



Middle School Course Catalog 2026 - 2027

Office of Academics
240 N. Crockett
San Benito, TX 78586
956-361-6100
www.sbcisd.net

San Benito CISD

Middle School Campuses



Berta Cabaza Middle School
2901 Schafer Rd.
San Benito, TX 78586
956-361-6600
<https://bcms.sbcisd.net/>



Miller Jordan Miller School
700 N. McCullough
San Benito, TX 78586
956-361-6650
<https://mjms.sbcisd.net/>



Riverside Middle School
35428 Padilla St.
San Benito, TX
956-361-6940
<https://rms.sbcisd.net/>



Collegiate Academy
700 N. McCullough
San Benito, TX 78586
956-276-5472
<https://collegiateacademy.sbcisd.net/>

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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.

Course Catalog Committee Members: 2026-2027

- Dilia Cornett, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services
- JoAnn Fernandez, Director of Secondary Instructional Implementation
- Sandra Romeros, Director of Counseling and Advanced Academics
- Jessica Aguilar, School Counselor
- Mario Flores, School Counselor
- Nora Jalomo-Cortez, School Counselor
- Lilia Leal, School Counselor
- Linda Ramos, School Counselor
- Sandra Ruz, School Counselor

Reviewers Included:

Middle School Principals, Deans and School Counselors

Suggested Course Sequence: *For all incoming 6th graders beginning 2026-2027.

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.

***For all incoming 6th graders 2026-2027.**

Content Area	Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
ELAR	ELAR 6 Honors ELAR 6	ELAR 7 Honors ELAR 7	ELAR 8 Honors ELAR 8 *Honors Creative Writing * Honors English I (CA only)
Math	Math 6 Honors Advanced Math 6	Math 7 Honors Advanced Math 7	Math 8 * Honors Advanced Math 8, Algebra I
Social Studies	Social Studies 6 Honors Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7 Honors Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8 Honors Social Studies 8
Science	Science 6 Science 6/7	Science 7 Honors Science 8	Science 8 * Honors IPC * Honors Biology (CA only)
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 Rise	PE/Health or Athletics Rise	Rise (Riverside, Miller Jordan) Entrepreneurship (RMS, MJMS, BCMS)
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

Phasing Out Course Sequence:

***For all incoming 7th and 8th graders beginning 2026-2027.**

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 Honors ELAR 6	ELAR 7 Honors ELAR 7 Honors ELAR 8	ELAR 8 Honors ELAR 8 * Honors Creative Writing * Honors English I (CA only)
Math	Math 6 Honors Math 6 Honors Math 6/7 Accelerated	Math 7 Honors Math 7 Honors Math 7/8 Accelerated	Math 8 Math 8 Honors Honors Algebra I*
Social Studies	Social Studies 6 Honors Social Studies 6	Social Studies 7 Honors Social Studies 7	Social Studies 8 Honors Social Studies 8
Science	Science 6 Honors Science 6/7	Science 7 Honors Science 8	Science 8 * Honors IPC * Honors Biology (CA only)

***High School Credit 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	MJMS	RMS
Art I	7, 8	CA only: 1.0	sem	yr	sem	sem
Art II	7, 8	CA only: 1.0	sem	yr	sem	sem
Athletics/Health	7, 8		yr	yr	yr	yr
Band <i>(Beginning, Concert, Symphonic, Wind Ensemble)</i>	6, 7, 8		yr	yr	yr	yr
Choir <i>(Beginning, JV, Varsity)</i>	6, 7, 8		yr	yr	yr	yr
Foundations of Business + ●	8	1.0		yr	yr	
Commercial Photography + ●	8	1.0	yr 7th (BC)		yr	yr
Conjunto	6, 7, 8		yr		yr	yr
Digital Media + ●	7	1.0	yr	yr	yr	yr
Entrepreneurship+ ●	8	1.0	yr	yr	yr	yr
Exploratory Languages (ESL)*	6, 7, 8		yr		yr	yr
Fine Arts	6		sem	yr	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 1, 2, 3	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	MJMS	RMS
PE/Health	6, 7, 8		yr	yr	yr	yr
Principles of Business and Marketing + ●	8	1.0			yr	
Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications + ●	8	1.0	yr	yr	yr	yr
RISE Math *	6, 7, 8		sem		sem	sem
RISE Reading *	6, 7, 8		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
Spanish II	8	1.0	yr	yr	yr	yr
Theatre Arts	6, 7, 8		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.

