

Varsity Orchestra

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

Varsity Orchestra is a yearlong course designed to be for the most advanced instrumental string students in the program. Membership is by audition only. Students demonstrate a higher level of proficiency on their instruments along with increased listening, reading, and theory skills. Students will have required musical performances (UIL Contest, festivals and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. An instrument use/orchestra fee may be required.

Mariachi

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

The Mariachi Ensemble is a musical organization designed to study the various mariachi styles (jalisciense, rancion, ranchera, corrido, huapango, bolero, polka, joropo, pasodoble and vals mexicano) in an ensemble setting. All musical skills, including tablature and improvisation that relate to mariachi will be taught. Musical performances in concerts, contests and additional rehearsals are a required part of the student's responsibility in the organization. Violinists must hold concurrent membership in the orchestra program, wind players must hold concurrent membership in the band program, and vocalists must hold concurrent membership in the choral program to be eligible to participate. An instrument use/mariachi fee may be required.

Choir

Beginner Choir (Treble/Tenor-Bass)

Grades: 6 PR: Instructor Approval

Beginning Choir is a yearlong course designed to teach students the fundamentals of singing. This includes understanding and comprehending basic vocal health and production, reading skills, music theory, concert etiquette, and general listening skills. Prior musical knowledge is not mandatory to be enrolled in choir. Students will have required musical performances and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. A choir fee may apply.

Sub Non-Varsity Choir (Treble/Tenor-Bass)

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

The Sub Non-Varsity Choir is a yearlong course designed to be a continuation of learning the fundamentals of vocal production. Students will increase their understanding and comprehension of basic vocal health and production, reading skills, music theory, concert etiquette and general listening skills. Students may have required musical performances (contest and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. Students are encouraged to demonstrate improvement and audition for placement into the advanced choirs. A choir fee may apply.

Non-Varsity Choir (Treble/Tenor-Bass)

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

Non-Varsity Choir is a yearlong course designed to be a continuation of learning the fundamentals of vocal production. Students will increase their understanding and comprehension of basic vocal health and production, reading skills, music theory, concert etiquette and general listening skills. Students will have required musical performances (UIL Contest, festivals, and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. Students are encouraged to demonstrate improvement and audition for placement into the varsity level choir. A choir fee may apply.

Varsity Choir (Treble/Tenor-Bass)

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

Varsity Choir is a yearlong course designed for the most advanced vocalist in the program. Membership is by audition only. Students will demonstrate a high level of vocal proficiency along with increased listening, reading, and theory skills. Students will have required musical performances (UIL Contest, festivals, and concerts) and additional rehearsals outside the school day throughout the year. A choir fee may apply.

Theater Arts

Beginning Theater Arts 6

Grade: 6, 7, 8

This is a yearlong course designed to be an introduction to the basics of theater arts including the types of stages, stage areas, and audience etiquette. The student will explore creative movement, vocal and physical warm-ups, and sensory recall within one or more of the basic acting styles. This course is only offered at Travis, Lamar, Crockett & Johnson Middle Schools. A fee may apply.

Intermediate Theater Arts 7

Grades: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

This yearlong course allows the actor to develop and practice stage movement techniques consistently to express thoughts, feelings, and actions verbally and non-verbally; perform roles such as actor, director, designer, or technician and collaborate with others to tell a story through live theater performance. This course is only offered at Travis, Lamar, Crockett & Johnson Middle Schools. A fee may apply.

Advanced Theater Arts

Grade: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

This is a yearlong course designed to allow the student to interpret characters using the voice and body expressively and create dramatizations and critique live performances through improvisation and scripted scenes. Students will experiment with technical elements of theater and research theatrical heritage in the United States and other cultures. This course is only offered at Travis, Lamar, Crockett & Johnson Middle Schools. A fee may apply.

Dance

Beginning Dance 6 (Austin, Bowie & Houston MS)

Grade: 6, 7

Beginning Dance is a yearlong course designed to be an introduction to the basics of dance including fundamental positions, exercises and routines. The student will explore creative movement, choreography, and muscle memory within one or more of the basic dance genres. This class may include required performances. This course is only offered at Austin, Bowie & Houston Middle School. A fee may apply.

Intermediate Dance 7 (Austin, Bowie & Houston MS)

Grades: 6, 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

Intermediate Dance is a yearlong course designed to explore intermediate aspects of fundamental dance. The student will explore creative movement, choreography, and muscle memory within one or more of the basic dance genres. This class includes required performances with a potential for uniform purchases. This course is only offered at Austin, Bowie & Houston Middle School. A fee may apply.

