San Benito Consolidated Independent School District

Middle School Course Catalog

2024-2025

Alfredo Perez
Acting Superintendent of Schools

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Board Approved 12/13/2023

San Benito Consolidated Independent School District

Middle School Campuses

Berta Cabaza Middle School (BCMS)
(956) 361-6600

GO Academy (GA)
(956) 361-6140

Miller Jordan Middle School (MJMS)
(956) 361-6650

Riverside Middle School (RSMS)
(956) 361-6940

Collegiate Academy (CA)

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Vision, Mission and Core Values

The **mission** of the San Benito CISD is to provide a premier education for all students, through a positive and safe learning environment, so that its graduates are college, career, military, and workforce ready.

The **vision** of the San Benito CISD is to be the gold standard in all areas of public education.

Core Values Statement

San Benito CISD **believes** that:

- **All students** can and will learn;
- **All teachers** can teach;
- High expectations for all **encourage excellence**;
- Resources to **support students**' needs must be provided;
- **Excellence** in teaching and learning is vital;
- **All students** will be supported to pursue their passion upon graduation;
- **Respect** for all individuals is essential; and
- A community with **shared ownership**, **purpose**, and **commitment** work well together.

GO Hounds!

Course Catalog Committee 2024-2025

Committee Members

- Nneka McGee, Chief Academic Officer
- Amy Rodriguez, Director of Secondary Instructional Implementation
- Larissa Rivas-Leal, Director of Special Services
- Fernando Rosa, Director of CTE
- Eddie Errisuriz, Director of Counseling
- Jessica Aguilar, School Counselor
- Monica Anaya, School Counselor
- Lorena Garcia, School Counselor
- Berenice Garza, School Counselor
- Nora Jalomo-Cortez, School Counselor
- Lilia Leal, School Counselor
- Linda Ramos, School Counselor

Reviewers Included:
Middle School Principals, Deans and School Counselors

Suggested Course Sequence

These are the recommended sequences for courses in the four core areas based on the student's level of ability and performance. These course sequences are only suggested; a student is not locked into a sequence once it starts. For example, a student may take Math 7 or Math 7 Honors in the seventh grade, then Math 8, or Algebra I in 8th grade. In most cases, students may not select a sequence of courses which would result in a loss of grade-level instruction in a content area.

Content Area	Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
ELAR	ELAR 6 ELAR 6/7 Honors	ELAR 7 ELAR 8 Honors	ELAR 8 English I +
Math	Math 6 Math 6/7 Honors	Math 7 Math 7/8 Honors	Math 8 Algebra I+
Social Studies	Social Studies 6 Social Studies 6 Honors	Social Studies 7 Social Studies 7 Honors	Social Studies 8 Social Studies 8 Honors
Science	Science 6 Science 6/7 Honors	Science 7 Science 8 Honors	Science 8 Biology +
Fine Arts	Fine Arts, Theatre Arts, Band, Conjunto, Guitar, Orchestra or Choir	Art, Theatre Arts, Band, Conjunto, Guitar, Orchestra or Choir	Art, Theatre Arts, Band, Conjunto, Guitar, Orchestra or Choir
Required Electives	Leadworthy PE/Health	PE/Health or Athletics	College & Career Exploration ♦
Optional Electives	Listed on next page by campus and grade level	Listed on next page by campus and grade level	Listed on next page by campus and grade level
Intervention	Listed on next page by campus and grade level	Listed on next page by campus and grade level	Listed on next page by campus and grade level
Academic Advisory	Intervention or Enrichment	Intervention or Enrichment	Intervention or Enrichment

***** *See Honors Pathway Considerations to view the sequence and requirements for entering the pathway.*

+ *Denotes High School credit class* ♦ *Denotes CTE Course*

Elective Listing by Campus

Note: *Not all campuses offer all courses for all grade levels*

\+ *Denotes High School credit class* ♦ *Denotes CTE Course* ***** *Denotes Intervention*

Elective	Gd	HS Credit	BCMS	CA	GA	MJMS	RSMS
Apps Creator	6			sem			
Art I	7, 8		sem	yr	yr	sem	yr
Art II	7, 8		sem	yr	yr	sem	yr
Athletics/Health	7, 8		yr	yr		yr	yr
Band *(Beginning, Concert, Symphonic, Wind Ensemble)*	6, 7, 8		yr	yr		yr	yr
Choir *(Beginning, JV, Varsity)*	6, 7, 8		yr	yr		yr	yr
Business Information Management (BIM) I+ ♦	8	**1.0**	yr			yr	yr
College and Career Explorations ♦	8		sem	sem	sem	sem	sem
Commercial Photography + ♦	8	**1.0**	yr			yr	yr
Conjunto	6, 7, 8		yr			yr	yr
Design and Modeling	6			sem			
Digital Media + ♦	7	**1.0**	yr	yr		yr	yr
Exploratory Languages (ESL)*	6, 7, 8		yr			yr	yr
Fine Arts	6		sem	yr	sem	sem	sem
Guitar	6, 7, 8		yr			yr	yr
Intro to Audio/Visual	6, 7, 8		sem			sem	sem
Leadworthy	6		sem			sem	sem
Military Science	6, 7, 8		sem/yr			sem/yr	sem/yr
Orchestra	6, 7, 8		yr			yr	yr
Pre-Vocational *	6, 7, 8		yr			yr	

