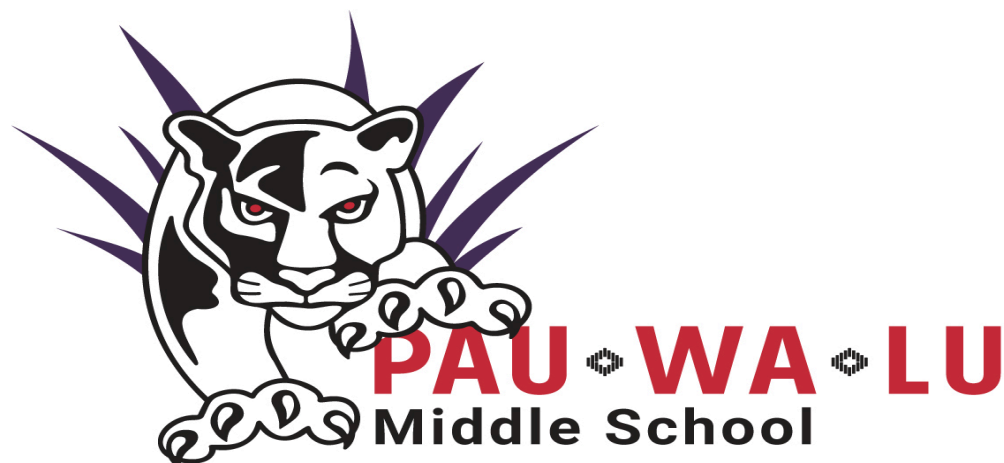


PAU-WA-LU Middle School

8th Grade Course Catalog

2026–2027



HOME OF THE PANTHERS

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.

8th Grade Program of Study

All 8th Graders at Pau-Wa-Lu Middle School are required to take the following core courses:

1. English
2. Math
3. Science
4. U.S. History
5. Advisory
6. PE (semester) **does not apply to all*

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 Courses

These are required classes

ENGLISH 8	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR
Students in this class will meet the Nevada State Standards for English Language Arts in reading, writing, language, and communication. They will analyze classic and contemporary works of literature and nonfiction. Students will acquire vocabulary and practice grammar and usage skills in the context of their writing and reading. Writing assignments will include expository, persuasive, narrative, and research modes. 8th-grade students will use SAVVAS, the adopted curriculum for middle school English courses.	

MATH 8	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR
In Math 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: 1. formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; 2. grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; 3. analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.	

ACCELERATED MATH 8 Prerequisite: Accelerated Math 7	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR
This course combines elements of algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability in a setting that encourages creative and critical thinking, group cooperation, and the development of problem-solving skills. The fundamental purpose of Accelerated Math 8 is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. This class uses properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades.	
Full Year – 1 High School credit (Upon successful completion transcript will reflect Math I)	

SCIENCE 8	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR
This activity and lab-based science class for eighth-grade integrates science and engineering practices, cross-cutting concepts, and core ideas from the life sciences, Earth and space science, and physical sciences while meeting the Nevada State Science Standards. Topics covered include genetics, natural selection, evolution, astronomy, gravity, waves, motion, and forces. Students will use scientific skills, tools, and processes to build an understanding of structures, patterns, and relationships observed in science concepts. Critical thinking, collaboration, accuracy, and communication skills will be emphasized as students work towards scientific literacy.	

U.S. HISTORY 8	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR
This course will begin with discovery, colonialism, the American Revolution, the Constitutional Convention, Westward expansion, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students will understand concepts, patterns, and interdependent relationships that shape our increasingly diverse world. Use of technology will be utilized throughout the year. Internet resources will be used to promote critical thinking.	

PE 8	Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER
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.	

Full Year Electives

These electives are both Semesters (1.0 credits)

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!	

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!	

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.	

SPANISH 1	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR
This one-year course is designed to acquaint students with the basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish within a limited scope. It provides practice in correct use of basic language structures and develops an appreciation of the customs and traditions of Spanish-speaking people. This is done in part by viewing slides, videos, hearing lectures, and reading in English and eventually the native language about the countries. Regular attendance and daily student practice outside the classroom are necessary for success in this course. This is a high school course that may earn high school credit with a grade of C or better.	
Full Year – 1 High School credit (Upon successful completion transcript will reflect Spanish I)	

STUDENT LEADERSHIP Prerequisite: Turned in Application	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR
Join Student Leadership! Panther Leadership 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.	

YEARBOOK/GREEN SCREEN Application Required	Credits: 1.0 / YEAR
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! 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 in 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.	

SEMESTER Electives

These classes are half a year each (0.5 credits; one semester)

FOOD & NUTRITION 8	Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER
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.	

INTRO TO CERAMICS	Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER
Do you like to work with your hands? Don't mind getting your hands dirty? Did you like to create with Play-Doh when you were a kid? If you answered "yes," this course is for you! Work with clay and create projects that will last a lifetime using traditional hand-building pottery techniques. You will learn slab, coil, pinch, and modeling techniques in order to create one-of-a-kind pieces to give friends and family or keep for yourself. These pieces will be made using kiln-fired clay and glazes. An introduction to wheel-thrown pottery will also be involved in the course.	

PAES LAB 7/8	Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER
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.	

PLTW: DESIGN & MODELING	Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER
Design and Modeling is a science, technology, engineering, and math course (STEM). Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students work in 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. **CANNOT TAKE IF TAKEN IN 7th GRADE <i>**Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway sparks a joy of discovery through courses that are academically challenging with an emphasis on science and engineering.</i>	

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. **CANNOT TAKE IF TAKEN IN 7th GRADE <i>**Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway sparks a joy of discovery through courses that are academically challenging with an emphasis on science and engineering.</i>	

SPORTS MEDICINE**Credits: 0.5 / SEMESTER**

This is a semester class for students interested in a possible career in the medical or sports fields. This course introduces students to concepts of exercise science and physiology, nutrition, and other human body related material. The course also prepares students who are interested in a Health Science related career in which advanced training and a college degree is necessary.

**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!

