



# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## 2026-2027

### FULL YEAR REQUIRED COURSES

**LANGUAGE ARTS 8** English is the study of our language. During the year we will focus on reading, writing, grammar, and critical thinking skills. Our purpose is to help students improve their understanding and use of language. The program involves instruction in the following areas: speaking and listening skills, informational texts, critical thinking, reading, and writing strategies.

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH** Students will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

**INTEGRATED SCIENCE** State of Utah Science with Engineering Education (SEEd) Standards Focus is on the constant interaction of matter and energy in nature. Students will explore how matter is arranged into either simple or complex substances. Emphasize how substances store and transfer energy, which can cause them to interact physically and chemically, provide energy for living organisms, or be harnessed and used by humans. Matter and energy cycle and change in ecosystems through processes that occur during photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Additionally, substances that provide a benefit to organisms, including humans, are unevenly distributed on Earth due to geologic and atmospheric systems. Some resources form quickly, allowing them to be renewable, while other resources are nonrenewable. Evidence reveals that Earth systems change and affect ecosystems and organisms in positive and negative ways.

**U.S. HISTORY** A study of United States History from the early explorers from Europe up to the Civil War. Specific areas of study will include the discovery of America, our Revolutionary War Period resulting in independence and then a detailed study of the U.S. Constitution and its democratic principles of government. Additional areas of study will include the Westward Expansion, the Civil War, Invention and Discovery. An emphasis will be placed on the geography of the U.S. using map work.

**\* ONLY FOR THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE IN THE DUAL LANGUAGE IMMERSION- DLI -World Language and DLI Culture History & Media (Chinese, German, Portuguese, or Spanish)**

### HALF YEAR REQUIRED COURSE

**BUSINESS DIGITAL LITERACY** This course is an introduction to computer literacy. Students will have opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. Examples include word processing, spreadsheets, databases, web and game development, presentations, digital citizenship and photo manipulation. This standardized Utah Core course replaces the previous grade nine high school Computer Technology course and is a prerequisite for grade 9-12 Digital Studies requirement.

**HEALTH EDUCATION I** The course of study will deal with the following units of study: 1) personal grooming and taking care of yourself, specific information about self-concept, goal setting, defense mechanisms, exercise, sleep and appropriate use of technology 2) nutrition and food-related decisions; nutrients, food additives and reading labels 3) non-communicable diseases and disorders and communicable disease 4) emergency aid and first aid; basic first aid, and Firearm safety. 5) environmental and community health concerns; pollution air and waste, local, state, and federal health agencies 6) use of controlled substances; making decisions about tobacco, alcohol and drugs, alternatives to control substance abuse 7) instruction in AIDS Prevention and sex respect with emphasis on abstinence.

### FULL YEAR ELECTIVES

**LIBRARY AIDE** Media aides will receive instruction in library skills and media center management. Library skills include Understanding of the Dewey Decimal System. Media center management skills include locating and shelving materials (alphabetical and numerical filing), operating duplicating equipment and computers, assisting media center patrons. A signature is required for this class. \*Students must have librarian approval.  
Pick up required approval aide form from Mrs. Proctor in the Library.

**TEACHERS AIDE** Some teachers choose student aides to help them with various duties. Good attendance and being responsible are two important qualifications for this class. \*Students must have teacher approval. Pick up required approval aide form from the teacher.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT II** Is an intensive course of communicative and academic English instruction. The course is designed for students identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) at the emergent levels of oral, reading and writing in English.



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**BEGINNING CHORUS (Fee\$)** This chorus is for 8th-grade Students who love to sing. We build on the rhythms they learned in 7th grade and continue to learn to read and follow written music. Students are divided into Sopranos, Altos, Tenors, and for those students whose voices are changing, Baritone. The music this class sings is more difficult and complex than it is for the beginning choruses. We also concentrate on singing with good tone and correct diction. There is one evening concert per term where the students perform for their parents and guests the music they learn in class. These concerts are required and are 20% of the term grade. These classes may also be called upon to sing for other school events.

#### **INTERMEDIATE CHORUS (Fee\$)**

**AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE I -** Students will develop knowledge and skills that will provide a foundation for courses in animal science, plant science, horticulture, and natural resources. The topics covered will be basic animals, plant and soil science; natural resources; food science technology; agribusiness; personal and leadership development; and agricultural career awareness. Through this course, students will develop agriculture literacy.