Advanced Mathematics Program:

Senate Bill (SB) 2124, passed by the 88th Texas Legislature, requires each school district and open-enrollment charter school to develop an advanced mathematics program for middle school students that is designed to enable those students to enroll in Algebra I in eighth grade. Under the program, a school district or open-enrollment charter school must automatically enroll in an advanced mathematics course each sixth grade student who performed in the top 40 percent on the fifth grade State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) mathematics assessment, or a local measure that includes either the student's fifth grade class ranking or demonstrated proficiency in the student's fifth grade mathematics coursework.

The purpose of the Middle School Advanced Mathematics Program is to "increase the number of students who complete advanced mathematics courses in high school." To this end, each school district and open-enrollment charter school is required to develop a program to enable students to take Algebra I in eighth grade.

Specifically, the law requires LEAs to automatically enroll each sixth-grade student who performed in the top 40 percent on:

- The Grade 5 Math STAAR Assessment or,
- A local measure, that includes:
 - the student's fifth grade class ranking, or
 - demonstrated proficiency in the student's fifth grade mathematics coursework.

The parent or guardian of a student who has been identified for automatic enrollment in the middle school advanced mathematics program may opt the student out of the program.

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

6th ELAR Honors

7th Grade

Honors

7th ELAR
Honors

8th Grade

8th ELAR Accelerated Hono
Creative Writing

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

6th Math Honors
6th Math Honors
Accelerated

Accelerated

7th Grade

7th Math Honors
7th/8th Math Honors

8th Grade

8th Honors
8th Honors Accelerated/Algebra I

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

6th Grade Honors Acc.

7th Grade

8th Science Honors

8th Grade

IPC

Incoming 2026-2027 6th grade cohort will offer 8th Science Honors in lieu of IPC.

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.

Honors Course Enrollment Criteria – Middle School (Grades 6–8)

Honors courses at the middle school level are designed for students who demonstrate advanced academic ability, strong study habits, and readiness for accelerated instruction.

Eligibility Criteria by Subject Area

English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR):

- Student must rank in the top 20% of the STAAR Grade 5 RLA cohort.
- If a STAAR score is not available, an 87% or higher on the 5th grade Reading Benchmark may be used.
- Must maintain a minimum average of 85 in 5th grade ELAR.

Mathematics:

- Student must rank in the top 40% of the STAAR Grade 5 Math cohort.

Science:

- Student must rank in the top 20% of the STAAR Grade 5 Science cohort.
- Must maintain a minimum average of 85 in 5th grade Science.
- Must have an average of 87% or higher on Grade 5 District Science Assessments.

Social Studies:

- Student must rank in the top 20% of the STAAR Grade 5 RLA cohort.
- Must maintain a minimum average of 85 in 5th grade Social Studies.
- Enrollment may also be considered based on parent or teacher request.

Meeting the minimum criteria does not automatically guarantee placement, as enrollment may also be subject to space availability and administrative approval.

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.

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** will take the **STAAR End of Course (EOC)** exam.

CA students taking English I and/or Biology 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 ounselor 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.

Honors ELAR 6

TEA:03200510

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.

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.

Honors ELAR 7

TEA:03200520

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: English Language Arts and Reading Grade 6 Honors

Course Description: This Honors English and Language Arts course combines the study of English and reading experience. This course is designed for students who wish to have a more challenging and rigorous seventh-grade English Language Arts and Reading experience. Students in ELAR 7 Honors will experience the content described in the regular course; however, they will be expected to direct their own studies more independently and in greater depth than students in a regular section. Students will develop higher level thinking skills through independent study projects. There will also be a focus on open-ended tasks and the development of products that challenge existing ideas and produce new ideas. Students will

read and analyze a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections and will write creative and expository compositions based on these selections.

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.

Honors ELAR 8

TEA:03200530

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: English Language Arts and Reading Grades 7 Honors

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.

Honors ELAR 8 Accelerated/Creative Writing

TEA: 03200530 & 03221200

Prerequisite: English Language Arts Grade 7 Honors or recommendation and approval

2 Semesters

Course Description: This course is a combination of ELAR 8 Honors first semester and Creative Writing second semester. This rigorous composition course requires students to demonstrate proficiency in various writing forms, including fiction, short stories, poetry, and drama. Students are expected to understand and apply the recursive nature of the writing process, as well as the conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Through evaluating both their own work and the work of others, students learn to analyze and discuss published and unpublished writing, develop peer and self-assessments, and set personal goals to improve as writers. Students will take the 8th Grade STAAR test and TSI.

