



Bryan Middle School

**26-27 School Year**

Course Guide

# Course Guide

The course guide is here to inform you and your student about classes offered at Bryan Middle School.

For any questions, please contact the Bryan Middle School Counseling Department.



**Semester**=class taken ½ a year

# 6th Grade Course Guide



## Required Courses

Advisory (homeroom)

Computer Apps 1

**English Language Arts (ELA)**

**Math**

- Advanced Math

Physical Education (PE)

**Science**

**Social Studies**

## Elective Courses

### Creative and Social Studies Electives

Art, Music Tech 1, and Anthropology

### Music Electives

Band 6, Beginning Band, Beginning Strings, Chorus and Strings 6

### Teacher Recommended Electives

Academic Language Study, ESL A and B, ESL Reading A and B, ESL Transitions, Honors Special Project (GATE) and Reading

### Technology and Lifestyle Electives

Robotics, Lifetime Fitness 6, and Tech and Living 6

# 6th Grade Course Guide



## Required Courses

**Advisory (homeroom)** = This is a yearlong Middle School Advisory Course with NO GRADE. The content for the course is developed by each school using the guiding practices provided by Curriculum and Instruction Support.

**Computer Apps 1** = This yearlong course is designed to emphasize digital life, use business productivity applications, and explore career opportunities in the Business, Marketing, and Management and Communication and Information Systems Career Fields. Students will continue to develop efficient keyboarding skills and production skills. Students will learn to create, compose, edit, and format word processing documents; organize data in a spreadsheet; and prepare digital presentations. An introduction to basic principles in digital media and computer science will be included.

# 6th Grade Course Guide



## Required Courses

**English Language Arts (ELA)**—This yearlong course supports student mastery of sixth grade language arts standards and focuses on development and application of skills in grade level reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacies. Students will read a variety of literary and informational texts and write in a variety of modes using numerous tools and organizational frameworks. Students will also learn appropriate and safe use of digital tools related to research.

**Physical Education (PE)**— This yearlong course is designed to include a wide variety of sporting activities and teach the qualities of sportsmanship, competition and fitness. It includes learning the rules and regulations for the major sports of volleyball, wrestling, basketball, soccer, and track and field events. Students also participate in a variety of leisure and lifetime activities including badminton, aerobics and more. Students must wear appropriate attire for physical education courses (tennis shoes, T-shirts, sweats or shorts, etc.). Although the physical education locker rooms have showers available for students use; students are not required to shower for class.

# 6th Grade Course Guide



## Required Courses

**Math 6=** This yearlong course covers the 6th grade mathematics content standards. Students will work with integers, fractions, decimals, and percents, study metric and standard systems of measurement, apply properties of geometry, use data analysis, and solve problems involving multiple-step equations.

**Advanced Math 6=** Advanced Math 6 is a yearlong course that takes a deeper dive into the content standards from Grade 6 with a focus on critical and creative thinking. Students are encouraged to participate in extended math activities such as math contests and clubs. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

# 6th Grade Course Guide



## Required Courses

**Science 6=** A yearlong class that engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include Earth's systems, weather and climate, energy, structure and function and information processing, growth, development, and reproduction of organisms.

**Social Studies 6=** This yearlong course examines the ancient world by studying Western Europe, Egypt, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America. Special attention is given to geography, history, economics, culture and the government in these regions.

# 6th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Creative and Social Studies Electives

**Art 6=** This semester course examines artists' world views. Ideas include Art theories; Artists create art from multiple perspectives of time, place and culture revealing aesthetic theories; Artistic forms follow function throughout time; Critical processes identify aesthetic theories; and Art reflects the values and beliefs of a civilization/society. Students will play the role of artist, philosopher, historian, and archeologist to explore world art throughout time.

**Music Tech 1=** This semester course is the perfect blend of technology and music. Students will be introduced to the skills needed in DJ'ing, Creating Sound Effects and Scores for Movies, Controlling Live Sound for Big Events, Creating their OWN music, Studio Recording & Sampling, and Preparing the best audio recording for Podcasting, Demos and Auditions.

**Anthropology=** This semester course will focus on projects based on Ancient Civilizations through Medieval Civilizations. This course will integrate the following content standards throughout the school year: maps/globes, culture, history and geography, economics, citizenship, and government. This course will integrate electronic media and communication skills in its content.