+ *Denotes High School credit class* ♦ *Denotes CTE Course* ***** *Denotes Intervention*

Elective	Gd	HS Credit	BCMS	CA	GA	MJMS	RSMS
PE/Health	6, 7, 8		yr	yr	yr	yr	yr
Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications + ♦	8	**1.0**	yr	yr		yr	yr
Professional Communications/Speech + ♦	8	**0.5**	sem			sem	sem
Robotics	6					sem	
RISE Math *	6, 7		sem			sem	sem
RISE Reading *	6, 7		sem			sem	sem
Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)*	6, 7, 8		yr			yr	yr
Social Skills (PASS)	6, 7, 8					yr	
Spanish +	7, 8	**1.0**	yr	yr	yr	yr	yr
Theatre Arts	6, 7, 8		sem				
Technology Applications	6			yr			
Virtual Business + ♦	7, 8	**0.5**	sem			sem	sem

+ *Denotes High School credit class* ♦ *Denotes CTE Course* ***** *Denotes Intervention*

Honors Courses Considerations

San Benito CISD supports any student who wants to accept the challenges of an advanced class. However, the opportunity to be in Honors classes carries with it certain assumptions about the capabilities and maturity of students who will be doing advanced work. Students are expected to take these courses to gain a deeper understanding of the more rigorous Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Honors courses are designed to prepare students for high school Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Students are expected:

1. To be independent learners, willing to read, learn, ask questions, pursue outside reading and research, integrate and discuss material from diverse sources.
2. To spend, on average, approximately five hours per week studying for each Honors class.
3. To have proficient oral and written communication skills.
4. To be self-disciplined to plan, organize, and carry out tasks to completion.
5. To openly accept assignments, suggestions, and coaching from the teacher.
6. To accept that enrollment in an Honors course does not guarantee an A or B grade.
7. To thoughtfully select their course load.

Honors Entry Guidelines

San Benito CISD does not have requirements to enter Honors courses. A student must maintain a grade of 70 or above to remain in Honors classes. San Benito CISD recognizes the value of student participation in advanced coursework and encourages students to graduate from high school with at least one advanced academic course credit such as Advanced Placement or dual credit. To this end, San Benito CISD has an inclusive enrollment model for Honors courses that provides support systems for student success. Students are encouraged to access the most rigorous curriculum in which they can be successful, generally defined as earning a 70 or better semester average.

Honors courses are designed to challenge students beyond grade-level academic courses and prepare them for success in future advanced level coursework. Information provided by student performance in related courses, and teacher input are important elements for parents and students to consider in selecting advanced coursework. Students may require additional encouragement and support to be successful in these courses.

Students who participate in Honors must:

- Demonstrate mastery on course-related state mandated performance assessments including STAAR.
- Recognize the long-term benefits of participation
- Seek for assistance when needed
- Be committed to staying in the course for a minimum of one semester.

NOTE: Due to the curricular differences between academic courses and Honors and for the benefit of students, entry into an Honors course from an academic course is discouraged after the beginning of each semester. It is recommended that students enter Honors courses at the beginning of the course, typically within the first week of instruction. Exceptions must have principal approval.

Honors Exit Guidelines

Exit processes are in place to assist students in making sound course selection decisions. Students and parents must be aware that, depending on the timeline, grades earned in an Honors course follow the student to the on-level academic course. These grades will be included in calculating the academic course grade and may impact UIL eligibility. Consult with the school counselor for more detailed information.

It is expected that students seek assistance when needed to be successful in the course and remain in the Honors course for at least one full semester.

Students wanting to exit an Honors course must meet the following criteria: conference with the teacher and completion of course assignments and/or attendance at recommended tutorials. To exit an Honors course parent permission is required. Granting the petition is based on input from the teacher, student performance in the course, availability of space in other courses and the timing of the request. Students experiencing success (able to maintain a "C" or better SEMESTER average) in the course should remain in the course for the semester. Contact the counselor for more information about documenting these requirements.

Students who earn a "69" or below at the end of an academic school year will be removed from the class(es) unless otherwise recommended by the teacher and the administrator.

Honors Pathway Considerations

ELAR

6th Grade	7th Grade Honors	8th Grade
6th ELAR Honors	8th ELAR Honors	English I

Considerations: Masters on 5th Grade Reading STAAR; Top 20% of cohort; Must have a minimum of an 85 average in ELAR; In lieu of STAAR, 87% in 5th grade Reading Benchmark.

