

EAST ROUGHNECKS



WEST WILDCATTERS

**PEARLAND ISD**

**Junior High School**

**Course Selection  
Handbook**

**2026-27**



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## GENERAL INFORMATION

This handbook has been designed to provide curriculum information and assist students in making course selections to successfully complete junior high requirements.

**Students take seven (7) classes in the first (fall) semester  
and seven (7) classes in the second (spring) semester.**

### SAMPLE 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCHEDULE

FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER
Language Arts (two periods)	Language Arts (two periods)
Math	Math
Texas History	Texas History
Science	Science
Physical Education or Athletics	Physical Education or Athletics
Elective	Elective

### SAMPLE 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCHEDULE

FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER
Language Arts (two periods)	Language Arts (two periods)
Math	Math
United States History	United States History
Science	Science
PE or Athletics or Elective	PE or Athletics or Elective
Elective	Elective

#### **Progress Reports/Grading Chart:**

Progress report grades are reported for each student as numerical grades in the middle of and at the end of each grading period. The state-mandated grading scale is as follows:

A = 100 – 90    B = 89 – 80    C = 79 – 70    F = 69 and below

## REQUIRED ACADEMIC COURSES

7 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE
Language Arts* (two periods)	Language Arts* (two periods)
Math*	Math*
Science*	Science*
Social Studies (TX History)*	Social Studies (US History)*

*\*Advanced levels available. See individual course descriptions for more information.*

## SUPPLEMENTAL ACADEMIC SUPPORT COURSES\*

7 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE
Power Reading 7	Power Reading 8
Power Math 7	Power Math 8
Reading	Reading
Foundational English	ESL Writing

*\*A supplemental support course may take the place of an elective if a student needs additional support in a specific content area.*

## REQUIRED ELECTIVE COURSES

7 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE	8 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE
Physical Education (P.E.) *	Physical Education (P.E.) *
<b>OR</b>	<b>OR</b>
Athletics**	Athletics**

*\*Students are required to take two semesters of PE at the junior high level.*

*\*\*Athletics is a **full year course**. Athletics may be taken in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. ALL course requirements must be met in order to be placed in this class.*

## ELECTIVES

<b>7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SEMESTER ELECTIVES</b>	<b>8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SEMESTER ELECTIVES</b>
Art I Art II** Exploratory Spanish** Career & College Exploration** Mixed Choir Theatre Arts I Theatre Arts II	Art I Art II Art III** Exploratory Spanish** Mixed Choir Theatre Arts I Theatre Arts II Office Aide Career & College Exploration**
<b>7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR LONG ELECTIVES</b>	<b>8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR LONG ELECTIVES</b>
Band Choir Spanish II (Dual Language)	Band Choir Fundamentals of Computer Science** (HS credit)
Yearbook**	Principles of Arts, A/V Tech, & Communications (HS credit) Robotics 1 (HS credit)**
	Spanish I (HS credit) Spanish III (Dual Language) Technical Theatre** Theatre Production Yearbook

*\*\*Not all elective courses listed above are offered at all junior highs. See course selection form for individual campus offerings.*

## ADVANCED ACADEMICS

Pearland Advanced Programs (PAP) have previously been named Advanced or Pre-Advanced Placement.

### Gifted students:

- Are expected to enroll in PAP and high school courses in their areas of strength and interest
- Are expected to participate in real world research and to develop professional style products
- Who meets specific academic course requirements have opportunities to accelerate and to enroll in multiple courses in the same content area.
- Will be clustered in core foundation courses (English, Math, Science, Social Studies).

All Pearland ISD students who wish to accept the academic challenge of rigorous coursework are welcome to participate in Pearland Advanced Programs courses. Prior to making a commitment to course selections, students and parents should be aware of the expectations and rigorous coursework for these classes so they can make informed decisions.

### Academic Considerations

PAP courses provide greater depth and complexity than general education classes and are intended to prepare students for rigorous high school coursework. Students should be independent learners as instruction may be fast paced, in-depth, complex, and abstract. An A or B in the subject area indicates that the student has the academic ability and the task commitment to succeed. Once enrolled, students **must remain in the course for six weeks** before a schedule change is considered. For additional considerations, see your campus counselor.

### Performance Considerations

PAP students should be independent learners who demonstrate:

#### A. Motivation

Some students take PAP classes because they are the best preparation for high school, others, for the academic challenge. Whatever the reason, students should apply their best effort.

#### B. Time Management and Organization

Beginning assignments when they are assigned, using planners and schedules when multiple projects are due, and developing the self-discipline to make academic achievement a priority are keys to success in PAP classes.

#### C. Positive Attitude

PAP courses demand more attention, work, and effort than a regular class. Students should persevere, and when faced with challenges, take the necessary steps to succeed in the class (tutorials, study groups, etc.). Students who can adjust to the rigor while in junior high find greater success in high school.