# 6th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Music Electives

**Band 6**= This yearlong course is a band ensemble for sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument. Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skill in playing their instrument of choice. A method book is used as the lesson guide. Performances will be required. Prerequisite: one-year previous instruction.

**Beginning Band**= This yearlong course is offered to students who have demonstrated an aptitude for and interest in instrumental music. Beginning instrumental technique and appropriate musical understandings are introduced through "method" studies and selected band arrangements. Students will need to secure their own instruments so that home practice is possible. Changeover instruments may be provided by the school district. Performance may be included as an extension of classroom activities.

# 6th Grade Course Guide



## Elective Courses

### Music Electives

**Beginning Strings**= This year long course is offered to middle school students who have demonstrated an interest in learning to play a string instrument. Appropriate method studies are selected to introduce basic string technique and musical understandings. Instruments included are violin, viola, cello and string bass. Students studying violin will need to secure their own instrument. Violas, cellos and string basses may be furnished by the School District. Performances outside the school day may be required.

**Strings 6**= This yearlong course is the string ensemble for sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on violin, viola, cello or string bass. Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skill in playing their instrument of choice. A method book is used as the lesson guide. Performances will be required. Prerequisite: two years previous instruction (5th grade).

**Chorus 6**= In this yearlong course sixth grade students will continue to develop their skill for reading and singing two and three-part octavo music. This emphasis is on vocal ensemble performance. There will be required performances.

# 6th Grade Course Guide



## Elective Courses

### Teacher Recommended Electives

**Academic Language Study**= This yearlong course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence. Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

**ESL Transitions**= This is a yearlong course. This course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence. Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

# 6th Grade Course Guide



## Elective Courses

### Teacher Recommended Electives

**ESL A=** This yearlong course is offered daily and worth 2 credits due to double seat time. This course is designed for the beginning ESL student. The focus of this course will be to develop basic communication skills, a beginning English language vocabulary, and a primary understanding of grammatical structures. This course is typically for a first-year English language learner.

**ESL B=** This yearlong course is designed for the early intermediate ESL student. The focus of this course will be to continue the development of basic communication skills, English language vocabulary, and more advanced grammatical structures. This course is typically for a second-year English language learner.

# 6th Grade Course Guide



## Elective Courses

### Teacher Recommended Electives

**ESL Reading A**= This yearlong course offers students learning English as a second language beginning reading instruction in English.

**ESL Reading B**= This yearlong course is designed for intermediate ESL students who need additional help to improve their reading skills. Emphasis is on developing fluency, summarizing and sequencing events in a reading passage, recognizing cause and effect, and using systematic strategies to locate information from textbooks, charts, graphs, and tables which may be used in mainstream classes.

# 6th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**Honors Special Project (GATE)**= This yearlong course offers a wide variety of experiences that align with gifted and talented programming standards. Learning opportunities meet grade level objectives in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry, cultural proficiency, metacognition and affective skills. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**Reading Skills 6**= This yearlong blended course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience difficulty comprehending grade-level material, as well as students who need support with foundational literacy skills. Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

# 6th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Technology and Lifestyle Electives

**Robotics** = Exploring Robotics 6 is a semester long course and an introduction to robotics, engineering, programming, problem solving, and team dynamics.

**Lifetime Fitness 6**=This semester course is designed to help the student understand and apply the concepts and skills of fitness activities while understanding the importance of conditioning and exercise. These courses will concentrate on improving the strength, endurance, and knowledge of fitness concepts. This will be accomplished through instruction of the skills and concepts of fitness.

**Tech and Living 6**=This introductory semester course is a unique exploratory course for students. Students are provided an opportunity to investigate a number of activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory. Pairs of students work cooperatively through a seven-day Technology and Living Unit. Students independently choose from areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), clothing, structures, foods, lasers, housing, electricity/electronics, consumerism, robotics, childcare, research and design, and family.

# 7th Grade Course Guide



## Required Courses

Advisory (homeroom)

Design 7

### **English Language Arts (ELA)**

- Honors ELA

### **Math**

- Advanced Math

### **Physical Education (PE)**

### **Science**

- Honors Science

### **Social Studies**

## **Elective Courses**

### Music Electives

Chorus, Intermediate Band, Intermediate Strings, Jazz Band

### Social Studies and PE Electives

Service Learning and Lifetime Fitness 7

### Teacher Recommended Electives

Academic Vocabulary, ESL A and B, ESL Reading A and B, ESL Transitions, Honors Special Project, JAG, Reading and Swing Choir

### Technology and Creative Electives

Computer Science, Exploring Business, Art 7, Drama

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## **Required Courses**



**Advisory (homeroom) 7**= This is a yearlong Middle School Advisory Course with NO GRADE. The content for the course is developed by each school using the guiding practices provided by Curriculum and Instruction Support.