**BEG ORCHESTRA (Fee\$)** (No pre-requisites) Students will learn how to play violin, viola, cello, or bass at a beginning level. Assignments include keeping a practice log, participating in performances, attending/viewing other performances, and daily participation. Students will rent or purchase their own instruments. Instruments are available through Tooele Jr. High (first come, first serve) with a rental fee.

**INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA (Fee\$)** This class is a continuation of the beginning orchestra and is open to students with 2-3 years of experience. Students will rent or purchase their own instruments. Orchestra skills, theory, and technique will be taught. Students will be expected to perform 3-4 concerts. with a rental fee

**ADV ORCHESTRA (Fee\$)** This **class requires an audition.** Students are expected to know how to tune their own instruments, be proficient at reading music, know ALL their notes (sharps, flats, and naturals) in the first position, have a basic understanding of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> positions, Students will rent or purchase their own instruments. Orchestra skills, theory, and technique will be taught. Students will be expected to perform at least 4 concerts, possible competitions, solos and ensembles. with a rental fee

**BEGINNING BAND (Fee\$)** -- Designed for students with little or no musical experience and who would like to learn to play a band related instrument. Open to 7th and 8th graders. Class of instruction in trumpet, trombone, flute, clarinet, and alto saxophone. All students are given the opportunity to learn percussion as well as their main instrument. Students are required to perform at 4 concerts, one per quarter, as well as perform a solo during class in the spring. During the summertime a summer band program will be offered for all students. Students are expected to have their own instruments to learn on, either by direct purchase or through a rental program provided by a local music company. Explanation of rental or purchase programs is covered in the first week of instruction. There is an extremely limited number of school-owned instruments available.

**ADVANCED BAND (Fee\$)** -- Designed for students with one to three years' playing experience on band related instruments. Students must pass off level 5 rhythms, level 5 scales, and blue belt in NinGenius to sign up for advanced band. Pass-offs are done in class during beginning band or arranged with the teacher in advance. Open to seventh and eighth graders. Band performs one concert per quarter. Teaches improvement on skills of instrument playing. Students are required to perform a solo during class in the spring, and qualifying students may participate in the district solo/ensemble festival. During the summertime a summer band program will be offered for all students. Students are expected to have their own instruments to learn on, either by direct purchase or through a rental program provided by a local music company. Explanation of rental or purchase programs is covered in the first week of instruction. There is an extremely limited number of school-owned instruments available.

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT** **As elected members of the Student Government.** The Student Body Officers do more than just represent the student body. Student Government is responsible for shaping much of the student experience at Tooele Junior High. This highly active and visible organization serves the entire student body by sponsoring and organizing activities that range from service projects to assemblies to announcements and fundraising. Student Government supports several school spirit activities

**CHINESE 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR** Welcome to Chinese 1! This beginner-level course is designed for students who are interested in starting their journey with the Chinese language and exploring its rich cultural heritage.

**GERMAN 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR** This German course is structured to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the language and culture. Throughout the course, students will develop foundational listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in German. The course will focus on building vocabulary, mastering basic grammar, and practicing everyday conversational phrases.

**GERMAN 2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR** This course builds on the foundations established in German 1. Students will further develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in German. Emphasis will be placed on expanding vocabulary, deepening understanding of grammar, and engaging in more complex conversations and cultural topics.

**SPANISH 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR** This class is designed for those who desire to speak and read Spanish. The class will study the history and culture of the people as well as learn the language.



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**SPANISH 2<sup>ND</sup> YEAR** This class is open to those students who successfully completed a full year of Spanish I. It is a continuation of learning the Spanish language.

**PEER TUTOR** The peer tutor program gives students the opportunity to form friendships with their classmates with disabilities, as well as help them with their classwork. The class aims to promote acceptance and appreciation of people with disabilities. This class requires teacher approval. Pick up an application from Mrs. Price (rm19) or Mrs. Tanner (rm 20)

**DRAMA (Fee\$)** -- Drama is a performance-based class. Assessments and attendance are a part of their grade for performances and projects; therefore, students are required to read, act, move, and more in front of the class and/or an audience. There are no alternative assignments provided for missed performances or assessments. Students work independently and with groups to learn the techniques of performance, acting, improvisation, public speaking, and communication. One free night-time performance may be provided for family and friends as part of the class. For night performances, students remain after school until the entire event is over.