#### D. Strong Work Ethic

Students should be committed to their goals to be successful in PAP classes and demonstrate that commitment through good attendance, punctuality, and by showing respect for themselves and others. Students should expect to do a considerable amount of study and preparation outside of class, and to complete all assignments on time.

<b>ENGLISH</b>	PAP Language Arts 7	PAP Language Arts 8
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	PAP Mathematics 7	PAP Algebra 1
<b>SCIENCE</b>	PAP Science 7	PAP Science 8
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	PAP TX History 7	PAP US History 8
<b>OTHER ELECTIVES</b>		Robotics 1

## SPECIAL EDUCATION - SECTION 504 ACCOMMODATIONS\*

### As Applies to Modifications to General Curriculum

Curricular modifications for students receiving Special Education services are determined by the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee. These modifications may be implemented in the general education or special education setting as documented in the student's most current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals and objectives, which are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

### As Applies to PAP Students

The following guidelines are intended to apply to eligible students who receive special education and Section 504 services who enroll in PAP courses. While PAP courses are open to any student wishing to enroll, including students who receive special education and Section 504 services; counselors, parents, ARD Committees and Section 504 Committees should be aware that these are high-level academic classes. In order to be eligible for accommodations in a PAP class, the student must be eligible for the same accommodation in a general education classroom. The following guidelines shall be applicable to all students who receive special education and Section 504 services who enroll in PAP courses:

- A. Students who receive special education or Section 504 services must have equal opportunity to participate in PAP courses.
- B. While ARD and Section 504 Committees may wish to consider PAP courses in connection with transition plans for students who will be attending college, ARD Committees and Section 504 Committees are not required to place students in PAP classes. They should be expected to be successful there with the documented allowable accommodations.
- C. As a resource for parents of students with disabilities who are enrolling in PAP classes or Gifted and Talented programs, the link below is to a Dear Colleague letter from the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights. The letter addresses the rights of students with disabilities to participate in schools' and school districts' accelerated programs such as Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate classes or programs.  
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-20071226.html>

*\*This information is accurate as of the printing of this document. For the most current information visit the TEA website.*

## HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

High School courses taken at the junior high level earn the student high school credit but NO grade points IF the student successfully completes the course (*PISD Board Policy EIC Local, PISD Course Selection Handbook*).

- Yearlong Course - student must successfully pass both semesters OR receives a 70 on final grade averaging.
- Semester Course - student must successfully complete the semester with a grade of 70 or above.

Yearlong high school courses taken at the junior high will be grade averaged (PISD Board Policy EI Local).

Any junior high school student taking courses at Pearland ISD High School is responsible for their own transportation to the high school campus.

### Examples:

- Student successfully completes 1st semester only of Algebra at Junior High with a 71 and then is placed in 8th grade Math for the 2nd semester.
  - Student would earn no credit or GPA for the semester completed of Algebra. The student's transcript will reflect the course was taken at junior high school with a mark of 71A. The student would need to take the full year of Algebra in high school where he would earn credit and GPA.
- Student enrolled in Spanish I earns an 80 first semester and a 65 second semester.
  - Student would earn credit for both semesters because upon grade average, the 73 is passing. No grade points are granted since the course was taken at the Junior High.

## TEXAS FIRST EARLY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PROGRAM

Your student may be eligible to participate in the Texas First Program and Texas First Scholarship Program. This attached [flyer](#) lists the eligibility criteria for the Texas First Early High School Completion Program and Texas First Scholarship Program (19 TAC Part I, Section 21.54). More information can be found in the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's](#) webpage. Please note that it is the student's responsibility to provide an official copy of their assessment results and transcripts, as applicable, to receive credit for the assessments and credits required to receive early graduation from the program. It is the student's responsibility to research admission requirements for their institution of higher education.

After starting high school, contact your student's high school counselor if you and your student are interested in these programs.

## STUDENT SCHEDULES

### Schedules

Classes meet daily on a 7-period bell schedule. Students are required to take 7 classes per semester. Language Arts will take up two periods of the seven classes.

### Schedule Changes

Students are expected to commit to their course choices at the completion of course registration. Schedule changes will be granted based on the following criteria:

- The student has already earned credit for a course currently scheduled.
- There is appropriate space in the class for the transfer.
- The student does not have a full schedule.
- **Other as approved by campus principal.**





## Pearland ISD Mathematics Course Sequencing Recommended Pathways 2026-2027

The chart below indicates recommended pathways for Grades 5 through 12. It is strongly suggested that the student and parent(s) consult with the student's mathematics teacher and counselor in order to determine the most appropriate pathway.