Math

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
6th Math Honors	7th Math Honors	Algebra I Honors

Considerations: Masters on 5th Grade Math STAAR; maintained a minimum of an 85 average in 5th grade math class; Top 40% of their cohort (students eligible must meet at least 2 of the qualifying criteria)

Science

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
6th Grade Honors	8th Science Honors	Biology

Considerations: Masters on 5th Grade Science STAAR; Top 20% of cohort; >87% average on Grade 5 District Assessments

* Students must maintain an 80 in Honors courses.
* The teacher will contact the parents of students whose grades fall below 80 for any 3-week grading period and the student will be placed on probation. If a student has a grade below 80 for two consecutive 3 week marking periods, they will be removed from the accelerated Honors course and placed in the appropriate grade level course.

High School Courses available at the Middle School

The middle schools also offer selected courses for high school credit. A school counselor will assist students and parents in choosing appropriate courses. Teachers may also make recommendations to parents to move students into courses.

Below are the courses offered:

CORE CLASSES	ELECTIVES	
Algebra I	Business Information Management I (BIM)	Principles of Arts, Aud/Vid Tech Comm
Biology	Commercial Photography	Professional Communications
English I	Digital Media	Spanish
		Virtual Business

All high school courses taken in middle school will be recorded on the students' transcript, but grades will **not** be used to determine a students' overall high school grade point average (GPA).

In Spring 2012, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) became the new state standardized assessment. The STAAR program includes annual assessments in the following grades and subjects for middle school.

- Reading, Grades 6th-8th
- Mathematics, Grades 6th-8th
- Science, Grade 8
- Social Studies, Grade 8

Students taking **Algebra I, Biology** and/or **English I** will take the **STAAR End of Course** (EOC) exam.

Credit by Examination (CBE) without Prior Instruction

Secondary students (grades 6-12) may place out of courses or gain credit if they have had no prior instruction in the courses for which credit is sought by taking a Credit by Examination. Students are required to have written permission and gain approval.

A minimum score of 80 on the exam is required for credit to be earned. For two-semester courses, each semester exam must be 80 or greater. If credit is awarded, then exam scores are recorded on the student's transcript. CBE scores for high school credit courses will not be calculated in the student's Grade Point Average.

Contact your School Counselor for more information or to receive an application.

CATALOG OF COURSES

English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR)

ELAR 6
TEA:03200510
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* English Language Arts and Reading Grade 5
Course Description: Along with developing research and language skills, students are able to select and use different forms of writing. Students vary sentence structure and use more complex punctuation such as hyphens, semicolons, and possessives. Students edit their writing based on their knowledge of grammar and usage, spelling, and punctuation to produce final error-free pieces of written composition.

Emphasis on vocabulary, listening skills, reading rate and the reading/writing connection is an ongoing part of the program. Strong attention is given to increasing both the ability and the desire to read. Students study fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama.

ELAR 6/7 Honors
TEA:03200510 & 03200520
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* English Language Arts and Reading Grade 5
Course Description: Honors English and Language Arts students are expected to apply previously learned skills in increasingly more complex presentations and written compositions. Along with developing research techniques and language assessment skills, students select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes such as to inform, persuade, or entertain. To support the reading/writing connection, students write to analyze and interpret literary works on a regular basis, some of which will include in-class, timed writings. A more intense emphasis on grammar aids this analysis.

Emphasis on vocabulary, listening skills, reading rate and the reading/writing connection is an ongoing part of the program. Strong attention is given to increasing both the ability and the desire to read. Students study fiction, nonfiction, poetry and drama.

This course is a combination of **ELAR 6 Honors** AND **ELAR 7 Honors**. The Fall will comprise of ELAR 6 Honors and the Spring will encompass the ELAR 7 Honors class. Students will take the 7th grade Reading STAAR exam at the end of this course. Please see the course description for ELAR 6 Honors and ELAR 7 Honors.

ELAR 7
TEA:03200520
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* English Language Arts and Reading Grade 6
Course Description: Along with developing research and language skills, students select and use different forms of writing. Students vary sentence structure and appropriately use verb tenses such as present, past, future, and progressive. Students edit their writing based on their knowledge of grammar usage, spelling, and punctuation to produce final error-free pieces of written composition.

ELAR 8

TEA:03200530
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* English Language Arts and Reading Grade 7
Course Description: Previously learned skills are refined and extended as students continue to read widely in classic and contemporary texts. Students edit their writing based on their knowledge of grammar and usage, spelling and punctuation, applying these skills to various forms of writing to produce final, error-free pieces of written composition. Eighth grade students present oral and written reports, including presentations strengthened by visuals and media.

ELAR 8 Honors

TEA:03200530
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* English Language Arts and Reading Grades 6 & 7
Course Description: Emphasis on developing critical reading comprehension skills/strategies is an ongoing component of Honors ELAR. Language, grammar and vocabulary skills are reviewed with an emphasis on usage. Students focus on writing fluency, form and correctness for a variety of audiences and purposes. Strong attention is given to writing, using sophisticated elaboration techniques in revision and editing. Topics include vocabulary development and a variety of research skills and techniques using informational text to develop higher level thinking skills. Students are required to study 5-7 major works during the school year.