**Design 7**= During this yearlong class, students will develop knowledge and skills in design elements and principles. Students will learn advanced skills in utilizing software for design. The course will focus on planning, creating, editing, and presenting ideas through various mediums to communicate information to multiple audiences.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Required Courses



**English Language Arts (ELA) 7**=This yearlong course supports student mastery of seventh grade standards and focuses on developing and applying students' knowledge in language, literature, and composition and on developing students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacy as appropriate for this grade level. Students will write descriptive, narrative, literary, expository, persuasive, and technical pieces for various purposes and audiences using a variety of tools and strategies.

**Honors ELA 7**=This yearlong course is the same as Language Arts 7, with even greater emphasis placed on the in-depth study of selected topics and works, additional composition alternatives, and critical and creative thinking development opportunities. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Required Courses



**Math 7=** This yearlong course covers the content standards for Seventh Grade Math. Students will perform operations with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and integers, solve proportions and percent problems, convert measurements within systems, use plane geometry, and solve equations and real-life problems.

**Advanced Math 7=** This yearlong course combines the major and most important work of the content standards from Grade 7 and Grade 8 in an accelerated manner so that students can be prepared for the option of taking Algebra the following year. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Required Courses



**Science 7=** Science 7 is a yearlong course that engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems, Earth's systems, and history of Earth.

**Honors Science 7=** Honors Science 7 is a yearlong course that engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems, Earth's systems, history of Earth, heredity, and natural selection and adaptations. This course provides a foundation for other science courses. Students enrolled in honor courses have additional experiences that require a more rigorous program of study. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Required Courses



**Physical Education (PE) 7=** This yearlong course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing.

**Social Studies 7=** This yearlong course examines the world we live in by studying Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe. Special attention is given to the geography, history, economics, civics, and elements of culture within the regions studied. The course guides students in exploring the connection between historical developments and contemporary global issues. Students will have multiple opportunities to use geographic concepts and processes, develop economic reasoning, examine specific historical ideas, beliefs, and themes, and analyze how individuals and societies have changed over time to expand their understanding of the Eastern Hemisphere.

# 7th Grade Course Guide



## Elective Courses

### Music Electives

**Chorus 7=** Chorus 7 is a yearlong course and available to seventh grade students who have special interests and abilities in choral singing. Vocal skills are introduced through appropriate unison, two and three-part singing. Musical independence is encouraged through increasing emphasis on musical notation. Performance opportunities are an extension of the classroom experience.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Music Electives

**Intermediate Band**=This yearlong course is offered to seventh grade students who began instrumental music instruction in their respective elementary schools or for eighth grade students who began instrumental music in seventh grade beginning band. Instrumental technique and musical understanding focus on the second volume of standard instrumental studies and appropriate band arrangements. Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities.

**Intermediate Strings**=This yearlong course is offered to seventh and eighth grade students who have successfully completed several years study. Instrumental technique and musical understandings focus on standard string method studies and appropriate string orchestra selections. The instrumentation includes violin, viola, cello and string bass. Students with previous instrumental experience may begin changeover instruction on the low string instruments. Performance may be included as an extension of classroom activities.

**Jazz Band** =This yearlong course is a middle school instrumental ensemble comprised of advanced instrumental students. Various jazz rudiments and improvisation techniques are introduced through a variety of jazz and popular styles of music. Membership is by audition.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Social Studies Electives and PE Elective

**Service Learning** = This semester course is a hands-on study of the practice and intent of service learning and the integration of community service. Students will spend one semester actively developing, planning, implementing, and evaluating service-learning experience. Principals of civic engagement will be added to provide students with a well-rounded learning experience. Teachers are advised to have attended the UNO Service-Learning Academy or received training in service learning or project-based learning.