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.

Honors Grade 6 Math, Middle School Advanced Mathematics

TEA: 03103210

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Mathematics Grade 5

Course Description: This course emphasizes the development of strong mathematical thinking through problem solving, reasoning, and real-world application. Students build fluency with rational numbers, proportional relationships, expressions, equations, and data analysis while making connections across numeric, graphical, and symbolic representations. Instruction integrates statistics, probability, and financial literacy to support college and career readiness. Through the use of technology and multiple problem-solving strategies, students communicate and justify mathematical ideas, analyze relationships, and develop a foundation for advanced mathematics, including readiness for Algebra I.

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.

Honors Grade 7 Math, Middle School Advanced Mathematics

TEA: 03103220

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Mathematics Grade 6 Honors or recommendation and approval

Course Description: This course builds on prior mathematical concepts to strengthen problem-solving, reasoning, and real-world application skills. Students develop fluency with real numbers, proportional relationships, expressions, equations, and data analysis while connecting verbal, numeric, graphical, and symbolic representations. Instruction integrates statistics, probability, and financial literacy to support college and career readiness. Through the use of technology and multiple problem-solving strategies, students analyze relationships, justify solutions, and communicate mathematical ideas effectively. This course is designed to prepare students for advanced mathematics and support readiness for completing Algebra I by Grade 8.

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.

Math 8 Honors

TEA:03103100

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Mathematics Grade 7 Honors

Course Description: The 8th Grade Math Honors course provides a deeper exploration of standard 8th grade math concepts, including advanced algebra, geometry, data analysis, and functions. With a focus on complex problem-solving, critical thinking, and applying mathematical concepts to real-world scenarios, this course challenges students with more difficult problems and abstract reasoning compared to a regular 8th grade math class. Students will develop a strong foundation in higher-level math, preparing them for high school-level mathematics and beyond. Expect a rigorous pace, with an emphasis on mastering key concepts and refining problem-solving skills.

Honors Grade 8 Math, Middle School Advanced Mathematics, Algebra I

TEA: 03103230

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Mathematics Grade 6 and 7 Honors

Course Description: This course builds on advanced middle school mathematics and provides a rigorous foundation in Algebra I concepts. Students explore linear, quadratic, and exponential functions, including their representations, transformations, and real-world applications. Emphasis is placed on solving equations and systems, analyzing data, and working with polynomials, exponents, radicals, and sequences. Through problem solving, reasoning, and the use of technology, students develop a deep understanding of mathematical relationships and communicate their thinking effectively. This course prepares students for success in advanced high school mathematics coursework.

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 Honors

TEA:03060600

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Science Grade 5

Course Description: This course builds upon the standard 6th grade science curriculum, offering increased depth and complexity in scientific concepts. This course focuses on advanced topics in life, earth, and physical sciences, and emphasizes rigorous laboratory investigations, critical thinking, and extensive data analysis. Students will engage in more in-depth research, independent projects, and scientific inquiry, while adhering to the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for 6th grade science.

Science 6 Honors Accelerated/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 7 Honors

TEA:03060700

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Science Grade 6 Honors

The 7th Grade Science Honors course offers an in-depth exploration of life, earth, and physical science concepts, building upon the foundational knowledge of the standard 7th grade science class. This course emphasizes advanced scientific inquiry, analysis, and critical thinking, incorporating extensive laboratory work and investigations aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students will delve into topics such as cell structure and function, genetics, ecosystems, plate tectonics, and energy transfer, with a focus on real-world applications and connections to everyday life.

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.

Honors Science 8

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.

Honors IPC

TEA:03060201

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Science Grade 8 Honors

Course Description: The Integrated Physics and Chemistry course provides students with the opportunity to conduct hands-on laboratory and field investigations, apply engineering practices, and engage in scientific inquiry through problem-solving and critical thinking. This course integrates key concepts from both physics and chemistry, focusing on topics such as force, motion, energy, and matter. Students will develop a deep understanding of scientific practices, using these skills to make informed decisions and solve complex problems. Students are expected to have gained sufficient knowledge in

scientific and engineering practices across both disciplines, preparing them to think critically and apply their learning in real-world contexts. This course equips students with the tools to approach scientific challenges with a strong foundation in both physics and chemistry.

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.

Honors Social Studies 6

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.

Honors Social Studies 7

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.

Honors Social Studies 8

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)- Foundations of Business

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.

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.