Advanced Dance Arts (Austin, Bowie & Houston MS)

Grade: 7, 8 PR: Instructor Approval

Advanced Dance is a yearlong course designed to explore advanced aspects of fundamental dance. The student will explore creative movement, choreography, and muscle memory within one or more of the basic dance genres. This class includes required performances with a potential for uniform purchases. This course is only offered at Austin, Bowie & Houston Middle School. A fee may apply.

Athletics

All athletics must be approved by the coach.

Basketball Boys – 2nd semester

Basketball Girls – 2nd semester

Football – 1st and 2nd semester

Soccer – after school

Track Boys – after school

Track Girls – after school

Volleyball – 1st and 2nd semester

Electives

Broadcasting
Grade 6, 7

Do you want to learn all the ins and outs of broadcasting? This course covers subjects that are of interest to a middle school audience. Students in this course accurately compose stories to inform and encourage their audience. Students will use creativity to create and broadcast events and issues newsworthy to the viewership.

Yearbook
Grade 7, 8

This course helps students understand the roles and responsibilities of coverage in a campus sponsored yearbook. Students use copy, infographics, photos, art, and multimedia components. Students assist in the publication of the yearbook through determining what events and issues are newsworthy and creating page design, captions, and yearbook contents. Students learn leadership, teamwork, listening, and critical thinking skills.

Career and Technical Education

VILS: Innovative Technologies

Grade 7

Innovative Technologies allow students to discover different career pathways while developing decision-making and problem-solving skills using emerging tech. Students will learn 3D modeling techniques and how to use 3D printers to create devices to improve health and wellness, as well as custom jewelry and more. Innovative Technologies also explores careers in artificial intelligence and coding, inspiring students to move beyond the basics of coding and begin to understand and create products that use Machine Learning and AI.

VILS: Smart Solutions

Grade 8 Credit: 1 HS Credit

Smart Solutions is a high school credit course for students to research real-world problems. Students use scientific methods of investigation to conduct in-depth research, compile findings, and present their findings. During the research process students will learn to use the Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) devices to create an AR and VR experience that helps cities become sustainable. As well as learn coding and electronic fundamentals to create wearable medical devices that reduce health problems, plus use coding and 3D Modeling solutions that will improve education and agriculture.

Irving ISD Recommended High School Course Sequence English: Class of 2018 & Beyond

8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
8th grade English	English I	English II	English III	English IV Research/Technical Writing (.5 credit) Creative Writing (.5 credit) Humanities I (.5 credit) College Preparatory Course ELA
8th grade English	English I	English II	English III Dual Credit	English IV Dual Credit
8th grade English Honors	English I Honors	English II Honors	AP English Language and Composition AP Seminar Capstone	AP English Literature and Composition AP Research Capstone
English 1 GT/Humanities	English II Honors	AP English Language and Composition AP Seminar Capstone	AP English Literature and Composition AP Seminar Capstone or AP Research Capstone	English V Genre Study AP Research Capstone

*All pre-requisites for AP science courses are based on the recommendations from TEA and College Board

Irving ISD Recommended High School Course Sequence Math: Class of 2018 & Beyond

8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Math 8	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus Statistics College Preparatory Course Mathematics
Math 8	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebraic Reasoning	Algebra II Statistics College Preparatory Course Mathematics
Algebra 1 Honors	Geometry Honors/GT	Algebra 2 Honors	AP Precalculus AP Statistics AP Computer Science A	AP Calculus AB or BC AP Statistics AP Computer Science A

Irving ISD Recommended High School Course Sequence for Science: Class of 2018 & Beyond

8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
8th Grade Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Environmental Systems Astronomy
8th Grade Science	IPC	Biology	Chemistry Physics Environmental Systems	Physics Chemistry Environmental Systems Astronomy
8th Grade Science Honors	Biology Honors	Chemistry Honors	AP Physics 1 AP Physics 2 AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science	AP Physics 1 AP Physics 2 AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism AP Physics C: Mechanics AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science
Biology GT	Chemistry GT	AP Physics 1 AP Physics 2 AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science	AP Physics 1 AP Physics 2 AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism AP Physics C: Mechanics AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science	AP Physics 1 AP Physics 2 AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism AP Physics C: Mechanics AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science

*All pre-requisites for AP science courses are based on the recommendations from TEA and College Board

Irving ISD Recommended High School Course Sequence Social Studies: Class of 2028 & Beyond

8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
8th Grade Social Studies	World Geography or World History		US History	US Government and Economics
8th Grade Social Studies	World Geography or World History		US History Dual Credit	US Government Dual Credit and Economics
8th Grade Social Studies Honors	World Geography Honors, AP Human Geography, World History Honors, or AP World History		US History Dual Credit or AP US History	US Government Dual Credit/ AP US Government and AP Macroeconomics
8th Grade Social Studies Honors (GT students)	AP Human Geography or AP World History		AP US History	AP US Government and AP Macroeconomics

*Per local graduation policy, students are required to take 3 total Social Studies credits - World Geography **or** World History, US History, Government, and Economics.