**JOURNALISM II -YEARBOOK** This course builds on the concepts learned in Journalism 1 as students learn the production and business side of journalism. Students will learn essential skills in design, editing, Edesign and production as they work on creating the TJHS' yearbook. Students will learn interview techniques and photography/Photoshop skills. They will also be involved in advertising, selling, and distributing the yearbook. There will also be a training session through Herff Jones. *Students must apply to be considered for this class.*

### HALF YEAR ELECTIVES

**ADV. IND./ WEIGHTS (Uniform Fee)** This class consists of physical development in athletics. Students are expected to participate in full weightlifting exercises. The primary goal of the class is to improve strength and reduce risk of injuries in sports and other physical activities. Each student will learn the importance of proper nutrition and cardiovascular training.

**ADV. FOUNDATIONS 1a(Fee\$):** This course is designed to provide enhanced experience with the artistic issues of Foundations through traditional, two-dimensional art media. There is a continuing emphasis on studio production as the application. Basic Drawing is highly encouraged as a preparatory class. \*Art Foundations 1, a portfolio (5 of your best original drawings) and teacher approval is required to register for Advanced Foundations 1a. *Students must apply to be considered for this class. See Mr. Brewer in rm#21 for an application or visit TJHS website/counseling center/registration.*

**BASIC DRAWING (ART)(Fee\$)** This course is an extension of Art Foundations I, building on the basic elements and principles while including new mediums. Emphasis will be on drawing, color, and design objectives. New skills will be taught in connection with watercolor, tempera paint and other mediums that may be used. Drawing skills will be enhanced and practiced.

### CODING I/GAMING –

**CROSS FIT TRAINING (Uniform Fee)** Cross Fitness will be focusing on the components of fitness such as, muscular endurance and strength, cardiovascular, flexibility and body composition. Students will participate in a variety of activities that focus on each component i.e. running, burpees, push-ups, and sit-ups, as well as movements with barbells, dumbbells, kettlebells, jump ropes, pull-up bars, medicine balls and yoga.

**DANCE (Uniform Fee)** -Students will be introduced to the elements of dance, learn different dance genres, and dance terminology. Students will be required to choreograph different dances and perform in front of an audience.

**DRAMA (Fee\$)** Drama is a performance-based class. Assessments and attendance are a part of their grade for performances and projects; therefore, students are required to read, act, move, and more in front of the class and/or an audience. There are no alternative assignments provided for missed performances or assessments. Students work independently and with groups to learn the techniques of performance, acting, improvisation, public speaking, and communication. One free night-time performance may be provided for family and friends as part of the class. For night performances, students remain after school until the entire event is over.

**EXPLORING TECH/SHOP(Fee\$)** A comprehensive action-based educational course that introduces students to the technological systems of four of the following seven technology areas: medical, agriculture/biotechnology, energy-power, information and communications, transportation, manufacturing, and construction. Emphasis is placed on broad exploration in cooperative and individualized activities rather than project and skill development.

**FCS EXPLORATION(Fee\$)** This course provides students with the opportunity to develop essential skills in the various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS). Students will explore and cultivate skills in food and nutrition sciences, childcare, interior design, clothing and textile construction, fashion design and merchandising, consumerism, entrepreneurship, family relationships, personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks.



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**GUITAR BEGINNING(Fee\$)** - In this course students will develop their musical potential through studying the guitar. This includes reading music, creating a beautiful tone, building technical skills, and forming responsible rehearsal habits. Students will build their music vocabulary, their sensitivity in intonation, and their accuracy in playing rhythms. They will also strengthen their listening skills through analyzing and evaluating musical performances. with a rental fee

**GUITAR INTERMEDIATE(Fee\$)** - **Prerequisite for this class is Beginning Guitar.** In this course, students will build on the skills learned in the beginning guitar class. They will continue to read more advanced music notation, build tone and technical skills, and rehearse in small and large groups with other guitar students. They will also strengthen their listening skills through analyzing and evaluating musical performances. with a rental fee

