

Middle School Course Description Guide 2026-2027

Principals' Message

Making the right decisions now can guarantee the very best and most satisfying education. Through careful study of the course offerings at the middle school level, you and your parents can make choices based on instructional needs, special interests, and the goals you have set for yourself. **We determine which courses will be taught and assign teachers based on your choices. Therefore, as outlined in the student handbook, you are expected to commit to your selections, so we encourage you to be thoughtful in your choices.**

Morgan Peccarelli, Principal
Hill Country Middle School



SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Last names A-K: Sarah Pena

Last names L-Z: Tammy Richards

[Counseling website](#)



Erika Bacon, Principal
West Ridge Middle School

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Last names A-L: Molly Ainsworth

Last Names M-Z: Michelle Sexton

[Counseling website](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

All students must have 8 classes all year. Classes include: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, Advisory, Physical Education, Music, and Electives.

SCHEDULE CHANGES

Schedule changes are considered only for incorrect class placement, instructional needs, to resolve course conflicts or to balance class size. Requests for electives other than those requested as first choice or an alternate will not be considered. Schedule change requests should be submitted and approved within the first ten school days of the semester. **Requests may be denied.** See the [HCMS](#) or [WRMS](#) counseling website for schedule change instructions.

HONORS COURSES

Eanes ISD offers honors-level courses to 6-12 students. Honors-level courses include advanced learning activities for greater depth and complexity and creative strategies to engage advanced learners. HCMS and WRMS offer honors courses in English and in high school credit Math courses. Students enrolling in an Honors course must demonstrate self-motivation, strong time management and study skills, emotional maturity when frustrated, perseverance when challenged, self-reflection of their work, and a desire to work hard and to go deeper into their learning.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

All high school credit course grades will be reflected on the high school transcript; however, grades will not be calculated in the grade point average (GPA).

GIFTED & TALENTED

The focus of the [GT program](#) is to serve students who have instructional needs due to exceptional potential in both intellectual and creative abilities. If you are new to the district or wish to be considered for the program, a formal assessment is required by EISD. GT students will be served through their social studies class. **HCMS contact:** Tara Raygor (traygor@eanesisd.net); **WRMS contact:** Carol Reese (creese@eanesisd.net).



OVERVIEW

There are eight class periods in the school day; **all middle school students will be scheduled in English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Advisory each year.** Students will choose courses to fill the remaining three class periods. Course descriptions are found on the following pages.

GRADE 6	6th graders will take electives in the following areas to fill their schedule: 1) Wheel (explore electives)* 2) Physical Education – PE or Pre-Athletics 3) Music – Band, Choir, or Orchestra* <i>* SI students can take Spanish 2A in place of one of these</i>
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GRADE	Full-Year Electives	One-Semester Electives (choose 2 to fill one class period)
7	Athletics 7 Band Choir EVE French 7 * Orchestra Spanish 7 (Spanish 1A) * Spanish 2B * (EISD Spanish Immersion students only) Yearbook <i>* high school credit course</i>	Above & Beyond Animation & Game Design Art I Art II Computer Graphics & Web Design Design & Technology Family & Consumer Sciences I Family & Consumer Sciences II M.A.P.S. Photo/Film Production I (HCTV / WRMS-TV) Photo/Film Production II (HCTV / WRMS-TV) PE 7 Peer Partners Robotics I Robotics II Technical Theatre Technology Applications Theatre Arts

GRADE	Full-Year Electives	One-Semester Electives (choose 2 to fill one class period)
8	Athletics 8 Band Choir EVE French 8 * Hill Country Players Orchestra Spanish 8 (Spanish 1B) * Spanish 1 * Spanish 3 * (EISD Spanish Immersion students only) Yearbook <i>* high school credit course</i>	Above & Beyond Animation & Gaming Art I or Art II Computer Graphics & Web Design Design & Technology Family & Consumer Sciences I or II Health * M.A.P.S. Photo/Film Production I or II (HCTV / WRMS-TV) PE 8 Peer Partners Robotics I or Robotics II Professional Communications * Student Aide Technical Theater Technology Applications Theatre Arts <i>* high school credit course</i>



ENGLISH COURSES

All students select an English course every year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6

This 6th grade course is an enhanced, analytical approach to the study of language, literature, and writing, including the development of listening and speaking skills. Students will focus on grammar, vocabulary, analogies, literary elements, and written composition in a variety of modes. Critical thinking skills will be developed through a wide variety of diverse materials including classical and contemporary literature and informational texts.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 6 HONORS

This 6th grade course will extend the study of grammar, vocabulary, literary elements, and written composition in a variety of modes, expanding on the English curriculum with higher levels of application. Successful honors students read above grade level, demonstrate abstract and higher-level thinking skills, take responsibility for a larger volume of work, and are self-motivated for independent reading and writing assignments.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7