Mathematics Recommended Pathways for Grades 5 - 12			
Grade 5	Mathematics 5 5th TEKS		
Regular Learner		Advanced Learner	
Grade 6	Mathematics 6 6th TEKS	Grade 6	PAP Mathematics 6 6th TEKS and 7th TEKS
Grade 7	Mathematics 7 7th TEKS	Grade 7	PAP Mathematics 7 7th TEKS and 8th TEKS
Grade 8	Mathematics 8 8th TEKS	Grade 8	PAP Algebra 1 Algebra 1 STAAR
Grade 9	Algebra 1	Grade 9	PAP Geometry
Grade 10	Geometry	Grade 10	PAP Algebra 2
Grade 11	Algebra 2	Grade 11	PAP Precalculus
Grade 12	Precalculus or Statistics	Grade 12	AP Calculus AB AP Calculus BC

### **Pearland Advanced Program (PAP)**

Students in the advanced learner pathway should be those planning to complete five years of high school mathematics, including calculus.

## COURSE SELECTION FORM COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Complete and obtain the appropriate signatures/initials.**
2. Circle the appropriate core classes: Language Arts (Reading and Writing), Math, History, and Science. Ask your current teacher for help if you are unsure of the appropriate level.
3. Circle either Physical Education (PE) or Athletics as your required elective.
4. Choose at least four (4) electives. RANK your choices in order of preference with **one (1) representing your first choice, two (2) representing your second**, and so on. Every student must have at least four (4) choices.
  - a. Band and Athletics are automatically considered your first choice.
  - b. Ranking classes **does not** guarantee that a student will get to take that course; however, every effort will be made to honor student selections.
5. **Commit.** Remember that you get to choose your classes for the coming school year, but you are expected to commit and complete those courses upon registration. Make sure the courses you choose are the ones you want to take. After course placement, course changes will only be made to equalize class enrollments.
6. Parent or Guardian signature is **REQUIRED** on the form. Turn the form into the designated teacher or your counselor.

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### IMPORTANT

*It is important that course selection be given **SERIOUS CONSIDERATION. PLAN CAREFULLY!!** The courses you select **now** should be the ones that you want to take next year. After school begins, course changes will be made only to correct scheduling errors or to balance class enrollments. Parent signature on the card indicates agreement with the course selection.*

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**REQUESTS FOR LUNCH PERIOD, TEAM, OR TEACHER,**  
**WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.**

**7<sup>th</sup>**  
**GRADE**

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE REQUIRED ACADEMIC COURSES

### LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Full Year Course

This course is aligned to the state-mandated English Language Arts and Reading TEKS for grade 7. Students will listen, speak, read, write, and think within these various areas: foundational language skills, including vocabulary, fluency, and self-selected reading; comprehension skills; response skills; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition, including the writing process and composing texts using genre characteristics; and inquiry and research. Students will receive targeted instruction in both reading and writing in this course.

Instruction for Language Arts 7 will be given over two class periods each day.

### PAP LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Full Year Course

**Prerequisite:** To enroll in this course, students must have achieved at least an 'Approaches' level score on the Grade 6 ELAR STAAR exam. It is recommended that students have a 'Meets' level score or above on the Grade 6 ELAR STAAR exam.

This course is aligned to the state-mandated English Language Arts and Reading TEKS for grade 7. Students will listen, speak, read, write, and think within these various areas: foundational language skills, including vocabulary, fluency, and self-selected reading; comprehension skills; response skills; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition, including the writing process and composing texts using genre characteristics; and inquiry and research. Students will receive targeted instruction in both reading and writing in this course.

Students enrolled in PAP Language Arts 7 will read and analyze texts to a greater depth, as well as respond to and write about texts at a greater depth. Students will be required to complete a significant amount of independent reading and writing activities as a part of this course.

Instruction for PAP Language Arts 7 will be given over two class periods each day.

### MATHEMATICS 7

Full Year Course

This course is aligned with grade 7 math TEKS, the curriculum for this course is intended for on-level learners. Topics in the course include Numbers, Operations, and Quantitative Reasoning; Patterns, Relationships, and Algebraic Reasoning; Geometry and Spatial Reasoning; Measurement; and Probability and Statistics. Upon successful completion of this course, students will enroll in Mathematics 8.

### PAP MATHEMATICS 7

Full Year Course

**Prerequisite:** To enroll in this course, students must have achieved at least an 'Approaches' level score on the Grade 6 Math STAAR exam. It is recommended that students have a 'Meets' level score or above on the Grade 6 Math STAAR exam.

This course consists of a compacted and accelerated curriculum. The remainder of Mathematics 7 TEKS not covered in PAP Mathematics 6 as well as all of Mathematics 8 TEKS will be taught in this course.

Topics in this course include numbers, operations, proportionality, expressions, equations, relationships, measurements, probability, data, and financial literacy. The purpose of the graphing calculator in this course is that of a supplemental resource to provide an additional means of representing material as well as extending the learning process. In this course, students regularly participate in higher-level discussions and making connections among multiple representations. Upon successful completion of this course, students will enroll in PAP Algebra 1, Grade 8.