English I

TEA:03220100
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* ELAR Grade 8 Honors
Course Description: Students will work independently and within a learning community to critically analyze a variety of literary genres including fiction, drama, poetry, and literary non-fiction, with informational and persuasive writing. Students will use their understanding of literary elements to make thematic connections within a diverse and complex selection of texts. Students will articulate increasingly insightful ideas effectively utilizing more sophisticated and appropriate formats. A variety of research techniques will be taught to facilitate independent investigation of concepts and ideas. Vocabulary acquisition strategies leading to increasing comprehension of more complicated texts will be instilled.

Students will take the English I End of Course (EOC) exam at the end of this course.

Mathematics (Math)

Math 6
TEA:02820000
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Mathematics Grade 5
Course Description: The primary focal points of 6th grade math include using operations with integers and positive rational numbers to solve problems, understanding and applying ratios and rates and using equivalent ratios to represent proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to represent relationships, and understanding data representation.

Math 6/7 - Honors
TEA:02820000
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Mathematics Grade 5
Course Description: This course focuses on elements of sixth grade and a portion of seventh grade mathematics in order to accelerate student preparation for Algebra 1 in the eighth grade.

Math 7
TEA:03103000
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Mathematics Grade 6
Course Description: The primary focal points for 7th grade math include developing fluency with rational numbers and operations to solve problems, representing and applying proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to describe relationships in a variety of contexts, and comparing sets of data. Students will also be asked to use verbal and written explanations to communicate thinking.

Math 7/8 - Honors
TEA: 03103100
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Mathematics Grade 6 Honors or recommendation and approval
Course Description: This course focuses on a portion of seventh grade and eighth grade mathematics in order to accelerate student preparation for Algebra 1 in the eighth grade. Curriculum differentiation will occur in part through the utilization of student processing skills in creation of mathematical models.

Math 8
TEA:03103100
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Mathematics Grade 7
Course Description: The primary focal points for 8th grade math include representing, applying, and analyzing proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to describe relationships—including the Pythagorean Theorem, and making inferences from data. Problem solving will be incorporated throughout all concepts.

Algebra I

TEA:03100500
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Mathematics Grade 67/8 Honors or Mathematics Grade 8
Course Description: This course emphasizes the study of linear functions. Students use functions to represent and model problem situations and to analyze and interpret relationships. Topics include graphing, solving equations and inequalities and systems of linear equations. Quadratic and nonlinear functions are introduced. Students who successfully complete Algebra I in eighth grade are awarded one high school credit.

Students will take the Algebra End of Course (EOC) exam at the end of this course.

Science

Science 6

TEA:03060600
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Science Grade 5
Course Description: This process-oriented science course involves students in a thematic study of the world around them. Small group and individual laboratory experiments will be utilized for in-depth integrated study addressing life, Earth, and the physical sciences. Topics will include energy resources, force, motion and energy, elements and compounds, organization of the solar system, the role of gravity in the solar system, space exploration, interdependence between organisms and their environments, and the levels of organization within ecosystems.

Science 6/7 Honors

TEA:03060600 & 03060700
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Science Grade 5
Course Description: This course is for students who are highly motivated and interested in science. The class is an accelerated academic class that covers the same objectives as sixth grade science in more depth and complexity. Students will be expected to complete more self-directed and independent projects than in a regular sixth grade science class. Honors courses are available to academically ready students willing to be challenged with rigorous content. This course will require additional work and/or reading for successful course completion. In addition, advanced critical thinking and problem-solving skills will be developed with a group or individual project presented in a competitive public forum such as a science fair.

This course is a combination of **Science 6 Honors** AND **Science 7 Honors**. The Fall will comprise of Science 6 Honors and the Spring will encompass the Science 7 Honors class.

Science 7

TEA:03060700
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Science Grade 6
Course Description: This laboratory-oriented course allows students to become actively involved in scientific processes and provides them with the opportunity to use technology as a tool and resource for learning about the world around them. Science 7 is a thematic interdisciplinary approach to life sciences. Students will understand the relationships that exist between organisms and their environment through the understanding of Earth science and physical science disciplines. Topics will include characteristics of Earth that allow life to exist, force, motion and energy observed in living systems, matter and energy as it relates to living systems, structure and functions of cells and human body systems, heredity, and ecosystems.

Science 8

TEA:03060800
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Science Grade 7
Course Description: General Science 8 is a laboratory-oriented course that continues the interdisciplinary approach to the life, Earth, and physical science disciplines begun in Science 6 and 7. Heavy emphasis will be placed on science processes and the relationship of fundamental science concepts to our daily lives. Technology will be utilized to explore the following topics: matter and energy, force, motion and energy, cycles within Sun, Earth, and Moon systems, characteristics of the universe, interactions between organisms in ecosystems, and the impact of man on the Earth.

