



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION GUIDE

2026-2027



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION OVERVIEW

Middle school students will follow an eight (8) period day schedule. The lists below outline the basic schedule by grade level.

Grade 6 Required Core Classes

- Language Arts
- Mathematics (Double Block)
- Science
- Contemporary World Cultures & Geography
- Physical Education (2 semesters required)
- Fine Art (Band, Choir, or Orchestra required)

Grade 6 Electives

Up to 1 elective

Grade 7 Required Core Classes

- Language Arts (Double Block)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Texas History
- Physical Education (2 additional semesters required during 7th or 8th grade)

Grade 7 Electives

Up to 2 electives

Grade 8 Required Core Classes

- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- United States History

Grade 8 Electives

Required L.E.A.P course

Up to 3 electives

Grade 8 Required Elective: Professional Communications within L.E.A.P - Leadership, Employability and Professional Skills

(1.0 CTE elective and 0.5 Speech for a total of 1.5 high school credits)

All students in grade 8 are required to participate in Professional Communications within College and Career Readiness electives. These required electives will include the L.E.A.P - Leadership, Employability and Professional Skills TEKS students will need in order to better prepare for the demands of high school graduation requirements, NISD Career academies, endorsements and to develop their high school personal Graduation Plans (PGP).

Core Academic Courses

The middle school academic courses provide strong curricula that prepare students for success in future courses in middle school and high school. These courses offer appropriately-paced instruction that covers the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Students are held to high expectations and must exhibit self-discipline and time management skills as important components of the courses.

Physical Education Requirement

Students are required to have four semesters of physical education during their three years at middle school. Students will complete 2 semesters of PE during 6th grade and the final 2 semesters will be completed either in 7th or 8th grade PE or Athletics.

Honors Courses

Honors courses are core academic courses that are aligned with the skills needed to be successful in Advanced Placement, Dual Credit and OnRamps courses offered at the high school level. Honors courses are designed to challenge motivated students to understand academically rigorous material and are open to all students willing to accept that challenge. Both Honors and Academic courses teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Typically, successful Honors students are self-motivated, maintain A's and high B's in all subject areas, master all TEKS objectives, and are successful in simultaneously managing multiple tasks.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Students whose first language is not English may be included in ESL classes where the emphasis is to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. The Language Proficiency Assessment Committee, or LPAC, will make course recommendations for students in ESL.

GT Program

Students who have been identified as Gifted and Talented (GT) through the NISD identification process are served through the GT Program's classes in language arts and math. Students will be individually scheduled for the GT courses in which they meet district qualifications.

Special Education

Northwest Independent School District Middle Schools offer a continuum of services for students identified as Special Education through the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) process in accordance with state and federal law.

High School Credit Courses offered to students in Grades 6-8

Note: High School Courses offered in grades 6-8 will follow the Grading Guidelines for High School. This guidance specifically relates to retakes and class rank. (See [Secondary Grading Guidelines](#))

- Algebra I Honors (High School Math Credit)
- Art I (High School Fine Art Credit)
- Digital Art and Animation (High School Fine Art Credit)
- Digital Communications in the 21st Century (High School CTE Credit)
- Fundamentals of Computer Science (High School CTE Credit)
- Geometry Honors (High School Math Credit)
- Personal Development and Relationships (High School CTE Credit)
- L.E.A.P. - Leadership, Employability, and Professional Skills (High School CTE Credit)
- Lifetime Nutrition & Wellness (High School CTE Credit)
- Medical Terminology (High School CTE Credit)
- Principles of Applied Engineering (High School CTE Credit)
- Principles of Human Services (High School CTE Credit)
- Professional Communications (High School Speech Credit)
- Robotics I (High School CTE Credit)
- Spanish I Honors (High School Foreign Language Credit)



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

68360 | Grade 6 Technology Apps

Students in this course will learn about technology systems, use digital tools, solve problems using creative thinking and become responsible digital citizens. Course studies will include digital citizenship, understanding Canvas, scratch coding with Google, using Google Suite tools, Typing.com and career research. This course will help students gain professional skills like communication, collaboration, decision making, research, and portfolio building.

78360 | Grade 7 Technology Apps and 88360 | Grade 8 Technology Apps

Students in this course will learn about technology systems, TechSmart curriculum with google tools, typing.com and career building activities. This course will help students gain professional skills like communication, collaboration, decision making, research, and portfolio building. This course can only be taken once in grades 7 or 8.

CT.0749M | Fundamentals of Computer Science

Students in this course will design, implement and present solutions to real-world problems using computer science concepts. Coursework will include creating interactive games, animations, stories, debugging and designing algorithms using the programming language Python. Skills such as problem solving, communication, portfolio building and digital citizenship will be part of each student activity/project. This course will utilize TechSmart and PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers as a curriculum framework. This course may have limited availability.

Credits: 1.0

Grade Placement: 7-8

Semesters: 2

Required Prerequisite: None

CT.0851M | Digital Art and Animation

In this course, students learn the elements and principles of design, as well as concepts of visual communication. Students will survey a variety of media and art, students use image editing, animation, and digital drawing to put into practice the art principles they've learned. They will explore career opportunities in the design, production, and presentation of digital artwork. They will respond to the artwork of others and learn how to combine artistic elements to create finished pieces that effectively communicate their ideas. This course satisfies the Fine Art requirement for graduation.

