

Middle School Course Catalog





Non-Discrimination Statement

San José Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), intimidation or bullying on the basis of actual or perceived age, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, ethnic group identification, race or ethnicity, ancestry, immigration status, nationality, religion, marital, parental or family status, color, mental or physical disability, or on the basis of a person's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics in its education programs and activities or employment practices as required by Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Vocational Education Act of 1976. The lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in the District's programs. The Board will promote programs that ensure that any discriminatory practices are eliminated in all district activities. Any school employee who observes an incident of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying or to whom such an incident is reported must report the incident to the coordinator or principal, whether or not the victim files a complaint. When a school employee witnesses an act of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, or bullying, he or she should take immediate steps to intervene when it is safe to do so.

Students, parents, employees, or others who wish further information about these regulations, or who wish to file a complaint, should contact the following persons:

For Title IX, discrimination or equity complaints involving students:

Director of Student Services/Student Title IX Coordinator Michelle Reghitto at (408)535-6377,
UniformComplaint@sjusd.org, 855 Lenzen Avenue San José, CA 95126
408 535

For Title IX, discrimination or equity complaints involving staff:

Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services, Dominic Bejarano at (408) 535-6139,
jbejarano@sjusd.org 855 Lenzen Avenue, San José, CA 95126

For Section 504 Compliance complaints involving students:

SJUSD 504 Coordinator, 504@sjusd.org, 855 Lenzen Avenue, San José, CA 95126

For facilities or other ADA complaints:

Director of Maintenance, Grounds, and Operations, , Denny Pini at (408) 535-6000, dpini@sjusd.org 855
Lenzen Avenue, San José, CA 95126

SJUSD Middle Schools

Bret Harte Middle School
7050 Bret Harte Drive
San José, CA 95120
bretharte.sjUSD.org

408-535-6270



Castillero Middle School
6384 Leyland Park Drive
San José, CA 95120
castillero.sjUSD.org

408-535-6385



Herbert Hoover Middle School
1635 Park Avenue
San José, CA 95126
hoover.sjUSD.org

408-535-6274



John Muir Middle School
1260 Branham Lane
San José, CA 95118
muir.sjUSD.org

408-535-6281



Muwekma Ohlone Middle School
850 North 2nd Street
San José, CA 95112
ohlone.sjUSD.org

408-535-6267



River Glen Middle School K-8
1088 Broadway
San José, CA 95125
riverglen.sjUSD.org

408-535-6240



Willow Glen Middle School
2105 Cottle Avenue
San José, CA 95125
wgms.sjUSD.org

408-535-6277



Course Offerings

Electives:

Art 6-8	Students explore drawing, painting, sculpture, and other media while developing creativity and visual literacy. Each year builds on skills and techniques, with opportunities for increasingly complex projects.
Band	Students develop instrumental music skills through performance, rehearsal, and study of varied repertoire. Emphasis is on tone production, technique, reading music, and ensemble playing.
Bio Medical PLTW	Students explore the human body, health, genetics, and medical technology through real-world biomedical challenges in this hands-on, project-based course. They apply science, math, and engineering concepts to investigate how the body works and how medical professionals solve problems.
Computer Science Programming	Students learn the fundamentals of computer science and programming.
Dance	Students explore movement, choreography, and performance across a variety of styles. Emphasis is on technique, creativity, expression, and collaboration. Each year builds skills through practice and performance opportunities.
Digital Photography	Students learn the fundamentals of photography, including composition, lighting, and digital editing. Using cameras and photo software, they explore creative expression and visual storytelling.
Drama 6-8	Students explore acting, improvisation, script study, and performance. Each year builds skills in collaboration, stagecraft, and expression. May be taken all three years with progressively challenging projects.
Engineering PLTW	Students are introduced to the engineering design process, problem-solving, and innovation in these hands-on, project-based courses. Students apply science, math, and technology to design, build, and test creative solutions to real-world challenges.

Exploratory Wheel	Students sample a variety of elective courses throughout the year in 9-week, 12-week or semester rotations.
Introduction to Drafting	Students learn the fundamentals of technical drawing, design, and visualization.
Journalism	Students explore the fundamentals of news writing, reporting, and media production.
Junior Engineering	Students learn the fundamentals of engineering, design, and problem-solving through hands-on, project-based learning.
Leadership	Students have opportunities to develop skills in communication, collaboration, organization, and responsible decision-making. Students learn and practice leadership qualities through school and community projects, teamwork activities, and service learning.
Mariachi	Students learn about the rich musical traditions of mariachi while developing skills in instrumental performance, vocal technique, and ensemble collaboration.
Multimedia	Students explore creative expression through a variety of media, including digital art, photography, video, and mixed media design. Students learn to combine traditional and digital techniques while developing visual communication skills.
Orchestra	Students build string skills, music reading, and ensemble performance. Each year adds more challenging repertoire and opportunities for growth. May be taken all three years.
Robotics PLTW	Students explore the exciting world of robotics, engineering, and automation through hands-on, project-based learning in this Project Lead the Way (PLTW) course..
Spanish High School Equivalent (HE)	Students explore Hispanic cultures and use the language in real-world contexts. This accelerated course follows the high school Spanish curriculum, developing proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Successful completion earns high school credit.
Spanish for Native	Students who already speak or understand Spanish at home

