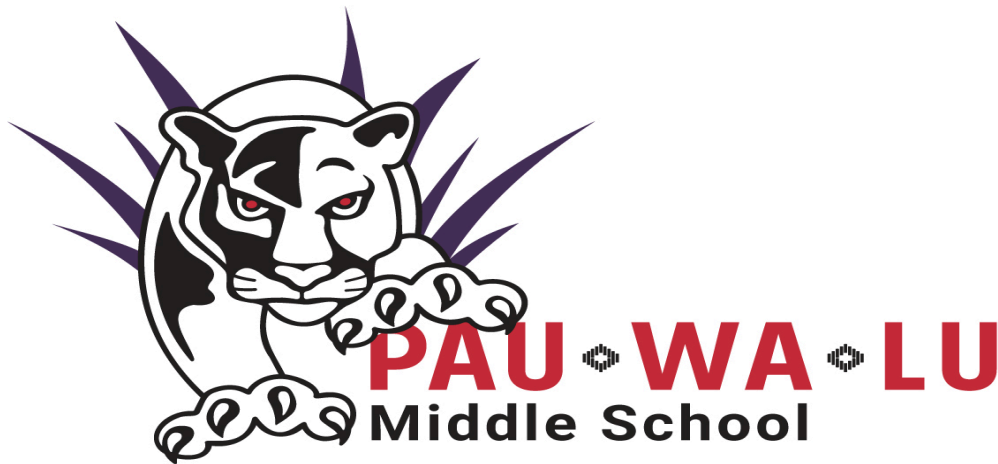


# PAU-WA-LU Middle School

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Catalog

2026–2027



## HOME OF THE PANTHERS

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### Welcome to Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School!

The purpose of the course catalog is to inform parents and students about the academic courses offered at Pau-Wa-Lu. The catalog provides information on what each course entails, how (and if) courses apply to high school graduation requirements, as well as the length and credit weight of each of those courses. It is intended that students and parents review this catalog together and make informed decisions about their course selections. School counselors are also available on campus to advise students and parents. Please feel free to contact them if you need assistance during the registration process. The middle school years are truly a unique period. Students are undergoing rapid and profound developmental changes during this time. Middle schools have the challenge of addressing both the educational and social needs of young adolescents. Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School and the Douglas County School District embrace this challenge in meeting the needs of all of our students.

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Program of Study

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All 7th Graders at Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School are required to take the following core courses:

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. Social Studies
5. PE (Sem) \* *does not apply to all*
6. Elective(s) 1 Credit
7. Advisory

Elective Choices as follows for a total of 1.5 Credits:

- **Option A:** choose THREE (3) separate semester electives
- **Option B:** choose ONE (1) semester elective and ONE (1) year-long elective
- **Option C:** choose TWO (2) year-long electives *\*(will not be required to take PE)*

## CORE Classes

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These are required classes

| ENGLISH 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Credits: 1.0 / YEAR |
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| This course combines the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The content will review basic skills and teach new skills in the areas of literature, grammar and writing. Application of acquired skills will happen through such topics as genre, narrative competencies, making predictions and inferences, and the mechanics of grammar using the middle school adopted curriculum of SAVVAS. |                     |

| MATH 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Credits: 1.0 / YEAR |
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| In Math 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples. |                     |