Science 8 Honors

TEA:03060800
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Science Grade 7 Honors
Course Description: Science 8 Honors is for students who are highly motivated and interested in science. The class is an accelerated academic class that covers the same objectives as eighth grade science in more depth and complexity. Students will be expected to complete more self-directed independent projects than in a regular eighth grade science class. Students will be expected to participate in the school Science Fair. Honors courses are available to academically ready students willing to be challenged with rigorous content. This course will require additional work and/or reading for successful course completion.

Biology

TEA:03010200
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Science Grade 8 Honors
Course Description: This course of study includes field and laboratory investigations, scientific inquiry, problem solving, technology applications, force and motion, interaction in matter and energy as explored through solar, weather, and ocean systems, energy and the environment, geologic processes, and earth systems. Students will experience the work of real science in applying, handling data, analyzing information, evaluating results, and learning to communicate their understanding to others.

Students will take the Biology End of Course (EOC) exam at the end of this course.

Social Studies

Social Studies 6

TEA:02660060
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* Social Studies Grade 5
Course Description: This course develops an understanding of selected contemporary world cultures and significant people and events that have shaped them. Students apply geographic, historical, economic, political and technological concepts with current events as an important theme.

Social Studies 6 Honors

TEA:02660060
2 Semesters
Prerequisite: Social Studies Grade 5
Course Description: This course includes the topics studied in sixth grade social studies; however, students are expected to achieve a greater depth of understanding through thoughtful discussion and reading. The level of instruction/ curriculum will focus on preparing the student for advanced placement courses.

Social Studies 7

TEA:03343000
2 Semesters
Prerequisite: Social Studies 6
Course Description: Seventh grade social studies surveys major events in Texas history with an emphasis on the development of Texas as a republic and a state. Important themes include the unique heritage of Texas and its environment and geography. Economic development and the governmental structure of the modern state are studied.

Social Studies 7 Honors

TEA:03343000
2 Semesters
Prerequisite: Social Studies 6 Honors
Course Description: This course includes the study of Texas history prior to European colonization to modern day statehood, using geographic, economic, historical and political concepts. Students study the eras of Texas and its people through advanced readings and enrichment activities that develop critical thinking. The level of instruction/curriculum will focus on preparing the student for advanced placement courses**.**

Social Studies 8

TEA:03343100
2 Semesters
Prerequisite: Social Studies 7
Course Description: This course focuses on the history of the United States from colonization to 1877. The emphasis is on the political, social, and economic events that shaped the present country. The course includes the development of the government of the United States and the Constitution as well as citizenship.

Social Studies 8 Honors

TEA:03343100
2 Semesters
Prerequisite: Social Studies 7 Honors
Course Description: This course covers the topics studied in eighth grade social studies with an emphasis on the social, political and economic events that shaped the present country. Study is enriched by advanced readings and activities to develop critical thinking. This course also includes the development of the government and the Constitution. Students are expected to achieve a greater depth of understanding through thoughtful discussion and reading. The level of instruction/curriculum will focus on preparing the student for advanced placement courses.

Career & Technical Education (CTE)

Business Information Management I (BIM)

TEA:13011400
Grade Level: 8
Credit: 1 (High School Credit)
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: In Business Information Management I, students implement personal and interpersonal skills to strengthen individual performance in the workplace and in society and make a successful transition to the workforce and postsecondary education. Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies, create word-processing documents, develop a spreadsheet, formulate a database, and make an electronic presentation using appropriate software.

College & Career Readiness

TEA:12700300
Grade Level: 8
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: In this one-semester course, the student will research labor marketing information, learn job-seeking skills and create documents required for employment. The students will take a career survey through Xello. The ninth grade counselors will present information on HB 5 and the Foundation Graduation Plan.

Commercial Photography I

TEA:13009100
Grade Level: 8
Credit: 1 (High School Credit)
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: In addition to developing knowledge and skills needed for success in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Career Cluster, students will be expected to develop an understanding of the commercial photography industry with a focus on creating quality photographs.

Digital Media Credit

TEA:13027800
Grade Level: 7
Credit: 1 (High School Credit)
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: Arts, A/V Technology & Communication Career Cluster Occupations involved in this pathway design, produce, exhibit, perform, write, and publish multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services. These may include: video graphics, special effects, and animation, film and video editors, audio systems technician, audio/visual technicians, reporters, radio and TV announcers, photographers, interior designers, and telecommunication equipment and repair.

Principles of Arts, Audio Video Technology Communication

TEA:13008200
Grade Level: 8
Credit: 1 (High School Credit)
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: Arts, A/V Technology & Communication Career Cluster Occupations involved in this pathway design, produce, exhibit, perform, write, and publish multimedia content including visual and performing arts and design, journalism, and entertainment services. These may include: video graphics, special effects, and animation, film and video editors, audio systems technician, audio/visual technicians, reporters, radio and TV announcers, photographers, interior designers, and telecommunication equipment and repair.