**TEXAS HISTORY 7****Full Year Course**

This course is aligned to the state-mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. In Grade 7, students examine the full scope of Texas history focusing on key individuals, events, issues and their impact in each era, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras.

**PAP TEXAS HISTORY 7****Full Year Course**

The advanced course is similar to the regular course in its scope; however, topics are explored at a greater depth and more difficult questions are asked. Students in this course will examine the full scope of Texas history focusing on key individuals, events, issues and their impact in each era, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. This advanced course is embedded with instructional strategies and materials appropriate for advanced learners.

**SCIENCE 7****Full Year Course**

This course is aligned to the state mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, focusing on scientific investigation and reasoning while exploring key concepts in matter, energy, force and motion, Earth and space, and living systems. Students investigate properties of matter, thermal energy, and Newton's laws, while also studying ecosystems, body systems, heredity, and environmental impact. Through hands-on activities and problem-solving, students build scientific thinking skills and prepare for future science learning.

**PAP SCIENCE 7****Full Year Course**

PAP courses provide greater depth and complexity than general education classes and are intended to prepare students for rigorous high school coursework. This course is aligned to the state mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, focusing on scientific investigation and reasoning while exploring key concepts in matter, energy, force and motion, Earth and space, and living systems. Students investigate properties of matter, thermal energy, and Newton's laws, while also studying ecosystems, body systems, heredity, and environmental impact. Through hands-on activities and problem-solving, students build scientific thinking skills and prepare for future science learning.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE REQUIRED ELECTIVES

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Semesters: Per Campus

**NOTE: ATHLETICS MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Physical education is required for all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. The curriculum is designed to provide the student with the knowledge and skills needed to maintain an active, healthy lifestyle. This is accomplished by participating in recreational games, conditioning and health discussions. Health topics include tobacco abuse, cardiovascular conditioning, strength development, first aid and personal fitness. Students will be graded on dressing out, participation and knowledge of subject matter.

**FEE: \$20 annually**

**IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT STUDENTS FULFILL BOTH SEMESTER REQUIREMENTS OF PE IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE IN ORDER TO ALLOW ROOM FOR YEARLONG ELECTIVES IN THEIR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR.**

### 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ATHLETICS

Semesters: 2

**Prerequisite:** A UIL physical packet **MUST** be completed before the first day of class.

A physical examination by a doctor **IS REQUIRED** on standard PISD form.

Pearland ISD junior highs offer six 7<sup>th</sup> grade UIL regulated competitive teams. The teams and seasons include:

<b>Full-Contact Football</b> .....	<i>August-Beginning of November</i>
<b>Volleyball</b> .....	<i>August-Beginning of November</i>
<b>Basketball</b> .....	<i>Middle of November-End of February</i>
<b>Cross-Country</b> .....	<i>November</i>
<b>Soccer (after school only)</b> .....	<i>April-May</i>
<b>Track</b> .....	<i>March-April</i>
<b>Tennis</b> .....	<i>February- March</i>

The purpose of the athletics class is twofold. First, students who make a team will practice during the season. Second, any student in the class that is not on an "in-season" team will participate in athletic conditioning (i.e. running, calisthenics, strength training). This course satisfies the physical education requirement for students selected for the program.

### SPECIAL NOTES:

1. A try-out will be held for volleyball, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, tennis, track, and soccer.
2. A student who makes a team will need to be at practice before or after school.
3. Transportation to and from practices is the responsibility of the parents or guardian.
4. A physical examination prior to participation and a **district participation fee will be required**.

### WHO SHOULD SIGN UP FOR ATHLETICS:

**\*Girls-Only girls who are interested in trying out for volleyball should sign up for athletics.** In order to be in Girl's Athletics at the beginning of 7<sup>th</sup> grade you must have completed a mile in less than the time designated by your 6<sup>th</sup> grade PE teacher, and you must try out for Volleyball. Anyone not in athletics at the beginning of the year can still tryout for the Volleyball or Basketball team and will be moved into athletics if they make the team.

**\*Boys-Only boys who want to play football should sign up for athletics.** All boys interested in trying out for basketball, running track/cross-country, or trying out for tennis should sign up for a regular physical education class.

**ATHLETICS IS A YEAR LONG COURSE. EVEN IF A STUDENT DOES NOT MAKE A TEAM, HE/SHE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN OFF SEASON CONDITIONING. THERE WILL BE NO SCHEDULE CHANGES.**

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

### **BAND**

**Semesters: 2**

**Prerequisite:** One year experience on selected instrument; Audition; Teacher signature

Junior High Band is divided into three groups: *HONORS BAND*, *SYMPHONIC BAND*, *CONCERT BAND* and *CONCERT BAND II*. These classes are mixed 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade and based on student ability. Auditions are held at the end of the previous school year. Directors also need to maintain proper instrumentation for each band. While in band, students will continue to improve in the areas of tone production, rhythm, sight-reading, scales and articulation. There will be opportunities to perform in concerts and competitions in all three bands. Our goal is to create band students who will be successful in the high school band programs. Due to the level of music literature, private lessons are highly encouraged.