Speakers High School Equivalent (HE)	build literacy skills in reading, writing, and formal communication while deepening knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, and Hispanic cultures. Instruction aligns with the California World Languages Standards and may earn high school credit.
Vocal Music	Students develop singing technique, music reading, and ensemble skills. Each year builds on the previous with increasingly challenging repertoire and performance opportunities. May be taken all three years.
Yearbook	Students learn the fundamentals of journalism, photography, graphic design, and publishing as they work collaboratively to produce the school's yearbook.
PE Design	Students will learn to perform, create, and teach cheers and routines that build confidence, collaboration, and communication. Additionally, students will explore fitness and nutrition concepts, including understanding heart rate training zones to enhance both athletic performance and overall wellness.

Language Arts:

Language Arts 6	Students learn to read grade-level literature and informational text; writing skills (narrative, expository, argument); speaking & listening; vocabulary & grammar; analysis.
Language Arts 7	Students build on grade 6 content; more complex texts, deeper writing, and research skills.
Language Arts 8	Advanced reading, argument writing, literary analysis, and preparing for high-school expectations.
English Language Development	Students who are new to English develop foundational listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Instruction focuses on building everyday and academic vocabulary and communication confidence across the four domains , and cultural understanding. This course is 2 periods and is paired with Speech ELD.
Language Arts with Academic Language	English learner students who have been in U.S. schools for several years but need continued development of academic

Development	English in order to reclassify receive instruction emphasizing advanced vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing strategies, and oral communication.
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Spanish Language Arts (TWBI)	Students continue the development of bilingualism and biliteracy in Spanish and English. Students study language arts, culture, and academic content in Spanish while strengthening reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Successful completion earns high school credit for grades 7 and 8.
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Social Studies:

Social Studies 6	Students learn about early human societies; geography, culture, achievements, political & social systems globally.
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Social Studies 7	Students will study civilizations through the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the early modern period, and global interactions.
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Social Studies 8	Students will study the founding of our nation through the 20th century, government structure, civic participation, and constitutional principles.
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Social Studies (TWBI)	Students will cover grade-level content and are taught in Spanish. It integrates history, geography, civics, and culture through a bilingual lens. Students develop academic language proficiency in Spanish while exploring social, cultural, and historical themes.
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Science:

Science 6	Students learn about earth, life, and physical science topics using NGSS-aligned inquiry; emphasis on scientific practices and cross-cutting concepts.
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Science 7	Students participate in more advanced inquiry; systems, matter, energy, interactions.
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Science 8	Students study physical science, biology, earth systems; preparing for high school science.
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Math:

Math 6	Students learn about ratios and proportional reasoning; arithmetic with fractions & decimals; expressions, equations; geometry; statistics.
Math 6 Accelerated	Students will cover ratios, fractions, integers, equations, geometry, and statistics at a faster pace to prepare for Math 7 Accelerated. This course combines Math 6 and part of Math 7.
Math 7	Students will build on prior content by focusing on proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, geometry, statistics.
Math 7 Accelerated	Students will focus on rational numbers, equations, functions, geometry, and statistics, leading to Algebra I in grade 8. This course covers Math 7 and most of Math 8.
Algebra High School Equivalent (HE)	Students will learn about linear equations, inequalities, systems, functions, polynomials, and radicals. Focus on modeling, problem-solving, and preparing for Geometry. Successful completion earns high school credit.
Geometry High School Equivalent (HE)	Students will explore congruence, similarity, transformations, trigonometry, coordinate geometry, and proofs. Builds reasoning skills and prepares for Algebra II. Successful completion earns high school credit.

Physical Education:

PE 6	Students will improve motor skills, fitness, team/individual sports, and learn about the importance of lifelong activity. PE class aligns with the California Physical Education Framework.
PE 7	Students will improve motor skills, fitness, team/individual sports, and learn about the importance of lifelong activity. PE class aligns with the California Physical Education Framework.

PE 8	Students will improve motor skills, fitness, team/individual sports, and learn about the importance of lifelong activity. PE class aligns with the California Physical Education Framework.
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