Professional Communications (Speech)

TEA:13009900
Grade Level: 8
Credit: 0.5 (High School Credit)
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: Professional Communications blends written, oral, and graphic communication in a career-based environment. Careers in the global economy require individuals to be creative and have a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong and solid academic foundation, and a proficiency in professional oral and written communication. Within this context, students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research.

Virtual Business

TEA:13012000
Grade Level: 8
Credit: .5 (High School Credit)
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: Virtual Business is designed for students to start a virtual business by creating a web presence, conducting online and off-line marketing, examining contracts appropriate for an online business, and demonstrating project-management skills. Students will also demonstrate bookkeeping skills for a virtual business, maintain business records, and understand legal issues associated with a virtual business.

Fine Arts

Fine Art

TEA:03154110
Grade Level: 6
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: This course is an introduction to the study of visual arts. Students design original work using a variety of art materials and tools as they employ drawing, painting, three- dimensional and mixed media processes. Participation in local and regional art exhibits is part of the visual experience of the program.

Art 1

TEA:03154210
Grade Level: 7-8
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: This course extends the learning of basic elements of art and principles of design, art history and art appreciation. Students design, develop and create art using a variety of media.

Art 2

TEA:03154310
Grade Level: 7-8
***Prerequisite**:* Art 1
Course Description: The students study the visual arts, including painting, sculpture and architecture. Related problems in drawing and design allow creative application and extension of art materials and tools. Participation in regional and local exhibitions is part of the visual experience of the program.

Theatre Arts1

TEA:03154140 (6th); 03154240 (7th/8th)
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: This course includes an introduction to and development of expression, acting skills, theatre production and the history and appreciation of theatrical events.

Theatre Arts 2

TEA:03154240
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**:* Theatre Arts 1
Course Description: These performance-based courses develop the student's expression and acting skills with an emphasis on theatre production and the history and application of theatrical events.

Beginning Band 1

TEA:03154130 (6th); 03154230 (7th)
Grade Level: 6,7
***Prerequisite**: The cost of the instrument to rent or buy.*
Course Description: Beginning band emphasizes developing fundamentals of wind and percussion instrumental music. Students listen to a variety of instrumental musical styles as they learn basic elements of music including rhythm, pitch and music symbols. Students receive small group instruction organized by the instruments they play. Concerts and music contests are a part of the band program. Band students are required to furnish their own musical instruments or may obtain a San Benito CISD provided instrument.

Symphonic, Concert, Wind Ensemble

TEA:03154330 Symphonic & Wind Ensemble 7; 03154230 Concert & Wind Ensemble 7
Grade Level: 7-8
***Prerequisite**: The cost of the instrument to rent or buy.*
Course Description: These performance-based courses build on fundamental techniques and skills. The band plays a variety of music and presents several concerts during the year including participation in UIL music evaluations. Band members have the opportunity to participate in regional band and solo contest. Music fundamentals are refined and expanded through preparation for these performances. The music played is varied and ranges from classical to popular. Band students are required to purchase. Band requires an extracurricular component, including participation in after school hours and weekend activities.

Orchestra 1

TEA:03154132
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**: None*
Course Description: Beginning orchestra emphasizes developing fundamentals of string instrumental music. Students listen to a variety of string musical styles as they learn basic elements of music including rhythm, pitch and music symbols. Beginning concerts and music contests are a part of the orchestra program. Orchestra students are required to furnish their own musical instruments or may obtain a San Benito CISD-provided instrument.

Orchestra 2

TEA:03154232
Grade Level: 7-8
***Prerequisite**: Orchestra 1*
Course Description: These performance-based courses build on fundamental techniques and skills. The orchestra plays a variety of music and presents several concerts during the year including participation in UIL music evaluations. Orchestra members have the opportunity to participate in regional orchestra and solo contests. Music fundamentals are refined and expanded through preparation for these performances. The music played is varied and ranges from classical to popular. Orchestra students are required to furnish their own musical instruments or may obtain a San Benito CISD-provided instrument. Orchestra requires an extracurricular component, including participation in after school hours and weekend activities.

Choir 6

TEA:03154131
Grade Level: 6
***Prerequisite**: None*
Course Description: The first-year choir program serves as an introduction to the performance of choral music with an emphasis on proper vocal technique. Basic elements of music reading are introduced including rhythm, pitch and music symbols. Concerts and music contests are a part of the choir program.

JV Choir

Varsity Choir

TEA:03154331
Grade Level: 7-8
***Prerequisite**: Recommendation by Choir Teacher*
Course Description: These performance-based courses build on fundamental techniques and skills. The choir sings a variety of music and presents several concerts during the year including participation in UIL music evaluations. Choir members have the opportunity to participate in Region Choir and Solo Contest. The music sung is varied and ranges from classical to popular. Several concerts are presented throughout the year. Choir requires an extracurricular component, including participation in after school hours and weekend activities.

Conjunto

TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**: None*
Course Description: The students will learn about the culture of this area. They will learn to play different instruments such as accordion, drums, bajo sexto. Concerts are part of their program.