**FEE: \$35 annually**

**BAND IS A YEAR LONG COURSE. THIS COURSE REQUIRES 100% FULL PARTICIPATION ALL YEAR. THERE WILL BE NO REQUEST FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES.**

### **CHOIR**

**UIL Choirs, Tenor Bass, Varsity Treble, NV Treble, or NV Tenor Bass**

**Semesters: 2**

**Prerequisite:** Audition

**Fee: \$40 per year**

### **MIXED CHOIR**

**Semester: 1**

**FEE: \$10 per semester**

Junior High Choir is divided into various leveled ensembles: Varsity, Non-Varsity, and Sub Non-Varsity. These classes are mixed 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade and based on student ability. With the exception of Mixed Choir, auditions are held at the end of the previous school year. While in choir, students will be provided the opportunity to learn about their voices and how to sing properly. There will be opportunities to perform in concerts and competitions in all competitive choirs. Our goal is to create choir students who will be successful in the high school choir program. Due to the level of music literature, private lessons are highly encouraged.

**YEAR LONG CHOIRS REQUIRE 100% FULL PARTICIPATION ALL YEAR. THERE WILL BE NO REQUEST FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES.**

### **ART I**

**Semester: 1**

This course encourages students to express their original ideas and feelings through the creation of visual works of art. The primary aim is to enhance student appreciation for art through a wide variety of art experiences. Basic principles and techniques are presented in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, craft projects, and art history.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year**

**ART II****Semester: 1****Prerequisite:** Art I

This course develops the ability to see, think, and work creatively with originality. Art II develops creative expression by building on skills and techniques experienced in Art I to provide a variety of art projects including sculpting, printmaking, painting, drawing and an offering of art appreciation.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year****EXPLORATORY SPANISH****Semester: 1**

This course introduces students to the Spanish language, culture, as well as the history and legends of Latin America. Spanish will be presented with an emphasis on practical vocabulary and grammar structure with comparisons to the English language. This course is designed to help prepare students for Spanish I.

**CAREER & COLLEGE EXPLORATION****Semester: 1**

The career development process is unique to every person and evolves throughout one's life. Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths.

**THEATRE ARTS****Semester: 1**

This course is intended for students interested in Theatre Arts. Students will develop imagination, observation, and concentration skills while engaging in theatre exercises. Students are introduced to the art of theatre through improvisation, pantomime, storytelling, characterization, voice and other theatre activities. Students enrolled in Theatre Arts will have the opportunity to audition for the one performance per semester that is held outside of the school day.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year****THEATRE ARTS II****Semester: 1****Prerequisite:** Theatre I

Theatre Arts II is a continuation of Theatre I. Students will deepen their theatrical skills through activities such as character development, improvisation, directing, script writing and other theatre activities. Students enrolled in Theatre Arts will have the opportunity to audition for the 1 performance per semester that is held outside of the school day.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year****YEARBOOK****Semesters: 2****Prerequisites:** Application

This course allows students the opportunity to work on the school's yearbook. They will work to develop abilities in gathering information, writing copy and captions, understanding components of quality photography, copy editing skills, and headline techniques. Emphasis is placed on developing skills in layout and design, graphics, and the use of our online yearbook editing and publishing program. Students assume responsibility for planning, coverage, and proofing of spreads. This course requires some time commitment outside the regular school hours.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

### **SPANISH II**

**Prerequisite:** Completion in 6<sup>th</sup> grade/DL Spanish in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Semesters: 2**

**High School Credit: 1**

The student will continue to develop language skills gained from Spanish 1. The student will read short selections and write short, guided conversations. The student will study more aspects of Spanish culture.

NOTE: This course is available at Pearland Junior High South and Pearland Junior High West only.

**8<sup>th</sup>**

**GRADE**

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE REQUIRED ACADEMIC COURSES

### LANGUAGE ARTS 8

**Full Year Course**

This course is aligned to the state-mandated English Language Arts and Reading TEKS for grade 8. Students will listen, speak, read, write, and think within these various areas: foundational language skills, including vocabulary, fluency, and self-selected reading; comprehension skills; response skills; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition, including the writing process and composing texts using genre characteristics; and inquiry and research. Students will receive targeted instruction in both reading and writing in this course.

Instruction for Language Arts 8 will be given over two class periods each day.

### PAP LANGUAGE ARTS 8

**Full Year Course**

**Prerequisite:** To enroll in this course, students must have achieved at least an 'Approaches' level score on the Grade 7 ELAR STAAR exam. It is recommended that students have a 'Meets' level score or above on the Grade 7 ELAR STAAR exam.