Entrepreneurship I

TSDS PEIMS Code: 13011101

Credit: 1 Prerequisite: None.

Prerequisite: None.

In Entrepreneurship I, students will gain the knowledge and skills needed to become an entrepreneur in a free enterprise system. Students will learn the key concepts necessary to begin and operate a business. The primary focus of the course is to help students identify the types and selection criteria of business structures, understand the components of a business plan, determine feasibility of an idea using research, and develop and present a business concept. In addition, students will understand the basics of management, accounting, finance, marketing, risk, and product development

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.

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 I

TEA:03440100

Grade Level: 7, 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.

Spanish I Grade: 9-12

Spanish II

TEA:03440200

Grade Level: 8

Credit: 1 (High School Credit) 2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Spanish I or passing score on district administered Credit-by-Exam

Course Description: A study of the grammatical construction of the language is continued by an extensive review of concepts learned in Spanish I. The focus is on oral reading, reading comprehension, expanding vocabulary and writing brief compositions. The ability to give an appropriate oral response and participate in simple conversation is stressed. Culture and language learning techniques are also an integral part of the course.

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.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION OVERVIEW

FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Foundation High School Program identifies the requirements Texas public school students need to satisfy to earn a high school diploma. A credit is a measure of achievement for completing a high school course. To graduate under the Foundation High School Program, students must earn a minimum of 22 credits in the following areas:

Foundation Course Credits (22 Credits)

English (4 credits) • English I • English II • English III* • An advanced English course	Math (3 credits) • Algebra I • Geometry • An advanced math course	Science (3 credits) • Biology • Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC), chemistry, or physics • An advanced science course
Social Studies (3 credits) • World History or World Geography • U.S. History • U.S. Government (one-half credit) • Economics or Economics and Personal Financial Literacy (one-half credit)**	Languages Other Than English (2 credits) • Two credits in the same language	Physical education (1 credit) Fine arts (1 credit) Electives (5 credits)

Course Credits with an Endorsement (26 Credits)

A student may earn an endorsement by successfully completing the following **additional** requirements:

- the curriculum requirements for an endorsement,
- a fourth credit in math,
- a fourth credit in science, and
- two additional electives.

Additional Graduation Requirements

End-of-Course (EOC) Exams

To graduate from a Texas public high school, students must complete the required credits needed to satisfy the Foundation High School Program requirements and pass EOC exams for English I,

English II, Biology, Algebra I, and U.S. History.

Speech Requirement

Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in certain communication skills defined by the State Board of Education (SBOE) to graduate. Districts can choose different methods to assess how students meet the speech requirement.

Instruction on Proper Interaction with Peace Officers

Students must receive instruction in proper interaction with peace officers at least once before graduation, as required by The Community Safety Education Act.

Instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

Students must receive instruction in CPR at least once in grades 7–12 before graduation. Beginning with students entering grade 7 in the 2024–2025 school year, students must also receive instruction in the use of an AED.

Financial Aid Students must also do one of the following in grade 12 to graduate:

- Complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA);
- Complete and submit a Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA); or
- Submit a signed Financial Aid Application Opt-Out Form.

ENDORSEMENT OPTIONS

An endorsement represents a student’s demonstrated proficiency in a related set of courses often associated with their interests or career goals. Completing an endorsement provides students with in-depth knowledge to pursue high-wage and in-demand occupations. Endorsements also help students prepare for further education, training, or careers in a chosen field. To earn an endorsement, students must complete four credits each in math and science, two additional elective credits, and the specific courses required for the endorsement.

Students can choose from five endorsement areas:

STEM

All students who wish to earn a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) endorsement must complete Algebra II, chemistry, and physics and one of the following options:

- Become a CTE completer in a TEA-designated program of study related to STEM

- Earn two additional advanced math courses
- Earn two additional advanced science courses

Business & Industry

Select one of the following options:

- Become a CTE completer in a TEA-designated program of study related to business and industry
- Become a CTE completer in certain TEA-designated programs of study if the math and science requirements for the STEM endorsement are not met

- Earn four credits in English electives in public speaking, debate, advanced broadcast journalism, or advanced journalism, including newspaper and yearbook

Public Service

Select one of the following options:

- Become a CTE completer in a TEA-designated program of study related to public service
- Earn four credits in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

Arts & Humanities

Select one of the following options:

- Successfully complete four levels in the same LOTE
- Earn four credits in one or two disciplines in fine arts (music, theater, art, dance, or film)
- Earn four credits of English electives not included in the business and industry endorsement
- Earn five social studies credits