Guitar

TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**: None*
Course Description: The students will learn the fundamental skills for guitar playing. Concerts are part of the program.

Intervention

Exploratory Languages (ESL)

TEA:03210530 (6th); 03200400 (7th); 03200500 (8th)
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: This class is designed to increase the listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English for English Learners. The course utilizes a variety of techniques including listening, reading, and writing centers; software programs; and literacy groups. Students are selected for this class based on state assessment, TELPAS, and other academic data.

RISE Reading

TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**: Students who are not successful on the state reading assessment, score below the district criteria, or who need additional reading instruction.*
Course Description: Provides additional instruction and individualized support for students in the study of reading. Intense preparation to meet the state assessment standards is an integral part of this course. This course is for students who have low scores in the Reading section or low grades.

RISE Math
TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**: Students who are not successful on the state math assessment, score below the district criteria, or who need additional math instruction.*
Course Description: Provides additional instruction and individualized support for students in the study of mathematics. Intense preparation to meet the state assessment standards is an integral part of this course. This course is for students who have low scores in the mathematics section or low grades.

Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

Spanish
TEA:03440100
Grade Level: 8
Credit: 1 (High School Credit)
2 Semesters
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: This course is an introduction to the Spanish language, grammar, and Hispanic cultures while developing the skills in listening and reading comprehension, speaking, and writing. The main goal for this course is for students to progress toward a novice-high level ability in using Spanish in school and in the community. Studies of Hispanic culture and history are introduced.

Leadership

Leadworthy
TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 6
***Prerequisite**: None*
Course Description: This course provides opportunities to enhance a positive self-image through developing a stronger sense of self-esteem and self-confidence. In addition, emphasis will be placed throughout the course on identifying community needs and ways to meet those needs utilizing reading, math, and science skills.

Military Science (LOTC)

Military Science 1
TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**: None*
Course Description: This is a semester course. It is a leadership program designed to give middle school students a head start. It develops self-discipline, self-confidence, and leadership skills to help one successfully meet life's challenges. It promotes the mental, moral, and physical development of its members. This program focuses on character building, leadership and promotes a healthy drug-free life.

Military Science 2
TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 7-8
***Prerequisite**: Military Science 1*
Course Description: This course continues the instruction in leadership, self-discipline, and self-confidence. The course is all year.

Military Science 3
TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 8
***Prerequisite**: Military Science 2*
Course Description: This course is for Military Science 2 cadets who were a cut above the rest of their class. There are only 4 slots per class. To be eligible for this class each cadet must have successfully completed Military Science 1 & 2 and will have to apply and interview for this class

Physical Education

Athletics/Health
TEA:03823000
Grade Level: 7-8
***Prerequisite**: Annual Physical Examination*
Course Description: Students enrolled in middle school athletics during the school day receive physical education credit for successful participation and completion in any sport activity during that semester. All San Benito CISD sports adhere to the guidelines of the UIL Constitution and Contest Rules. Each participant must be in compliance with all UIL guidelines throughout the entire school year and/or sports season. Each participant, regardless of size or skill level, has the opportunity to learn fundamental and advanced skills essential to successful participation in a competitive sport activity. Instructional techniques stress individual and team performance-related activities that are coordinated with each high school program.

Physical Education/Health
TEA:02850000 (6th); 03823000 (7th/8th)
Grade Level: 6-8
***Prerequisite**: Purchase PE uniform*
Course Description: These courses encourage interest in physical fitness while developing the student's appreciation of the skills, knowledge, technique and sportsmanship of lifetime and individual sports as a participant and as a spectator. Daily curriculum encourages students to work toward achieving a basic level of fitness and wellness and a beginning or intermediate level of skill in each sport or activity. Knowledge that supports lifetime fitness and wellness is the primary goal in each course.The student comprehends ways to enhance and maintain personal health throughout his/her life span.

Special Education

Pre-Vocational

TEA:SE000001
Grade Level: 6,7,8
***Prerequisite**: ARD Decision*
Course Description: Prevocational class is designed to meet the diverse needs of students with mild cognitive deficits and moderate to significant deficits in both academic and adaptive behavior that adversely affects the student's educational performance despite the use of intense, research-based interventions, supports and services. Student acquisition of employability skills is a developmental process that encompasses an individual's entire lifetime. The primary focus of this class is to provide instruction and training in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for pre-employment, job sampling, self-help and independent living skills. Academically, students access and participate in a modified version of the seventh and eighth grade-level Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in the fields of science and social studies as outlined in an individual IEP facilitated by experiential, differentiated instruction.

Specially Designed Instruction (SDI)

TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 6,7,8
***Prerequisite**: ARD Decision*
Course Description: Specially designed instruction is outlined in the IEP and provides teachers with specificity regarding the changes to the content, methodology and delivery of instruction that result from their disability. The provision of specially designed instruction in the least restrictive environment is to ensure a student with a disability is able to access the general education curriculum and meet the same standards that apply to all students. The specially designed instruction is what will be implemented in order to help the student achieve those goals. To emphasize the importance, specially designed instruction is the special education service(s) the student needs, supplemental to general education, because of the disability.