This course is aligned to the state-mandated English Language Arts and Reading TEKS for grade 8. Students will listen, speak, read, write, and think within these various areas: foundational language skills, including vocabulary, fluency, and self-selected reading; comprehension skills; response skills; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition, including the writing process and composing texts using genre characteristics; and inquiry and research. Students will receive targeted instruction in both reading and writing in this course.

Students enrolled in PAP Language Arts 8 will read and analyze texts to a greater depth, as well as respond to and write about texts at a greater depth. Students will be required to complete a significant amount of independent reading and writing activities as a part of this course.

Instruction for PAP Language Arts 8 will be given over two class periods each day.

### MATHEMATICS 8

**Full Year Course**

This course is aligned to the grade 8 math TEKS, the curriculum for this course is intended for on-level learners. Topics in the course include number and operations proportionality, expressions, equations, and relationships, two-dimensional shapes, measurement and data, and personal financial literacy. The purpose of the graphing calculator in this course is that of a supplemental resource to provide an additional means of representing material as well as extending the learning process. Upon successful completion of this course, students will enroll in Algebra I or PAP Algebra I.

**PAP ALGEBRA I****Full Year Course****Prerequisite:** PAP Mathematics 7 Requirement: STAAR End of Course Exam**High School Credit:** 1

To enroll in this course, students must have achieved at least an 'Approaches' level score on the Grade 8 Math STAAR exam. It is recommended that students have a 'Meets' level score or above on the Grade 8 Math STAAR exam.

This is the high school Algebra I course, embedded with instructional strategies and material appropriate for advanced learners. This course introduces students to concepts, skills and applications of beginning algebra with a strong emphasis on graphing calculators. Problems are solved numerically, graphically, and algebraically. Topics covered include linear functions, equations, and inequalities. These students are assessed in the spring with the STAAR Algebra I EOC test. Upon successful completion of this course, students will enroll in Geometry/PAP Geometry.

**NO PARTIAL HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT WILL BE AWARDED FOR PAP ALGEBRA I IF THE STUDENT DOES NOT MEET THE ABOVE CRITERIA OR EXITS THE PROGRAM AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON.**

**U.S. HISTORY 8****Full Year Course**

This course is aligned to the state-mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. In Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students use critical-thinking skills including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material.

**PAP U.S. HISTORY 8****Full Year Course**

The PAP course is similar to the regular course in its scope; however, topics are explored at a greater depth and more difficult questions are asked. Students will examine the full scope of the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. This advanced course is embedded with instructional strategies and materials appropriate for advanced learners.

**SCIENCE 8****Full Year Course**

This course is aligned to the state mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, integrating physical, earth, and life sciences, focusing on inquiry-based learning about matter, energy, forces, Earth systems, and living systems. Students conduct hands-on investigations, analyze data, and apply concepts to real-world phenomena, exploring topics from atoms and chemical changes to space, weather, and ecosystems, all grounded in scientific reasoning.

**PAP SCIENCE 8****Full Year Course**

PAP courses provide greater depth and complexity than general education classes and are intended to prepare students for rigorous high school coursework. This course is aligned to the state mandated Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, integrating physical, earth, and life sciences, focusing on inquiry-based learning about matter, energy, forces, Earth systems, and living systems. Students conduct hands-on investigations, analyze data, and apply concepts to real-world phenomena, exploring topics from atoms and chemical changes to space, weather, and ecosystems, all grounded in scientific reasoning.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE REQUIRED ELECTIVES

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Semesters: Per Campus

**NOTE: ATHLETICS MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR PHYSICAL EDUCATION.**

Two semesters of physical education are required for all junior high students. Eighth grade PE is only required if this fulfillment was not met in the seventh grade. The curriculum is designed to provide the student with the knowledge and skills needed to maintain an active, healthy lifestyle. This is accomplished by participating in recreational games, conditioning, and health discussions. Health topics include tobacco abuse, cardiovascular conditioning, strength development, first aid and personal fitness. Students will be graded on dressing out, participation and knowledge of subject matter.

**FEE: \$20 annually**

### 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ATHLETICS

Semesters: 2

**Prerequisite:** Athletic Coordinator's Approval, A UIL packet **MUST** be completed before the first day of class.

A physical examination by a doctor is required on PISD standard form.

Pearland ISD junior highs offer six 8<sup>th</sup> grade UIL regulated competitive teams. The teams and seasons include:

<b>Full-Contact Football</b> .....	August-Beginning of November
<b>Volleyball</b> .....	August-Beginning of November
<b>Basketball</b> .....	Middle of November-End of February
<b>Cross-Country</b> .....	November
<b>Soccer (after school only)</b> .....	April-May
<b>Track</b> .....	March-April
<b>Tennis</b> .....	February- March

*Athletics is for those students who wish to participate in **varsity level sports in high school**. Athletics is one step on this path. The purpose of the athletic class is twofold. First, students who make a team will practice during the season. Second, any student in the class that is not on an "in-season" team will participate in athletic conditioning (i.e. running, calisthenics, strength training). This course satisfies the physical education requirement for students selected for the program.*

### SPECIAL NOTES:

1. A try-out will be held for volleyball, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, tennis, track, and soccer.
2. A student who makes a team will need to be at practice before or after school.
3. Transportation to and from practices is the responsibility of the parents or guardian.
4. A physical examination prior to participation and a **district participation fee will be required**.