**HOPE Squad-** The HOPE Squad Program functions as a peer support team. Students will learn Mental Health Awareness as well as Suicide Prevention which will assist them in working/talking with other students who are afraid to talk to a trusted adult. Promoting a safe environment for all students. **Application is required.** Mr. Leetham [mleetham@tooeleschools.org](mailto:mleetham@tooeleschools.org)

**INTERMEDIATE TEAM FITNESS (Uniform Fee)** This course consists of developing fitness and skills. Fitness involves push-ups, crunches, and a five-minute run daily. Students will also be required to take fitness tests up to four times during the duration of the class. The fitness tests include push-ups, sit-ups, mile run, and pacer run. Students must improve each time they are tested. Skills that will be required are in the following sports: flag football, soccer, speedball, volleyball, basketball, track and field, and softball.

**JOURNALISM I--** This course introduces students to the world of journalism. Students learn and practice the basics of interviewing, researching, original writing, photography, revising/editing, and publishing via a variety of publications **and technologies**. Students interested in this class need the following skills to be successful: a desire to write **and produce quality work**, editing skills, investigative/research abilities, **ability** to work under and meet deadlines, and Chromebook/computer technology/word processing skills; in addition to **being** an independent self-starting worker with few absences.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION (Fee\$)** This is a course of skills, techniques, and knowledge of recreational activities. Recreational activities include tennis, badminton, bowling, and table tennis. Students must demonstrate required behavior and expectations of fitness. \*Students must have teacher approval. ***Students must apply to be considered for this class. See your fitness teacher in the Gym for an application or visit TJHS website/counseling center/registration.***

**PEER TUTOR** The peer tutor program gives students the opportunity to form friendships with their **classmates** with disabilities, as well as help them with their classwork. The class aims to promote acceptance and appreciation of people with disabilities. ***This class requires teacher approval. Pick up an application from Mrs. Price (rm19) or Mrs. Tanner (rm 20)***

**READING** This course is designed to help **students who are not reading at grade level**. Students will receive targeted literacy instruction in phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension to improve their reading skills.

**ADVANCED READING** This class is for those students who have strong reading skills and enjoy reading. In this class, students will learn how to appropriately respond to and discuss a book, how to track reading, and how to have reading endurance to become lifelong readers.

**RUNNING FOR LIFE (Uniform Fee)** This class is designed for students who are preparing for track or cross country or enjoy running.

**STUDY STRATEGIES-** (Full Year or Semester) This class is designed to help students learn study strategies, organization, and how to become academically successful to prepare for high school and beyond. Students will have a chance to implement those strategies on homework or any missing work they may have. In addition, students will be able to research and plan for their future career and educational goals as they learn about the opportunities and options available to them. This course includes visits to college/career campuses and hearing guest speakers from different career pathways.

**YOGA-(Uniform Fee)** - Yoga is a practice that means “to join” by bringing harmony to the mind, body, and spirit. Students will learn and practice the 3 aspects of yoga – the physical postures, breathing exercises and techniques, and meditation.

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION** Support services through Special Education are available to students who qualify and have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). These services vary depending on a student's need. We offer directed studies in Math and Language Arts; Resource classes in Math, Language Arts, and Reading; and Self-Contained Life Skills classes. **\*Students must meet eligibility requirements.** Each student's IEP is managed by a Special Education teacher. **The Special Education teacher will make class referral according to student's IEP.** Related services are managed



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by the case manager and the service provider as well.

For students who struggle but do not currently have an IEP, his/her parents and teachers may refer the student for testing. Teacher teams work to institute interventions and provide the necessary documentation to the Special Education team. The documentation and testing results are then considered to determine whether specific learning problems are evident. A team meeting is held with parents and necessary staff to consider eligibility. Students can receive additional support in school if they qualify. If you have concerns and would like more information about this process, please contact the school.

**MATH** Student who are interested in taking Math I Extended in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, must complete 8<sup>th</sup> grade math through the Digital Education Center and provide Tooele Junior High School a copy of their report card showing mastery of the full course no later than August 07, 2026. If you are interested, talk to your TJHS counselor, a form must be filled out and signed by parent/guardian, TJHS school counselor and TJHS principal.