Multidisciplinary Studies

Select one of the following options:

- Successfully complete four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation
- Earn four credits in each foundation subject area, including chemistry and/or physics and English IV or a comparable Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) English course
- Earn four credits in AP, IB, or dual credit courses selected from English, math, science, social studies, economics, LOTE, or fine arts

CTE PROGRAMS OF STUDY

CTE program of study course sequences help students develop technical and academic skills for a specific career path. They also teach employability skills that apply to any workplace. Programs of study include work-based learning and may lead to a post-secondary credential. Programs of study do not replace endorsements; they support the completion of an endorsement. The programs of study fall under one of the 14 state-approved career clusters:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, AudioVisual Technology, and Communications
- Business, Marketing, and Finance
- Education and Training
- Energy
- Engineering
- Health Science
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services
- Information Technology
- Law and Public Service

- Manufacturing
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

What is a CTE completer?

A CTE completer is a student who completes, passes, and receives credit for three or more high school career and technical education (CTE) courses within a program of study for four or more credits. Additionally, one of the courses must be a Level 3 or Level 4 course.

DISTINGUISHED LEVEL OF ACHIEVEMENT

Choices Determine Options

Education and training beyond high school are required for most high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand jobs. Student choices affect their future options, whether the goal is an industry credential from a community or technical college or a four-year degree from a university. Students should take the appropriate classes to prepare for their chosen pathway in either postsecondary education or entrance into the workforce.

Distinguished Level of Achievement Requirements

A total of four credits in math, including Algebra 2

A total of four credits in science

Successful completion of an endorsement

A student must earn the distinguished level of achievement to be admitted to a Texas public university under the top 10 percent automatic admission law.*

** The University of Texas at Austin may admit fewer than the top 10 percent of students automatically. Visit the Automatic College Admission web page for more information:*

<https://tea.texas.gov/academics/graduation-information/automatic-college-admission>

PERFORMANCE ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Performance acknowledgments recognize outstanding achievement in specific areas. These distinctions will appear on the high school transcript and enhance a student's chances of entering college and/or the workforce successfully. Students can earn more than one performance acknowledgment.

Performance Acknowledgement Areas

- Dual credit courses
- Bilingualism and bi-literacy
- PSAT, SAT, or ACT
- Advanced Placement Exams

- State, nationally, or internationally recognized business or industry certifications or licenses

TEXAS FIRST PROGRAM

This graduation program identifies a set of requirements that Texas public school students must satisfy to earn a high school diploma, achieve the distinguished level of achievement, and qualify for the Texas First Scholarship.

Minimum Course Credits

Complete any 22 high school credits. Consider the following when determining which 22 credits to complete:

- the required assessments and demonstration of subject-area mastery for the Texas First Program; and
- college admissions requirements.

Subject-Area Mastery

Demonstrate mastery of each of the following subject areas: English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR), mathematics, science, social studies, and a language other than English (LOTE). Mastery of each subject area can be demonstrated by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) earn a STAAR End-of-Course (EOC) assessment score that meets the college readiness standards for Texas Success Initiative application exemption;
- 2) earn course credit in the core curriculum of an institution of higher education with a C or higher; or
- 3) achieve the minimum standards on an assessment set out in Figure 1, 19 TAC §21.52:
https://regulations.justia.com/resources/v2025012200/tx/admin/2024/202303821_1.pdf

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Achieve a minimum final high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Assessment Scale Score or Top 10% Graduate

Students must either:

- 1) earn an overall scaled score in at least the 80th percentile on one or more of the following assessments: ACT, SAT, PSAT/NMSQT®, TSIA/ TSIA2, or GED®; or
- 2) have a GPA in the top ten percent of the student's current class during the current or the semester before the counselor/administrator verifies student eligibility for early graduation under the Texas First Program.

STAAR EOC

Complete the STAAR EOC examinations for English I or II, Algebra I, and Biology by:

- achieving a satisfactory level of performance on the STAAR EOC; or
- achieving a passing score on state-approved substitute assessments for the STAAR EOC.

Additional Requirements

- Texas Residency: Must be a resident of Texas.

- FAFSA or TASFA Completion: Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA).
- Official Assessment Results: Provide schools with official copies of any applicable assessment results.

TEXAS FIRST SCHOLARSHIP

Interested students who complete the Texas First Program should have their counselor verify all eligibility requirements and upon graduation have the counselor/administrator complete the Verification Confirmation Form found in Texas OnCourse Academy.