This 7th grade course stresses the mastery of the seventh grade language and literacy objectives. Students read and study a variety of fiction and nonfiction, building on an understanding of reading as a process that includes analyzing and comprehending texts. Through varied and frequent writing assignments, students build on their understanding of writing as a process that includes drafting, revising, editing, proofreading, and publishing. The writing includes journal entries, essays, poetry, a major research project, and original compositions. Reading, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar are integrated into student writing. Higher-level critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 7 HONORS

Highly independent and motivated 7th graders who excel in English skills will expand upon the English curriculum and integrate with extensive writing the study of fiction and nonfiction, independent writing, complex language skills, and research. Composition projects include poetry, essays, journal entries, a major research report, and original writing. Higher-level critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the year. The honors student should have self-discipline, be self-directed, and enjoy reading and writing.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Eighth grade students read and study a variety of fiction and non-fiction, building on an understanding of reading as a process that includes analyzing and comprehending texts. Language study includes vocabulary building and learning about grammar and spelling in context. This course focuses on student writing using Writer's Notebook entries, essays, poetry, short answer responses, and original compositions. Students are exposed to several genres of literature with an emphasis on comprehension and literary analysis. Higher-level critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the year.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8 HONORS

The independent 8th grade learner who is motivated to excel in reading and writing will combine their studies of fiction and nonfiction with their literary analysis and research skills. The class will extend the study of grammar, vocabulary, literary elements, and written composition in a variety of modes, expanding on the English curriculum with a higher level of application. Extensive writing is required, encompassing the composition of poetry, essays, short answer responses, Writer's Notebook entries, research reports, and original compositions.



MATH COURSES

Students are enrolled in a math course every year; they will be placed in a math course based on the Eanes ISD math sequence. This placement can be adjusted pending satisfaction of prerequisites for another course. Find more information on math pathways in the [Math Family Handbook](#).

NOTE: Beginning with Math 8, a graphing calculator for daily use is required. The TI83/84+ is used as the instructional tool in most math classes.

MATH 6

Math 6 is an on-grade level mathematics course guided by the Grade 6 TEKS. The primary focus areas of this math course concentrate on number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations & relationships; and measurement & data. Students will become fluent in integer operations and multiplying and dividing positive rational numbers. Mental math and estimation are stressed, and calculators are utilized to some extent.

MATH 6 ACCELERATED

Prerequisite: Math 5 and 40% Percentile Ranking on Math 5 STAAR

In the Accelerated Math class, students will progress through the curriculum at a faster pace. By the end of the year, they will have learned all of the 6th Grade Math state standards, (TEKS), and approximately half of the 7th grade TEKS. 8th grade Accelerated Math covers the remaining 7th grade TEKS and all of the 8th grade TEKS. This allows students to take Honors Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 in 8th grade for high school credit. Accelerated students will take the 6th Grade Math STAAR test.

MATH 7

Prerequisite: Math 5/6 or Math 6

Math 7 is an on-grade level mathematics course guided by the Grade 7 TEKS. The primary focus areas in Grade 7 are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students will become fluent in all operations of rational numbers. There is emphasis on algebra readiness skills to prepare for Math 8.

MATH 8

Prerequisite: Math 7

Math 8 is an on-grade level mathematics course guided by the Grade 8 TEKS. The primary focal areas are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data.

MATH 8 ACCELERATED

Prerequisite: Math 6 Accelerated or 80% on District Placement Exam

Students will progress through the curriculum at a faster pace: by the end of the year, they will have learned the second half of 7th Grade TEKS, and all the 8th grade TEKS. This allows students to take Honors Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 in 8th grade for high school credit. Accelerated students will take the 8th Grade Math STAAR test.

ALGEBRA I

This is a high school credit course; final semester grades will appear on the high school transcript.

Prerequisite: Math 7/8, Math 8 Accelerated, or Math 8

This course emphasizes the development of skills, techniques and applications that deal with number relations, linear equations, formulas, polynomials, graphing, systems of equations, factoring, rational expressions, data analysis, quadratic, and exponential functions. Students will learn the skills associated with the mathematical process TEKS: problem-solving, appropriate use of tools, mathematical communication, multiple representations, reasoning, proof, and justification. Successful completion of this sequence will prepare students for entry into a geometry course.



ALGEBRA I HONORS

This is a high school credit course; final semester grades will appear on the high school transcript.

Prerequisite: Math 7/8, Math 8 Accelerated, or Math 8. In order to be successful in this course it is recommended that you have an 85% or higher in Math 8th, Math 8 Accelerated, or Math 7/8.

Honors math sequence focuses on teaching mathematical skills and concepts in a problem-solving environment. This course emphasizes the development of skills, techniques and applications that deal with number relations, linear equations, formulas, polynomials, graphing, systems of equations, factoring, rational expressions, data analysis, quadratic, and exponential functions. Students will learn the skills associated with the mathematical process TEKS: problem-solving, appropriate use of tools, mathematical communication, multiple representations, reasoning, proof, and justification. Successful completion of this sequence will prepare students for entry into a geometry course.