**GIFTED PROGRAMS (PEAK)** The purpose of our Gifted Programs is to identify, support, and challenge academically advanced and creatively gifted students, providing them with a specialized and enriched learning environment. We aim to foster intellectual growth, creativity, and the realization of each student's full potential, preventing disengagement and boredom, and promoting a culture of academic excellence, innovation, and diversity in education. Ultimately, the overarching purpose is to contribute to the development of well-rounded, high-achieving individuals who can make meaningful contributions to their communities and society.

The purpose of PEAK is to provide enriched and rigorous educational experience to meet the academic needs for Jr. high students that have been identified as gifted and talented. Courses: Math, Science, ELA tied with Social Studies  
Students are identified for each of the three content areas separately, which means it is possible to be in zero, one, two, or all courses depending on displayed academic needs.

- All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take the CogAT during the designated fall testing window
- Makeup for move-ins will be offered in April and August before or at the beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> grade

### FYI – High School Courses taken in the 8th grade

The Credit Guidelines Handbook states:

#### **A. Course and Credit Requirements:**

- a. The awarding of credit is based on a student's mastery of subject matter and skill attainment. Tooele County School District requires the “minimum core curriculum” specified by the [Utah State Board of Education Rule R277-700-6](#) and the additional course credits listed below for high school graduation.
- a. An official transcript for a student begins at the start of their 9<sup>th</sup>-grade year. However, [R277-700-6\(3\)](#) allows any high school course taken (and passed) by a student before grade nine to be added to the student's high school transcript and count for credit.
  - i. Because Skyward will not allow a transcript to be generated before 9<sup>th</sup> grade, this cannot be done until the student enters 9<sup>th</sup> grade, regardless of when the course was completed.
  - i. Parents and students should note that there can be unintended consequences, such as:
    1. The NCAA may not accept credits earned before 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
    2. Some scholarship and college entry requirements may not accept credits earned before 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
    3. [Valedictorian/Salutatorian](#) eligibility does not factor in classes taken before 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Board Rule 277-700 states:

(8) A 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student may earn credit for a mathematics foundation course before 9<sup>th</sup> grade, consistent with the student's



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Plan for College and Career Readiness if:

- (a) the student is identified as gifted in mathematics in accordance with the procedures outlined in Rule R277-707;
- (b) the student is enrolled at a middle school or junior high school and a high school;
- (c) the student qualifies for promotion one or two grade levels above the student's age group and is placed in 9th grade; or
- (d) the student takes the Board competency test in the summer prior to 9th grade and earns high school graduation credit for the course.

(9) A student who successfully completes a mathematics foundation course before 9th grade is required to earn 3.0 units of additional mathematics credit by:

- (a) taking the other mathematics foundation courses described in Subsection (5); and
- (b) an additional course from the Board-approved mathematics list consistent with:
  - (i) the student's Plan for College and Career Readiness; and (ii) the following criteria:
    - (A) courses are within the field/discipline of mathematics with a significant portion of instruction aligned to mathematics content, principles, knowledge, and skills;
    - (B) courses provide instruction that lead to student understanding of the nature and disposition of mathematics;
    - (C) courses apply the fundamental concepts and skills of mathematics;
    - (D) courses provide developmentally appropriate content; and
    - (E) courses include the Standards for Mathematical Practice as listed in the Utah secondary mathematics core.

(10) A student who successfully completes a Calculus course with a "C" grade or higher has completed mathematics graduation requirements, regardless of the number of mathematics credits earned.

***This means that even if students get credit on their transcript for having taken Math 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they must STILL complete an additional 3 credits of Math in high school. It does NOT mean that they can take Math 2 their freshman year, Math 3 their sophomore year, and then be done with their Math requirements.***

If a student wishes to have their 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math 1 credit added to their transcript, please ensure students/parents are aware of the important points highlighted above (and document in Skyward when you have this conversation with them).

Because a transcript cannot be generated in Skyward until a student starts 9<sup>th</sup> grade, the registrar will need to add it as transfer credit once the student begins high school. Counselors/registrars must also verify that the student passed the Math 1 class before adding the credit to their transcript. (If the course was taken outside of our district, and grades cannot be verified through Skyward, the parent/student must provide the needed documentation.)