### WHO SHOULD SIGN UP FOR ATHLETICS:

**\*Girls - Only girls who made the volleyball team or the basketball team in 7<sup>th</sup> grade will be approved for athletics.**

All girls interested in trying out for volleyball, basketball, running track/cross-country, or trying out for tennis should sign up for a regular physical education class. If a girl makes the 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball team or basketball team, her schedule will be evaluated to see if she needs a schedule change.

**\*Boys - Only boys who want to play football should sign up for athletics.**

All boys interested in trying out for basketball, running track/cross-country, or trying out for tennis should sign up for a regular physical education class. If a boy makes the 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team, his schedule will be evaluated to see if he needs a schedule change.

**ATHLETICS IS A YEAR LONG COURSE. EVEN IF A STUDENT DOES NOT MAKE A TEAM HE/SHE WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN OFF SEASON CONDITIONING. THERE WILL BE NO SCHEDULE CHANGES.**

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

### **BAND**

**Semesters: 2**

**Prerequisite:** 2 Yrs. experience on selected instrument; Audition-Teacher signature

Junior High Band is divided into three groups: *HONORS BAND*, *SYMPHONIC BAND*, *CONCERT BAND AND CONCERT BAND II*. These classes are mixed 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade and based on student ability. Auditions are held at the end of the school year. Directors also need to maintain proper instrumentation for each band. While in band, students will continue to improve in the areas of tone production, rhythm, sight-reading, scales and articulation. There will be opportunities to perform in concerts and competitions in all three bands. Our goal is to create band students who will be successful in the high school band programs. Due to the level of music literature, private lessons are highly encouraged.

**FEE: \$35 per year**

**BAND IS A YEAR LONG COURSE. THIS COURSE REQUIRES 100% FULL PARTICIPATION ALL YEAR. THERE WILL BE NO SCHEDULE CHANGES.**

### **CHOIR**

**UIL Choirs, Tenor Bass, Varsity Treble, NV Treble, or NV Tenor Bass**

**Semesters: 2**

**Prerequisite:** Audition

**Fee: \$40 per year**

### **MIXED CHOIR**

**Semester: 1**

**FEE: \$10 per semester**

Junior High Choir is divided into various leveled ensembles: Varsity, Non-Varsity, and Sub Non-Varsity. These classes are mixed 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade and based on student ability. With the exception of Mixed Choir, auditions are held at the end of the school year. While in choir, students will be provided the opportunity to learn about their voices and how to sing properly. There will be opportunities to perform in concerts and competitions in all competitive choirs. Our goal is to create choir students who will be successful in the high school choir programs. Due to the level of music literature, private lessons are highly encouraged.

**YEAR LONG CHOIRS REQUIRE 100% FULL PARTICIPATION ALL YEAR. THERE WILL BE NO SCHEDULE CHANGES.**

### **ART I**

**Semester: 1**

This course encourages students to express their original ideas and feelings through the creation of visual works of art. The primary aim is to enhance student appreciation for art through a wide variety of art experiences. Basic principles and techniques are presented in drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, craft projects, and art history.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year**

### **ART II**

**Semester: 1**

**Prerequisite:** Art I

This course develops the ability to see, think, and work creatively with originality. Art II develops creative expression by building on skills and techniques experienced in Art I to provide a variety of art projects including sculpting, printmaking, painting, drawing and an offering of art appreciation.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year**

**ART III****Semester: 1****Prerequisites:** Art I & II Teacher approval

Art III is for advanced students who have taken Art I and Art II and are interested in intense accelerated work. Students will make use of knowledge gained in previous classes to make more extensive art works. A supply fee is required.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year****CAREER & COLLEGE EXPLORATION****Semester: 1**

The career development process is unique to every person and evolves throughout one's life. Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths.

**EXPLORATORY SPANISH****Semester: 1**

This one semester course introduces students to Hispanic culture, and the history and legends of Latin America. Language will be presented with an emphasis on practical vocabulary and grammar structure with comparisons to the English language. Methods of instruction include film, games, art and computer utilization.

**THEATRE ARTS****Semester: 1**

This semester course is intended for students interested in Theatre Arts. Students will develop imagination, observation, and concentration skills while engaging in theatre exercises. Students are introduced to the art of theatre through improvisation, pantomime, storytelling, characterization, voice and other theatre activities. Students enrolled in Theatre Arts will have the opportunity to audition for the one performance per semester that is held outside of the school day.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year****THEATRE ARTS II****Semester: 1****Prerequisite:** Theatre Arts

Theatre Arts II is a continuation of Theatre I. Students will deepen their theatrical skills through activities such as character development, improvisation, directing, script writing and other theatre activities. Students enrolled in Theatre Arts will have the opportunity to audition for the one performance per semester that is held outside of the school day.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year****THEATRE PRODUCTION****Semesters: 2****Prerequisite:** Theatre I & Teacher approval based on audition.