**Lifetime Fitness 7** = This semester course is designed to help the student understand and apply the concepts and skills of fitness activities while understanding the importance of conditioning and exercise. These courses will concentrate on improving the strength, endurance, and knowledge of fitness concepts. This will be accomplished through instruction of the skills and concepts of fitness.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**Academic Language Study**= This yearlong course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence. Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

**ESL Transitions**= This is a yearlong course. This course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence. Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**ESL A=** This yearlong course is offered daily and worth 2 credits due to double seat time. This course is designed for the beginning ESL student. The focus of this course will be to develop basic communication skills, a beginning English language vocabulary, and a primary understanding of grammatical structures. This course is typically for a first-year English language learner.

**ESL B=** This yearlong course is designed for the early intermediate ESL student. The focus of this course will be to continue the development of basic communication skills, English language vocabulary, and more advanced grammatical structures. This course is typically for a second-year English language learner.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**ESL Reading A=** This yearlong course offers students learning English as a second language beginning reading instruction in English.

**ESL Reading B=** This yearlong course is designed for intermediate ESL students who need additional help to improve their reading skills. Emphasis is on developing fluency, summarizing and sequencing events in a reading passage, recognizing cause and effect, and using systematic strategies to locate information from textbooks, charts, graphs, and tables which may be used in mainstream classes.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**Honors Special Project 7=** This yearlong course offers a wide variety of experiences that align with gifted and talented programming standards. Learning opportunities meet grade level objectives in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry, cultural proficiency, metacognition and affective skills. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**JAG 7=** Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a yearlong graduation enhancement program/course focusing on personal and career development and future readiness. The class will participate in a variety of classroom activities, assignments, exploration, guest speakers, mentorship, and guidance. Each member will become part of a student leadership organization and have several opportunities to further unlock and enhance their potential. This is the middle-level experience/course that students would be enrolled into prior to high school. This course may be used for consecutive years and credits for the same student; students may repeat the course multiple times for middle school credit.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**Reading 7=** This yearlong blended course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience difficulty comprehending grade-level material, as well as students who need support with foundational literacy skills. Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**Swing Choir=** This yearlong choral/dance ensemble usually consists of approximately 20 singers who are selected by audition. One of the primary functions of this group is to serve as “ambassadors” for the school. Choreographed routines and frequent performance and competitions often require time outside of school must be a student consideration for enrollment.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Technology and Creative Electives

**Computer Science**= This semester course will explore the basics of computer science and how computing powers the world. Concepts will include career opportunities in Computer Science as well as computer science terminology and concepts. Students will develop skills in creative and collaborative problem-solving while being introduced to various programming languages.

**Exploring Business**= This semester course is designed to give an overview of the Business, Marketing, and Management Career Field. Students will develop basic business knowledge and skills in marketing, management, finance, and economics. Units of study also include: The Business Community of Omaha, Written and Oral Communications, Introduction to Business Contract, Career Opportunities and Student Organizations –Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA). This course may utilize discussion activities, guest speakers, simulated job experiences, hands-on activities and business- related field trips.

# 7th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Technology and Creative Electives

**Art 7=** Throughout this semester course, students will experience a wide variety of artistic materials and examine the artistic communication and expression of identity by several artists, past and present. Aesthetic theories of Expressionism and Imitationalism will also be studied in depth. As they do so, they will be creating their own artwork about personal identity.

**Drama 7=** This semester elective provides an introduction to the fundamentals of dramatic performance and production for middle school students. Students will participate in a variety of experiences including, but not limited to, effective mime techniques, voice and diction improvement, acting techniques, theatre criticism, playwriting, improvisation, stage terminology, set design, and the use of technology in theatre.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Required Courses

Advisory (homeroom)

College and Careers

### **English Language Arts (ELA)**

- Honors ELA

Foreign Language

- French
- Spanish
- Spanish for Spanish Speakers

### **Math**

- Honors Algebra

Physical Education (PE)

### **Science**

- Honors Physical Science

### **Social Studies**



## **Elective Courses**

### Computer and PE Electives

Design and Lifetime Fitness

### Creative Electives

Art 8, Pottery, and Tech and Living

### Music Electives

Advance Band, Advanced Strings, Chorus and Jazz Band

### Teacher Recommended Electives

Academic Vocabulary, ESL Reading A and B, Honors Special Project, JAG, Reading and Swing Choir

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Required Courses



**Advisory (homeroom) 8**=This is a yearlong Middle School Advisory Course with NO GRADE. The content for the course is developed by each school using the guiding practices provided by Curriculum and Instruction Support.

