Tres Volcanes Community Collaborative School
Course Catalog

8th grade

Required Courses

Language Arts — Mathematics (Algebra I- 1.0 HS Credit for advanced)

Social Studies — Science — Health Ed .5-HS Credit

Electives: 1 full-year Elective and 1-1/2 Year Elective (based on the offerings listed below)

- Art II
- AVID
- Beg Band, Intermediate Band, Advanced Band
- Beg Chorus, Intermediate Chorus, Advanced Choir
- Beg Orchestra, Intermediate Orchestra, Advanced Orchestra
- Business Technology
- eSports
- Leadership-II Prerequisite Leadership 1
- Navajo/Dine
- PE 8
- Theatre
- Yearbook
- eSports

8th Grade Language Arts: Full Year

The 8th grade language arts program offers a variety of standards-based learning experiences. The program is based on 8th grade Language Arts Common Core State Standards. These standards offer a focus for instruction to ensure an adequate exposure to a range of texts and tasks. Rigor is infused through reading and studying the components of literature with increasingly complex text, both fiction and nonfiction. Students will improve their skills in English grammar, writing, vocabulary development and reading strategies, along with speaking and listening skills. Writing a correct sentence, organizing and expressing ideas clearly in all genres of writing are emphasized. This course is intended to help acclimate all sixth graders to the high academic expectations of the language arts programs at Tres Volcanes Community Collaborative.

Variations of Language Arts

- **Language Arts/ELD** - This class is aligned with the general education 8th grade curriculum; however, English Language Learners are supported with WIDA strategies in English Language Development courses. These strategies will empower the students through differentiated instructional methods.
    - **Gifted Language Arts**- Students with an IEP for gifted may be enrolled in this class.
    - **Language Arts – Special Education** – Students with an IEP with a goal in Language Arts may be enrolled in this class.

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8th Grade Math: Full Year

This course is designed to provide a strong mathematical foundation as students transition from the concrete world of elementary mathematics to the more abstract understandings needed for algebra. There is a strong focus on developing problem-solving skills and strategies, as well as the ability to effectively communicate their mathematical thinking. In addition to learning arithmetic concepts and computational skills in ratios, fractions and decimals, students will use estimation, mental computation and applications of geometry and measurement. The course also incorporates an introduction to arithmetic operations with integers and an introduction to solving simple linear equations and inequalities.

Variations of Math

- **Algebra I** - This course is an alternative to regular 8th grade mathematics. It is designed for students capable of investigating mathematics in a challenging, in-depth fashion. The material addressed in this course is fast-paced and students will be given a High School Math Credit upon completion.

Prerequisites:

Students will be selected based on current teacher recommendation, proficiency on district assessments, and an "A or B" in 7th grade accelerated math will also be considered in the decision-making process. Administration has final decision making authority.

*If students struggle in accelerated math, a conference will be held with the student's family to discuss options. Students may be moved out of this class as needed.

- **Math – Special Education** – Students with a demonstrated need indicated on their IEP with a goal in Mathematics may be enrolled in this class.

8th Grade Social Studies – US History: Full Year

This course is an introduction to US history from America's exploration through 1877. Major events and topics such as the American Revolution, the Civil War and Reconstruction, westward expansion and industrialization will be the focus of study. Connections between how the events of the past influence today's world will be made. A focus on the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights will encourage students to develop skills, knowledge and attitudes leading to responsible citizenship in a democratic society. There is an emphasis on physical geography, map reading and atlas skills. The course incorporates the use of a Chromebook and all the Google Suite Applications.

8th Grade GE Physical Science: Full Year

This is a lab based course covering the following topics:

- Matter, energy, forces and motion
- Identification of matter by properties, elements, compounds, mixtures
- Reversible/natural physical or chemical changes
- Structure of atoms, compounds, reading formulas

- Rates of chemical reactions, energy in chemical reactions, transformations of energy
- Renewable/nonrenewable energy
- Electrical energy, kinetic and potential energy
- Properties of light/radio waves
- Sound vibrations of matter
- Fundamental forces; size and direction of forces, net forces, Earth's magnetic field
- Interaction of magnetic and electrical forces
- We also incorporate some Earth Science and Life Science

Health Education I: Semester

In this required course, the student learns about all aspects of health and wellness through learning experiences that emphasize an increased awareness of health behaviors and their positive and negative consequences. Areas of study include, but are not limited to health promotion, acquisition of health information, health behaviours, health factors, interpersonal communication skills, goal setting, and health advocacy Literacy skills of reading, writing, speaking, viewing, and researching are integrated throughout the course. Skills and knowledge acquired in this course can be applied to the Health Science and the Human Services Career Clusters and their respective pathways.