This advanced course is for eighth-grade students who have a desire to be involved with play productions and compete in the UIL One Act Play contest. Only students that are enrolled in Theatre Production will be permitted to audition and perform in the One Act Play contest. This course is a continuation of Theatre I. In addition to the One Act Play, there is 1 performance outside of the school day each semester. Rehearsal attendance outside of the school day is required.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year**

**TECHNICAL THEATRE****Semesters: 2****Prerequisite:** Theatre Arts and teacher approval

This advanced course is for eighth-grade students who have a desire to be involved with play productions and compete in the UIL One Act Play contest and the UIL Theatrical Design contest. Only students that are enrolled in Technical Theatre will be permitted to participate in the One Act Play and Theatrical Design contest. This course is a continuation of Theatre Arts. In addition to the One Act Play and Theatrical Design contest, there is 1 performance outside of the school day each semester. Rehearsal attendance and set builds outside of the school day are required.

**FEE: \$10 per semester/\$20 per year****YEARBOOK****Semesters: 2****Prerequisite:** Application

This course allows students the opportunity to work on the school's yearbook. They will work to develop abilities in gathering information, writing copy and captions, understanding components of quality photography, copy editing skills, and headline techniques. Emphasis is placed on developing skills in layout and design, graphics, and the use of our online yearbook editing and publishing program. Students assume responsibility for planning, coverage, and proofing of spreads. This course requires some time commitment outside the regular school hours.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

### **PRINCIPLES OF ARTS, AUDIO/VIDEO TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS**

**Semesters: 2**  
**High School Credit: 1**

This course focuses on careers in designing, producing, exhibiting, performing, writing, and publishing multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services. Careers in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Career Cluster require a creative aptitude, a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong academic foundation, and a proficiency in oral and written communication. Within this context, students will be expected to develop an understanding of the various and multifaceted career opportunities and the knowledge, skills, and educational requirements for those opportunities.

**FEE: \$30 per year**

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE**

**Semesters: 2**  
**High School Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite:** Concurrent enrollment or completion of Algebra 1

Fundamentals of Computer Science is intended as a first course for those students just beginning the study of computer science. Students will learn about the computing tools that are used every day. Students will foster their creativity and innovation through opportunities to design, implement, and present solutions to real-world problems. Students will collaborate and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. Students will learn the problem-solving and reasoning skills that are the foundation of computer science. By using computer science knowledge and skills that support the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results. Students will learn digital citizenship by researching current laws and regulations and by practicing integrity and respect. Students will gain an understanding of the principles of computer science through the study of technology operations and concepts.

### **Robotics 1**

**Semesters: 2**  
**High School Credit: 1**

**Prerequisite:** Completion of or concurrent enrollment in Algebra 1 (recommended)

In Robotics 1, students will transfer academic skills to component designs in a project-based environment through implementation of the design process. Students will build prototypes or use simulation software to test their designs. Additionally, students will explore career opportunities, employer expectations, and educational needs in the robotic and automation industry.

**FEE: \$25 per semester/\$50 per year**

### **SPANISH I**

**Semesters: 2**  
**High School Credit: 1**

The student will be able to understand statements, commands, and ask and answer questions from everyday conversation. The student will be able to read and write simple expressions. The student will become aware of the history and culture of Spanish-speaking areas. Students' grades in Spanish will be evaluated at the end of each grading period.

### **SPANISH III**

**Semesters: 2**  
**High School Credit: 1**

**Prerequisites:** Dual Language program completion in 6<sup>th</sup> grade/Spanish II

Emphasis in the course will be on developing speaking and listening skills in order to communicate in Spanish. Vocabulary building and essential grammar points will be included. The student will continue to study more aspects of the Hispanic culture.

**NOTE:** This course is available at Pearland Junior High South and Pearland Junior High West only.

## NOTES

**CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION**

**PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH EAST** ..... 281-485-2481  
Principal..... Audie Johnson  
Counselors ..... Alison Williams and Dhanna Norman



**PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH WEST** ..... 281-412-1222  
Principal..... Dr. Dana Ashley  
Counselors ..... Jamie Holbert and Keri Grayson



**PEARLAND JUNIOR HIGH SOUTH** ..... 281-727-1500  
Principal..... Jason Frerking  
Counselors ..... Yamelis Hennigan and Emily Straub



**BERRY MILLER JUNIOR HIGH** ..... 281-997-3900  
Principal..... Tony Barcelona  
Counselors ..... Crichelle Cockrell and Sarah Sturm