**College and Careers 8**=During this yearlong class, students will continue to explore careers using the Nebraska Career Education Model. A focus will be to make connections between personal aptitudes and interests to specific Career Fields and Clusters. Students will have opportunities to practice and develop skills in the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards of Practice. Students will draw from class learning, skill development and activities to begin a Personal Learning Plan to transition into high school with a broad career cluster focus.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## **Required Courses**



**English Language Arts (ELA) 8**=This yearlong course supports student mastery of eighth grade standards and focuses on developing and applying students' knowledge in language, literature, and composition and on developing students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacy as appropriate for this grade level. Students will write descriptive, narrative, literary, expository, persuasive, and technical pieces for various purposes and audiences using a variety of tools and strategies.

**Honors ELA 8**=This yearlong course is the same as Language Arts 8, with even greater emphasis placed on the in-depth study of selected topics and works, additional composition alternatives, and critical and creative thinking development opportunities. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Required Courses



### Foreign Language

**French**=This yearlong course stresses interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal communication abilities to develop survival skills in the French language. Students become aware of the personal and economic opportunities that knowing a second language will bring them and how that knowledge will enable them to function better both in the United States and globally. They also begin to develop an awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with the French language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world.

**Spanish**=This yearlong course stresses interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal communication abilities to develop survival skills in the Spanish language. Students become aware of the personal and economic opportunities that knowing a second language will bring them and how that knowledge will enable them to function better both in the United States and globally. They also begin to develop an awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with the Spanish language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world.

**Spanish for Spanish Speakers**=This yearlong course is designed **for students who speak Spanish fluently** but have difficulty reading and writing the language. Most of these students feel more comfortable reading and writing in English. Students will develop basic Spanish literacy skills along with gaining a deeper knowledge of the culture, history, and literature of the Spanish language. The course is taught in Spanish.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Required Courses



**Math 8**=This yearlong course provides experiences that include practice in numeration, computation, estimation, problem solving, geometry/special concepts and measurement. It introduces algebraic and statistical concepts and provides opportunities for students to develop understanding of the structure of mathematics as outlined in the Nebraska State Standards for 8th grade. This is the first semester course of grade level mathematics for eighth graders.

**Honors Algebra**=This yearlong course covers traditional algebra topics including operations with signed numbers and polynomials, solving first-and second-degree equations, verbal problems, systems of linear equations, graphing and writing linear equations and inequalities, and simplifying exponential expressions. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## **Required Courses**



**Physical Education (PE) 8**=This yearlong course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing.

**Social Studies 8**=This yearlong course explores the ideas, issues, and events from the adoption of the United States Constitution to the Gilded Age. Instruction is organized around the themes of geography, history, economics, and civics. Students investigate key people, events, ideas, and cultures of our country using historical thinking and primary and secondary sources.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Required Courses



**Science 8=** This yearlong course engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include forces and interactions, waves and electromagnetic radiation, energy, heredity: inheritance and variation of traits, biological evolution, space systems, and history of Earth. This course provides the foundations for other science coursework

**Honors Physical Science 8=** Honors Physical Science Grade 8 is a yearlong course that engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science. The topics include forces and interactions, waves and electromagnetic radiation, structure and properties of matter, energy, chemical reactions, space systems, weather and climate, and Earth's systems. This course provides a foundation for other science courses and meets the district requirement for Physical Science. Students enrolled in honor courses have additional experiences that require a more rigorous program of study. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Computer and PE Electives

**Design 8**= This semester course will continue to develop knowledge and skills in design elements and principles. Students will learn advanced skills in utilizing software for design. The course will focus on planning, creating, editing, and presenting ideas through various mediums to communicate information to multiple audiences.

**Lifetime Fitness**= This semester course is designed to help the student understand and apply the concepts and skills of fitness activities while understanding the importance of conditioning and exercise. These courses will concentrate on improving the strength, endurance, and knowledge of fitness concepts. This will be accomplished through instruction of the skills and concepts of fitness.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Creative Electives

**Art 8=** This semester course allows students to be innovative and reflect on their own experiences as many American artists have and do today. American artists were and are on the forefront of shaping America's identity through recording the human experience in innovative ways. Throughout this course, students will continue to develop their artistic voice and style and explore how they do and will play a part in society. Students will examine art and artists throughout American history focusing on America's diversity and influence. Aesthetic theories of Instrumentalism, Expressionism and Formalism will be studied as well.