Social Skills (Positive Approach to Student Success - PASS)

TEA:03200510 (6th); 03200520 (7th); 03200530 (8th)
Grade Level: 6,7,8
***Prerequisite**: ARD Decision*
Course Description: Social skills class is for students with a disability who require services primarily in the areas of social or emotional skills development or functional behavior. Students will learn how to navigate social interactions in school, home and in their community. The primary goal is for students to be successful in communication, enhance self-awareness, and navigate through the social world both in and out of the classroom atmosphere.

Technology

App Creators (AC)

TEA: Local Credit
Grade Level: 6
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: Introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as to other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. The unit provides students opportunities for self-expression. Teams identify a personal or community problem of interest to them that can be solved with a mobile app solution. The problem can address issues such as health and wellness, the environment, school culture, emergency preparedness, education, community service—the options are endless!

Design and Modeling

TEA: Local Credit
Grade Level: 6
***Prerequisite**:* None
Course Description: Students design a toy or game, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize their design solution.

Robotics

TEA: Local Course
Grade Level: 6
***Prerequisite**: None*
Course Description: Robotics is a lab-based course that uses a hands-on approach to introduce the basic concepts of robotics, focusing on the construction and programming of autonomous mobile robots. Course information will be tied to lab experiments; students will work in groups to build and test increasingly more complex mobile robots.

In this course, students will: 1. Explore the broad scope of robotic applications 2. Learn the basic components and building blocks of robots 3. Develop the robot construction skills 4. Learn to program the robots 5. Program autonomous mobile robots to achieve challenging tasks.

Graduation Program Overview

GRADUATION PLANS	Distinguished Level of Achievement High School Plan	Foundation High School Plan plus ONE or more Endorsements	Foundation High School Program
English Language Arts	**4 credits** (English I, II, III and IV)	**4 credits** (English I, II, III and IV)	**4 credits** (English I, II, III and IV)
Mathematics	**4 credits** (Algebra I, Geometry, and two additional Math credits with one being Algebra 2)	**4 credits** (Algebra I, Geometry, and two additional Math credits)	**3 credits** (Algebra I, Geometry, and one additional Math credit)
Science	**4 credits** (Biology; IPC, Chemistry or Physics; and two additional Science credits)	**4 credits** (Biology; IPC, Chemistry or Physics; and two additional Science credits)	**3 credits** (Biology; IPC, Chemistry or Physics; and a third Science)
Social Studies	**3 credits** (World Geography or World History; US History; Government (1/2); Economics (1/2)	**3 credits** (World Geography or World History; US History; Government (1/2); Economics (1/2)	**3 credits** (World Geography or World History; US History; Government (1/2); Economics (1/2)
Languages other than English (LOTE)	**2 credits** (in the same language)	**2 credits** (in the same language)	**2 credits** (in the same language)
Fine Arts	**1 credit**	**1 credit**	**1 credit**
Physical Education	**1 credit**	**1 credit**	**1 credit**
Speech	**0.5 credit**	**0.5 credit**	**0.5 credit**
Electives	**5 credits**	**5 credits**	**5 credits**
Endorsement	**4 Credits** *(must complete at least one endorsement)*	**4 Credits** *(must complete at least one endorsement)*	None Required *
Total Credits	**26 Credits**	**26 Credits**	**22 Credits**
Assessment Mastery	**End of Course Exams**: Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II & US History	**End of Course Exams**: Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II & US History	**End of Course Exams**: Algebra I, Biology, English I, English II & US History
Freshman < 6.0 credits	**Sophomore** 6.0 - 12.5	**Junior** 13.0 - 19.5	**Senior** 20 +

* Must sign an Opt-Out form and it must be approved by Administration.

Endorsement Graduation Plan Overview

This section of the Course Guide is designed to provide you with information about the Texas Foundation Endorsement Graduation Plan which affects the Class of 2018 and beyond. The purpose of the plan is to provide students greater flexibility and choice in the selection of courses that will best prepare them for their individual postsecondary goals. Employers and leaders in the Texas workforce have encouraged career-oriented training and certification at the high school level to help meet their growing demands.

All **eighth graders** will be **required** to choose **one** of five endorsements as outlined in the graduation plan. The five endorsement areas are:

1. **Arts and Humanities**
    a. Fine Arts
    b. World Languages
    c. Cultural Studies
    d. English Literature

2. **Business and Industry**
    a. Agriculture, Food and natural resources
    b. Architecture and construction
    c. Art, Audio/Video tech and communication
    d. Business, Marketing and finance
    e. Manufacturing
    f. Hospitality and tourism
    g. Information and technology

3. **Multidisciplinary Studies**
    a. Choose from any endorsement

4. **Public Services**
    a. Human service
    b. Education and training
    c. Law and Public Service
    d. Health Science

5. **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**
    a. Science, Technology, Mathematics and Engineering
    b. Programming and Software Development