ELECTIVES:

AVID: Full Year

AVID's mission is to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society. AVID is designed to increase school-wide learning and performance. At Tres Volcanoes Community Collaborative MS, the goal of AVID is to ensure that all students find their confidence and have academic success while on their journey of building their skills for college and career readiness:

- will succeed in rigorous curriculum,
- will enter mainstream activities of the school,
- will increase their enrollment in four-year colleges, and
- will become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

Prerequisites: Student application and/or interview, parent signature, and acceptance by school site team. Administration has final decision making authority.

Esports: Full Year

In this course, students will explore the exciting world of esports, learning about its various aspects and the opportunities it offers for teamwork and future careers. This hands-on course is inspired by the idea of experiential learning championed by John Dewey. Through engaging activities, students will develop skills crucial to the esports industry and apply them in practical scenarios, building a digital portfolio along the way to showcase their achievements for secondary, college, and career pursuits. As the course progresses, students will gain experience organizing and supporting or hosting middle school esports events, both in-person and online. These opportunities will foster leadership skills and promote responsible digital citizenship among students. Following the standards set by ISTE and drawing from resources on Global Professional Skills (GPS), the

course will equip students with essential soft skills necessary for effective teamwork, problem-solving, and creative thinking in diverse settings.

Selection Process: To be a part of the Esports team, these requirements must be met:

- Teacher Recommendation
- Strong social skills - able to conduct interviews and talk to students
- Responsible behavior - good standing with teachers and school
- Advanced writer - creative and capable writing skills
- Cooperation - works well with others and in unison
- Reliable - committed and determined to create a great product

Beginning Band: Full year

This course is for students with no previous band experience. Students will learn to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion). The focus will be on gaining individual proficiency of their instrument as well as group performance skills. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year.

Intermediate Band: Full year

This course is for students who have had one or two years of instruction. Students will continue to work on their technique and group performance skills. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year and will perform at District VII Band Festival. Students will also have the opportunity to spend a weekend at Hummingbird the music camp in the spring.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Band/Band Teacher Recommendation

Advanced Band: Full year

This course is for students with no previous band experience. Students will learn to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument (flute, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, percussion). The focus will be on gaining individual proficiency of their instrument as well as group performance skills. Students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year.

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Band/Band Teacher Recommendation

Orchestra: Full year

This course is for students with less than one (1) year or no previous experience playing the violin, viola, cello or bass. Basic string concepts and note-reading are introduced. Students will perform in evening concerts, assemblies and festivals as part of the course requirements. Eighth grade students may enroll for this class only with instructor approval. Previous musical experience on piano, guitar or other instruments is welcomed, but not required.

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Intermediate Orchestra: Full year
This course is for students who have had one or two years of instruction. Students will continue to work on their technique and group performance skills. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Orchestra/Orchestra Teacher Recommendation

Advanced Orchestra: Full year
This course is for students who have advanced experience and had two or three years of instruction. Students will continue to work on their technique and group performance skills. The students will perform in several concerts throughout the school year

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Orchestra/Orchestra Teacher Recommendation

Choir: Full year
Students will learn basic vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered and extension of the instructional process and are required.

- There is a course fee of $25 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities may be provided.)

Intermediate Chorus: Full year
Students will learn basic vocal technique, pitch matching, tone production and a variety of repertoire from classical, folk and pop traditions and have one to two years of instruction. Over the school year, students will master vocal skills in a fun and supportive environment. Performances outside school hours are considered and extension of the instructional process and are required.
(TBD - There is a lab fee of $50 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities will be provided.)

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Chorus/Chorus Teacher Recommendation

Treble Choir: Full year
WHO-6-8 grade unchanged / treble voices. Auditioned / Selected by Ms. Viekman and Music Staff. Previous ensemble experience is encouraged, but not required. Please reach out to Ms. Viekman if this sounds like something you're interested in!