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| <b>ACCELERATED MATH 7</b><br><b>Prerequisite: District Approval</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Credits: 1.0 / YEAR</b>     |
| <p>A screening process is in place and used as an entry tool into this accelerated math course. The screening process occurs at the end of the 6th-grade year. A series of data points to include the previous standardized math scores, a 6th-grade math end-of-course exam, and a 6th-grade teacher recommendation work together to generate a singular score. If the score is above the assigned cut score, students may participate in this Accelerated Mathematics 7 class. The curriculum in this class is made up of the entire year's worth of seventh-grade math state standards plus half of the 8th grade math state standards. Successful completion of this Accelerated Mathematics 7 course will allow for the movement into an Accelerated Math 8 course the following year.</p> |                                |
| <b>SCIENCE 7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Credits: 1.0 / YEAR</b>     |
| <p>This one-year course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, cross-cutting concepts, and core ideas from the life sciences, Earth and space science, and physical sciences. The topics covered in science 7 include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, matter and energy in ecosystems, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, Earth's systems, history of the Earth, and human impact.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                |
| <b>SOCIAL STUDIES 7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Credits: 1.0 / YEAR</b>     |
| <p>This course takes students on a tour of the Eastern Hemisphere. Physical geography, social issues, world religions, and various cultures are just a few of the topics explored in Social Studies 7. For each region being studied, students get a close-up look at the traditions, customs, struggles, and physical geography that affect the people of the Eastern Hemisphere. Social Studies focuses on the following five themes: Region, Location, Movement, Place, and Human Environment Interaction throughout the year.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                |
| <b>PE 7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER</b> |
| <p>Girls and Boys Physical Education: This class is designed to give a well-rounded Physical Education program that includes physical conditioning and participation in a variety of sports. Students gain knowledge of each sport and improve the necessary skills for success. Teamwork is of major importance – playing together with healthy competition.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                |

# Full YEAR Electives

These electives are both semesters

## CHORUS 7/8

**Credits: 1.0 / YEAR**

This class is open to anyone in 7th and 8th grade. No experience is necessary. If you enjoy singing, this is the class for you. This class will teach you how to read rhythms and how to sight sing music. All students will do several performances throughout the year. These events may include out of town festivals, solo and ensemble festivals, and a minimum of 3 evening concerts. 7th and 8th grade choir students are eligible to travel to Disneyland or Universal Studios!

## ADVANCED BAND

**Credits: 1.0 / YEAR**

Advanced band is for our most advanced instrumentalists! This class is open to 7th and 8th grade students that have been playing their instruments for 1-2 years. Current advanced band students and students that have passed the audition will be eligible. School instruments are limited. Most students will need to provide their own instrument. All students will be required to do several performances throughout the year. These events may include out of town festivals, and a minimum of 3 evening concerts. Advanced band students are strongly encouraged to audition for Honor Band and All State Band. It is possible to do band and participate in after school sports. 7th and 8th grade band students are eligible to travel to Disneyland or Universal Studios!

## INTERMEDIATE BAND

**Credits: 1.0 / YEAR**

Intermediate band is for 6th and 7th grade band students that have successfully completed beginning band! School instruments are limited. Most students will need to provide their own instrument. All students will be required to do several performances throughout the year. These events may include out of town festivals, and a minimum of 3 evening concerts. It is possible to do band and participate in after school sports. 6th grade band students enjoy a yearly trip to six flags, and 7th grade band students are eligible to travel to Disneyland or Universal Studios!

## DRAMA 7/8

**Credits: 1.0 / YEAR**

Drama is an exploration of dramatic literature and theater practice. This class is an introduction to the acting and theater production process, with a focus on collaboration. Students perform in several plays and scenes, audition for roles, and learn various productions aspects of theater. Students will also learn how to build a character, how to use their voices on stage, how to create costumes, sets, and props, and how to use effective stage movement and design. Teacher- and student-led theater games will build community and leadership skills. Students will be encouraged to use improvisation, creativity, and to use critical thinking to solve problems. Drama will build skills in speaking and listening, as well as expose students to a variety of classic literature.

| <b>YEARBOOK/GREEN SCREEN</b><br><b><u>Application Required</u></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Credits: 1.0 / YEAR</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <p>Join the team that reports on campus life and helps preserve memories for years to come: YEARBOOK. This year-long class will feel more like a business as you learn these skills: photography, layout, word processing, bookkeeping, and much more. The yearbook will be created in this class from conception of the theme, creating the physical book, and a fun distribution at the end of the year. Be prepared for hard work and lots of fun as you see your completed work in print!</p> <p>Green Screen Technology is an innovative course where students will dive into multimedia and green screen production. Students will learn the fundamentals of setting up and utilizing green screens, operating green screen equipment effectively, ensuring seamless integration of virtual and dynamic backgrounds, and commercial development into their video productions. Students will also learn skills including scriptwriting, voice modulation, enhanced public speaking, and audio editing techniques. Strategies for delivering engaging presentations while utilizing virtual backgrounds to captivate and inform an audience will be a primary focus. This class provides hands-on experience of developing and producing a school-wide production that will create a sense of community throughout the school and provide valuable information for students and staff.</p> |                            |