**Pottery=** This semester course is an introduction for students to learn basic skills in hand building techniques with clay. Students will study the history of ceramics throughout the world and learn about the relationship between form and function in ceramic art. Students will learn and use art vocabulary when discussing and writing about ceramic art created by others and themselves. Students will participate in regular aesthetic, historical and critical discussions about ceramic art.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Creative Electives

Tech and Living 8 This semester course is a unique exploratory course for 8th students. A blend of innovative units from both the Industrial Technology and Family and Consumer Science curriculum are taught by staff from either discipline. Students are provided an opportunity to investigate a number of activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory. Pairs of students work cooperatively through a seven-day Technology and Living Unit. Students independently choose from areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), clothing, structures, foods, lasers, housing, electricity/electronics, consumerism, robotics, childcare, research and design, and family.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Music Electives

**Advance Band**=This yearlong course is offered to students with advanced abilities secured through several years of instrumental music participation. Music introduced includes technique studies and selected concert music with full instrumentation appropriate to the classes and ability. Membership is achieved by the recommendation of the instructor. Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities.

**Advanced Strings**=This yearlong course is offered to students who have demonstrated advanced ability in playing a string instrument. Technique studies and selected concert music advance both technical and musical understandings. The instrumentation includes violin, viola, cello and string bass. Membership is achieved by the recommendation of the instructor or successful completion of Intermediate Strings. Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities outside of the school day.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Music Electives

**Chorus 8**= This yearlong course is available to eighth grade students who have special interests and abilities in choral singing. Choral music is introduced in two and three parts that include bass clef participation. Vocal emphasis is placed on the introduction of the male changing voice and greater extension of all voice ranges. Performance opportunities including the All City Music Festival are an extension of the classroom experience.

**Jazz Band**= This yearlong course is a middle school instrumental ensemble comprised of advanced instrumental students. Various jazz rudiments and improvisation techniques are introduced through a variety of jazz and popular styles of music. Membership is by audition.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**Academic Language Study**=This yearlong course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide-range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence. Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

**ESL Transitions**=This is a yearlong course. This course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide-range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence. Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**ESL A**=This yearlong course is offered daily and worth 2 credits due to double seat time. This course is designed for the beginning ESL student. The focus of this course will be to develop basic communication skills, a beginning English language vocabulary, and a primary understanding of grammatical structures. This course is typically for a first-year English language learner.

**ESL B**=This yearlong course is designed for the early intermediate ESL student. The focus of this course will be to continue the development of basic communication skills, English language vocabulary, and more advanced grammatical structures. This course is typically for a second-year English language learner.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**ESL Reading A**= This yearlong course offers students learning English as a second language beginning reading instruction in English.

**ESL Reading B**= This yearlong course is designed for intermediate ESL students who need additional help to improve their reading skills. Emphasis is on developing fluency, summarizing and sequencing events in a reading passage, recognizing cause and effect, and using systematic strategies to locate information from textbooks, charts, graphs, and tables which may be used in mainstream classes.

# 8th Grade Course Guide



## Elective Courses

### Teacher Recommended Electives

**Honors Special Project 8=** This yearlong course offers a wide variety of experiences that align with gifted and talented programming standards. Learning opportunities meet grade level objectives in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry, cultural proficiency, metacognition and affective skills. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**JAG 8=** Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a yearlong graduation enhancement program/course focusing on personal and career development and future readiness. The class will participate in a variety of classroom activities, assignments, exploration, guest speakers, mentorship, and guidance. Each member will become part of a student leadership organization and have several opportunities to further unlock and enhance their potential. This is the middle-level experience/course that students would be enrolled into prior to high school. This course may be used for consecutive years and credits for the same student; students may repeat the course multiple times for middle school credit.

# 8th Grade Course Guide

## Elective Courses



### Teacher Recommended Electives

**Reading**= This blended yearlong course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience difficulty comprehending grade-level material, as well as students who need support with foundational literacy skills. Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed. Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes. Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**Swing Choir**= This yearlong choral/dance ensemble usually consists of approximately 20 singers who are selected by audition. One of the primary functions of this group is to serve as “ambassadors” for the school. Choreographed routines and frequent performance and competitions often require time outside of school must be a student consideration for enrollment.