Alvarado Junior High
7th Grade Course Descriptions
2026-2027

Below are descriptions of the elective courses offered at Alvarado Junior High. Please review carefully prior to selecting courses.

Advanced Classes: Advanced classes are offered for Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Texas History.

- Advanced RLA, Advanced Math (8th Grade TEKS & STAAR), Advanced Science, and Advanced Texas History:
  - Recommended Masters performance level on previous year STAAR test in same subject, CTBA scores of 90 or higher, and 90 or higher class average in same subject in current year. All data is collected and reviewed by the campus to determine placements.
  - Parent/guardian signature is required.
- Notes:
  - Advanced Math 7 is considered a Pre-Algebra course and is a required prerequisite to taking Algebra I in eighth grade. *(Students earn high school credit when they successfully complete Algebra I in eighth grade).*
  - Advanced Math 7 is comprised of 8th grade standards (TEKS), and scholars will take the 8th Grade Math STAAR assessment; scholars should be demonstrating mastery of 6th grade standards (TEKS) for consideration.

Art: This is an introduction to various types of media and process, through experimentation and creativity. Art includes integrating design, drawing, painting, printmaking, and art appreciation concepts.

Athletics: This is a physical education course for boys and girls who wish to participate in organized sports. Athletics does require before and/or after school practice for football, volleyball and basketball. Track requires after school practice. Transportation is not provided for before or after school practice. Girls participate in volleyball, basketball, and track. The boys participate in football, basketball, and track. To participate in athletics, the scholars must have a UIL physical before school starts. Students can be removed from athletics because of grades and discipline.

AVID: AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID is a rigorous elective class designed to prepare scholars for college by focusing on developing academic skills like writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading (WICOR). AVID scholars dedicate themselves to higher-level thinking and learning, are intrinsically motivated to maintain good academic performance and behavior, and in doing so, participate in college and career exploration activities, such as college/university field trips, community service opportunities, and guest speaker visits from different career field representatives. ***Application is required.***

Band: Band directors place the scholars in the appropriate band class. This placement is based on experience and playing level. Each scholar will be responsible for obtaining an instrument. A few special instruments are provided by the school at the director's discretion.

Buddies PE: Buddies PE is a Physical Education class where scholars act as "buddies" to peers with disabilities, providing support, encouragement, and assistance during physical activities, aiming to promote inclusion and participation for all scholars in the class; training will be provided. ***Application is required.***

College & Career Explorations: Scholars will learn about themselves and the world of work. They will identify and explore potentially satisfying occupations as well as determine post secondary goals related to college. Each scholar will develop an effective strategy to realize their goals.

Choir: Choir is a course for scholars who wish to develop ability in musical performance and skills. Students will be trained in the fundamentals of vocal technique. Students are involved in daily rehearsals and school sanctioned activities. Part of choir is preparing for concerts, contests and other performances. The classes are divided into men's and women's groups, and there are audition and non-audition groups for both genders. The

choir director will place the scholars in the appropriate class based on musical ability and work ethic. Each group is taught according to their level with appropriate musical selections.

English as a Second Language (ESL): Scholars may be scheduled in this course based on linguistic needs. This course is designed to build on scholars' listening, speaking, reading, writing and comprehending skills of the English language through the development of literacy and academic skills.

Math Lab: Scholars may be scheduled in this course if they need support in math based on previous state and local assessments, or achievement throughout current and previous grade. This course is designed to improve scholars' math skills. It will cover a variety of foundational topics and skills.

Physical Education (PE): In Physical Education, scholars acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. The scholar exhibits a physically-active lifestyle and understands the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the lifespan.

Robotics: This is an introductory Robotics course utilizing Lego Mindstorm kits, Lego Mindstorm Education software and various Lego Robotics materials. The objective of this course is to introduce the scholar to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve scholars in the development, building and programming of a LEGO Mindstorm robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Student designed robots will be programmed to compete in various classroom challenges and area contests. ***Application is required.***

Spirit Squad: Spirit Squad is a campus spirit organization representing AJH at a variety of events and community functions performing spirit and dance routines. Scholars must audition for Spirit Squad.

Technology Applications I: This course is focused on teaching students essential digital literacy skills, including basic computer operations, popular software applications like Google Suite, online safety practices, digital citizenship, basic coding concepts, and how to use technology effectively for learning and communication, all while developing proficiency in navigating the modern digital landscape.

Tech Tribe: The Tech Tribe course is focused on the maintenance of the Alvarado Independent School District Chromebook fleet. Scholars will be expected to troubleshoot Chromebook software and hardware malfunctions, diagnose damages, perform repairs, write detailed notes about repairs, and maintain an organized workflow. Scholars will work together with their peers to accomplish these tasks. In order to be considered for this course scholars must first complete an extensive training course and an application. ***Application is required.***

Tennis: This physical education (PE) elective introduces scholars to tennis and prepares interested scholars for tennis competition. Some scholars do participate in competitions. To participate in tennis the scholars must have a UIL physical on file.

Theater: The goal of this class is to provide the basic foundation for the art of theatre. You will learn theater etiquette, basic theater terminology, examine character motivations, learn basic skills for theatrical design, stage movement, and basic acting skills through pantomime and improvisation. You will be called upon from time to time to offer constructive critiques of scenes including those done in class.

Theater Production: This is an advanced course that builds on the foundation of Theater through more challenging scene work in class. In the fall, this class will produce, perform, and compete in the district UIL One-Act-Play competition. In the Spring, we will perform a musical for the community. Each performance is mandatory for the Theater Production scholars to participate and will count as multiple major grades. Application and audition are required. ***Application is required.***