Credits: 1.0

Grade Placement: 8

Semesters: 2

Prerequisite: None

CT.0891M | Medical Terminology

This course is designed to introduce students to the structure of medical terms, including prefixes, suffixes, word roots, singular and plural forms, and medical abbreviations. The course allows students to achieve comprehension of medical vocabulary appropriate to medical procedures, human anatomy and physiology, and pathophysiology.

This course will utilize the PLTW Medical Detectives curriculum. This course may have limited availability.

Credits: 1.0

Grade Placement: 7-8

Semesters: 2

Required Prerequisite: None

CT.4101M | Principles of Applied Engineering

Students in this course will develop engineering skills using computer graphics, hand-sketching, 3D modeling, design and presentations. Teams will design solutions to problems using innovative thinking and creativity, including the 3D puzzle cube, foot orthosis, and therapeutic toy. Coursework will include employability skills like time-management, collaboration, portfolio building and career research. This course will utilize PLTW Design & Modeling as a curriculum framework. This course may have limited availability.

Credits: 1.0

Grade Placement: 7-8

Semesters: 2

Required Prerequisite: None

CT.4106M | Robotics I

Students in this course will design, build and test robots to solve a problem. Coursework will include professional standards for employment, safety, equipment/tools and skills necessary for success in a technical career. Students will work in teams to manage a project through planning, scheduling and meeting criteria in order to develop a product. Course studies in robotics will include torque and gear ratio, robotic arm construction, testing and using knowledge of simple machines. This course will utilize PLTW Automation & Robotics as a curriculum framework. This course may have limited availability.

Credits: 1.0

Grade Placement: 7-8

Semesters: 2

Required Prerequisite: None

CT.10561M | Professional Communication within L.E.A.P - Leadership, Employability and Professional Skills

In this year-long course, students will explore college and career pathways, strengthen their communication skills, define their leadership styles, and develop a foundational understanding of financial literacy. Coursework emphasizes professional communication through activities such as speeches, mock interviews, and group projects. This course is designed to equip students with transferable skills essential for success in diverse workplace settings. Students will have the opportunity to explore NISD Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Advanced Academics, and prepare their Personal Graduation Plan.

Required elective for all 8th graders.

Credits: 1.5 (1.0 HS CTE Elective & .5 HS Speech)

Grade Placement: 8

Semesters: 2

Prerequisite: None

0801M | Principles of Human Services

This course is a laboratory course that will enable students to investigate careers in the Human Services Career Cluster, including counseling and mental health, early childhood development, family and community, personal care, and consumer services.

Credits: 1.0

Grade Placement: 7-8

Semesters: 2

Required Prerequisite: None

CT.05205M | Personal Development and Relationships

Personal Development and Relationships is a semester course that examines how the relationships between individuals and among family members significantly affect the quality of life. Students use knowledge and skills in family studies and human development to enhance personal development, foster quality relationships, promote wellness of family members, manage multiple adult roles, and pursue careers related to counseling and mental health services.

Credits: .5

Grade Placement: 7-8

Semesters: 1

Required Prerequisite: None

CT.08035M | Lifetime Nutrition & Wellness

Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness is a semester laboratory course that allows students to use principles of nutrition to make informed decisions that promote lifelong wellness. Instruction will focus on the role that nutrients have on our body, digestion and metabolism, understanding the importance of a balanced diet, safety and sanitation in the lab, healthy food preparation, and careers in nutrition.

Credits: .5

Grade Placement: 7-8

Semesters: 1

Required Prerequisite: None

CT.9401M | Digital Communications in the 21st Century

This course prepares students to create multimedia content that is relevant and engaging for a wide variety of audiences including campus communications and announcements. Students will design, produce, and create collaborative projects within the career field of Arts & AV Production. Students will gain a foundational understanding of video creation, print media, graphic design and photography while building professional skills that are transferable throughout a wide variety of career fields and industries.

Credits: 1.0

Grade Placement: 7-8

Semesters: 2

Required Prerequisite: None

88311 | Grade 8 Media

This course is designed as a second year middle school media course in which students develop skills relevant to real world settings. Students will develop skills that may include surveying and researching information for news reports, current events and producing the school announcements. Students will gain a deeper understanding of video creation, print media, graphic design and photography while building professional skills that are transferable throughout a wide variety of career fields and industries.

COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

The following high school courses will be included in a student's weighted GPA: Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, and Spanish I Honors. Please review the [NISD High School Academic Planning Guide](#) for additional details.

The full listing of high school credit classes include:

- Algebra I Honors (High School Math Credit)
- Art I (High School Fine Art Credit)
- Digital Art and Animation (High School Fine Art Credit)
- Digital Communications in the 21st Century (High School CTE Credit)
- Fundamentals of Computer Science (High School CTE Credit)
- Geometry Honors (High School Math Credit)
- Personal Development and Relationships (High School CTE Credit)
- L.E.A.P. - Leadership, Employability, and Professional Skills (High School CTE Credit)
- Lifetime Nutrition & Wellness (High School CTE Credit)
- Medical Terminology (High School CTE Credit)
- Principles of Applied Engineering (High School CTE Credit)
- Principles of Human Services (High School CTE Credit)
- Professional Communications (High School Speech Credit)
- Robotics I (High School CTE Credit)
- Spanish I Honors (High School Foreign Language Credit)
- Digital Communications in the 21st Century