Irving ISD Gifted and Talented Education 2018 & Beyond

Subject	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade	9th grade	10th grade	11th grade	12th grade
Language Arts	6 GT ELA/ Humanities	7 GT ELA/ Humanities	English I/ Humanities Honors GT	English II Honors GT AP	AP Language & Composition GT AP Capstone Seminar	AP Literature & Composition GT AP Capstone Seminar AP Capstone Research	English V Genre Study AP Capstone Research
Humanities					Humanities I	Independent Study Mentorship I	Independent Study Mentorship II
Mathematics	Math 6 Honors GT Accelerated	Math 7 Honors GT Accelerated	Algebra I Honors GT	Geometry Honors GT	Algebra II Honors GT	AP Precalculus AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC GT AP Statistics AP Computer Science AP Computer Science Principles	
Science	Science 6 GT*	Science 7 GT*	Biology GT**	Chemistry GT	AP Physics 1 AP Physics 2 AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Environmental Science	AP Biology AP Chemistry AP Physics 1 AP Physics 2 AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism AP Physics C: Mechanics AP Environmental Science	
Social Studies	6th Grade World Cultures	7th Grade Honors Texas History	8th Grade Honors US History	AP Human Geography/ Honors World Geography	AP World History	AP US History	AP US Government AP Comp Government AP Macro AP Micro

*All pre-requisites for AP science courses are based on the recommendations from TEA and College Board.

Irving ISD Recommended ESL High School Course Sequence

9th Grade		
Newcomer Students	**Beginning Students**	**Intermediate Students**
• ESOL I A • Independent English • ELDA • Reading I ESL • Algebra I ESL • IPC ESL • W GEO ESL • Electives	• ESOL IA/1B • Algebra I ESL • IPC ESL • Read I ESL • Ind English ESL (ESOL IA students only or students that were Newcomers in 8th grade) • W Geo ESL • Electives	• English I ESL • Read I ESL • Algebra I ESL • IPC ESL • W Geo ESL • Electives

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Honors?

Honors courses are available to students in middle and high school. These courses foster a high level of engagement and are open to any student who is willing and prepared to take on challenging course work. The course goes beyond the state standards and is designed to be appropriately rigorous to prepare students to be successful in Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Within high school, Honors courses are available in English Language Arts and Reading, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Languages other than English (LOTE).

What is AP?

Advanced Placement (AP) courses allow students to participate in college-level courses and possibly earn college credit while still in high school. This is accomplished by taking an end of course AP exam designed by The College Board. The score earned on the AP exam determines college credit. Each university sets the standard for the qualifying score for credit. Texas public universities must award college credit for scores of 3 or higher. Consult your intended university for more information on awarding credit. AP courses are offered in English Language Arts and Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Languages other than English, Art, and Music. Students enrolled in Advanced Placement (AP) courses are required to take the AP Exam for the course in May. Failure to do so will result in the loss of AP weighted points for the course in which the exam is not taken. The test fees for AP tests are paid by the school district.

What is GT?

Gifted and talented (GT) services are specifically designed for the strengths and learning needs of the gifted learner, grades K-12. Specially trained teachers provide learning opportunities with course content that is either above-grade level or goes beyond the state standards, allowing students to excel and compete at the national level. The students demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research and communication and develop innovative products and performances that reflect creativity, individuality, and professional-level quality. Students must qualify for these accelerated courses through a referral and assessment process. Gifted courses available in middle school are:

English: Honors GT English/Humanities 6, Honors GT English/Humanities 7, Honors GT English 1/Humanities

Mathematics: Honors GT Math 6, Honors GT Math 7, Honors GT Algebra 1

Science: Honors GT Science 6, Honors GT Science 7, Honors GT Biology

What are PRN and FND courses?

Principles (PRN) - Courses designed with modifications to the grade level curriculum. Enrollment in Principles level courses is based on the recommendations from the Individualized Education Plan.

Fundamentals (FND) - Courses focus on the prerequisite skills to the grade level curriculum. Enrollment in fundamentals level courses is based on the recommendations from the Individualized Education Plan.

Please contact your school counselor if additional information is needed.