## SEMESTER Electives

**These classes are half a year each (or one semester)**

| <b>ART 7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER</b> |
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| <p>Seventh-grade art is an exploration into the elements of art. Elements of art are the basic framework for analyzing and creating original works. Students will practice these elements in a variety of mediums including but not limited to: pencil, pen, colored pencil, marker, paper art, salt dough, and paint. The majority of the class is hands-on project-based learning, meaning students will be creating their own works of art to display their knowledge of the elements of art.</p> |                                |

| <b>COMPUTER SCIENCE 7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER</b> |
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| <p>Computer Science 7 is an introductory computer science class that predominantly uses the Code.org CS Discoveries curriculum to meet the Nevada CS standards. The course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem-solving, and fun. The course inspires students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices</p> |                                |

| <b>FOOD &amp; NUTRITION 7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <p>What's cooking? ... Learn to prepare foods from appetizers to dessert. Plan and prepare quick and simple meals around breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Holiday foods are a special favorite of this class. This elective is designed to enhance students' basic kitchen skills and enhance their knowledge of food safety, recipe basics, and nutrition.</p> |                                |

| <b>LEADERSHIP 7</b><br><b>Prerequisite: Turned in Application</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <p>Join Student Leadership! Panther Leadership is a 7th and 8th-grade combination class, which takes on 10 7th graders each semester. is responsible for creating and organizing programs and activities that promote a fun, inclusive environment at PWLMS, including dances, fundraisers, and community activities. Because this is an application-based class, students are expected to uphold academic and behavioral standards. To sign up for the class, you must also fill out an application with the Leadership teacher. If you are someone who would enjoy an exciting, fun class that works to make a positive difference in your school, Leadership could be a good fit for you!</p> |                                |

| <b>GAMES, ACTIVITIES, AND PUZZLES 7</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <p>Do you like playing games, solving puzzles, and making things? Then this class is for you! Students will engage their creative, problem-solving skills to participate in games and to solve a wide range of puzzles. Also, students will improve their critical thinking skills by physically creating their own games or puzzles.</p> |                                |

| <b>PAES LAB 7/8</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <p>PAES stands for Practical Assessment Exploration System. This class offers students hands-on experiences across various career-related tasks, fostering confidence, practical skills, and career exploration. PAES operates in a simulated work environment where students become employees and teachers act as supervisors. Strict procedures are followed to provide students with real work experiences, allowing them to learn and explore new vocational areas. The PAES Lab has a focus on hydroponics with students participating in the Student Led Giant Farmers Market.</p> |                                |

**PLTW: DESIGN & MODELING****Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER**

Design and Modeling is a science, technology, engineering, and math course (STEM). Students apply the design process, solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students work into teams to solve a variety of build challenges that have application in the real world. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual 3D image of their designs to showcase their innovative solutions. Students also have the opportunity to 3D print one or more of their designs. The course is intended for students capable of a challenging curriculum and will serve as a springboard for the STEM program at Douglas High School.

*\*\*Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway sparks a joy of discovery through courses that are academically challenging with an emphasis on science and engineering.*

**PLTW: GREEN ARCHITECTURE****Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER**

Design a house out of a shipping container? Learn how creative thinking and problem-solving can change your world! Today's students have grown up in an age of "green" choices. In this unit, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

*\*\*Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway sparks a joy of discovery through courses that are academically challenging with an emphasis on science and engineering.*

**TECH HELP DESK  
(LIBRARY ASSISTANT)**[Application Required](#)**Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER**

This hands-on course covers the fundamentals of Information Technology, including computer design, maintenance, and repair. The Technology Help Desk provides technical support to students and staff in the Library Media Center. This is a hands-on class where students will be able to troubleshoot using tools and diagnostics and complete repairs of technology devices. This course can help prepare you for involvement with Douglas High School's Technology Team and possibly a future career in Information Technology!