PURPOSE, REASON & GOAL - Like grouping certain instruments together, this ensemble is designed to focus on the higher voices and help them bring out their best quality. This choir works at a more intense level

than the beginning or mixed ensemble. There is a greater time commitment, but this is a great place for unchanged voices to have a high quality, high expectations ensemble experience. Here, students will be pushed to new levels in musicality, vocal ability, leadership, and socioemotional skills.

Concert Choir: Full year

WHO - 7-8 mixed voices. Auditioned or Selected by Ms. Viekman and Music Staff. Previous ensemble experience encouraged. Please reach out to Ms. Viekman if this sounds like something you're interested in!
PURPOSE, REASON & GOAL - High caliber, high expectations, experience catered to students who have had 1-2 years of experience with ensemble performance. Higher time commitment. Through this choir, we hope to push, bond, and train musically-minded students who are willing to work HARD to continue developing their vocal, musical, and socio-emotional skills. Utilizing a diverse repertoire, students will develop musicality, musical knowledge, performance experience, and leadership qualities while experiencing a wide variety of choral repertoire and history. (TBD - There is a lab fee of $50 which covers the cost of sheet music, accompanist fees and a t-shirt. Fundraising opportunities will be provided.)

Selection Process: Must have taken Beginning Chorus/Chorus Teacher Recommendation

Drama I/II: Full year

Drama introduces skills necessary to be successful in middle school. Drama students read and write simple scripts using informational text, as well as practicing strategies to be a good public speaker. Reader's Theatre and drama games teach students to focus and develop trust with their peers.

Business Education: Semester

Business Technologies is a one-semester course. Areas of study are keyboarding, software exploration, literacy, employ-ability skills, career exploration, and technical research. The student learns to format a school report, compose business letters, letters of application, and resumes and uses the Internet to do research.

PE: Full year

This is a full year course to physical education. The objective of this course is to help students develop the skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviors that encourage students to take responsibility for maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle.

Art: Full year

Art I is a design and visual fundamental class which exposes the student to a variety of methods, techniques, and media. Literacy is integrated throughout the course.

Navajo/Dine: Full Year

This course supports our Native American students through language acquisition and development. Students will gain basic vocabulary and conversational language skills, and will participate in cultural events, celebrations, and field trips to gain a better understanding of Navajo/Dine culture.

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Leadership II: Full year

The Middle School Leadership Program (MSLP) is presented to provide and inspire MS Students to become better citizens through leadership theory and practical application, discipline, and service to the community while improving core literacy skills.

Our vision is to produce strong leaders with practical experience in academics, communications, life skills, challenging MS competitions and teamwork/team building among their peers. Providing problem solving skills that demonstrate strong leadership principles using moral and ethical decision making, contributing to their service to community and country.

MSLP engages Cadets in the practices of leadership, citizenship, physical fitness, self-discipline, and activities such as Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)-- Underwater Remote Operated Vehicles, Rocketry, High Altitude Balloons, Drones, Remote Control Aircraft, and Cyber Activity/Security. Cadets also participate in Drill and Ceremony, Color Guard and life skills such as first aid, CPR, Physical Fitness, Archery, and community service projects.

Selection Process: Leadership I

Yearbook: Full Year

The goal of this class is to create a product that represents and captures every moment, individual, and team during the school year. We strive to create a product that tells the story of the school year by conducting interviews, taking photos, creating digital spreads, and being a valuable member of the yearbook team.

Selection Process: To be a part of the yearbook team, these requirements must be met:

- Teacher Recommendation
- Strong social skills - able to conduct interviews and talk to students
- Responsible behavior - good standing with teachers and school
- Advanced writer - creative and capable writing skills
- Cooperation - works well with others and in unison
- Reliable - committed and determined to create a great product

Creative Writing/Journalism: Full year

A middle school Creative Writing course for grades 7–8 integrates Common Core English Language Arts standards with New Mexico social studies content to develop students' skills in narrative, informational, and argumentative writing. Students explore elements of storytelling, poetry, memoir, historical fiction, and creative nonfiction while strengthening research, revision, collaboration, and presentation skills. Writing projects may include historical narratives, oral history-inspired memoirs, place-based poetry, character development rooted in New Mexico history, and multimedia storytelling. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, evidence-based research, effective communication, and the appreciation of multiple perspectives, helping students become thoughtful writers and engaged citizens while meeting grade-level literacy and social studies standards.