GEOMETRY HONORS

This is a high school credit course; final semester grades will appear on the high school transcript.

Prerequisite: Algebra I or Algebra I Honors

The Honors math sequence focuses on teaching mathematical skills and concepts in a problem-solving environment. This course deals with sets of points and related properties. Sets studied include lines, angles, polygons, circles, planes and surfaces of geometric solids such as pyramids, cones, cylinders and spheres. This sequence emphasizes systematic approaches to and processes for proving and applying theorems. Algebra is utilized extensively during the second semester. Students will learn the skills associated with the mathematical process TEKS: problem-solving, appropriate use of tools, mathematical communication, multiple representations, reasoning, proof, and justification. Successful completion of this sequence prepares the students for entry into an Algebra II course.

ALGEBRA II HONORS

This is a high school credit course; final semester grades will appear on the high school transcript.

Prerequisite: Algebra I Honors and a recommended grade of 85% or higher in Geometry honors

In addition to the content specified in the Algebra II course description (see above), the honors sequence focuses on application of concepts in a problem-solving environment. Strong Algebra skills are essential building blocks for a deeper dive into Algebraic concepts. Successful completion of this sequence will prepare students for entry into a Pre-Calculus course.

SCIENCE COURSES

All students select a science course every year.

SCIENCE 6

Science 6 is an integrated course consisting of four major units of study – Matter & Energy; Force, Motion, & Energy; Earth & Space; Organisms & Environments – taught through the context of recurring scientific themes and concepts. Topics of focus include properties of matter; the nature of forces; conservation of energy; movements of the Sun, Earth, and moon; structure of the Earth; resource management; cells; organism variations; and interdependence in living systems. Students will design and conduct field and laboratory investigations, including asking questions and identifying problems, gathering and analyzing data, developing and communicating conclusions, and making informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving.

SCIENCE 7

Science 7 is an integrated course consisting of four major units of study – Matter & Energy; Force, Motion, & Energy; Earth & Space; Organisms & Environments – taught through the context of recurring scientific themes and concepts. Content will build on what was learned in 6th grade science. Topics of focus include changes in matter; motion of objects; thermal energy; objects in the solar system; plate tectonics; Earth's water systems; human organ systems;



natural and artificial selection; flow of energy; and taxonomy. Students will design and conduct field and laboratory investigations, including asking questions and identifying problems, gathering and analyzing data, developing and communicating conclusions, and making informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving.

SCIENCE 8

Science 8 is an integrated course consisting of four major units of study – Matter & Energy; Force, Motion, & Energy; Earth & Space; Organisms & Environments – taught through the context of recurring scientific themes and concepts. Content will build on what was learned in 7th grade science. Topics of focus include classifying matter; the relationship between force and motion; energy and waves; characteristics of the universe; climate interactions; global climate; cell organelles; organism adaptations; and ecosystems. Students will design and conduct field and laboratory investigations, including asking questions and identifying problems, gathering and analyzing data, developing and communicating conclusions, and making informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving.

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

All students select a social studies course every year. Students who qualify as Gifted and Talented (GT) will have their schedule adjusted.

SOCIAL STUDIES 6

This World Cultures and Geography course focuses on the study of people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Societies for study are from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific realm. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of various societies. Students also participate in academic research and in a variety of projects.

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

This Texas History course encompasses the stories of people, events, and institutions from the state's earliest civilizations to the modern day. These integral components of Texas history are combined with the study of geography and its themes to relate the stories of events and the relationships between people and places in all phases of the state's development. Students achieve an understanding of how and why events occurred, a comprehension of the historical significance of events, and the ability to relate past events to daily living in modern times.

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

This American History course covers the history of our country from pre-Columbian beginnings to the Reconstruction following the Civil War. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students will describe the physical characteristics of the United States and its impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America will be analyzed, along with the early years of the republic and the origins of the free enterprise system. Students will examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students will evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States and the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students will also evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Critical thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual materials will be emphasized.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

All students must complete a minimum of two years (four semesters) of physical education. This requirement can be met through Physical Education (PE), Pre-Athletics/Athletics, or a PE Waiver. 6th graders must enroll in a full-year option.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 6 [full year only]

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 [one semester only]

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8 [one semester only]

There is a PE uniform fee.

The physical education program concentrates on mastering basic motor skills used in most team sports. Sportsmanship, history of sport, and a working knowledge of cardio-respiratory fitness are included. Team sports include volleyball, soccer, flag football, handball, basketball, softball, floor hockey, and various modified games. Grades are based on participation and written work.

PRE-ATHLETICS 6 [full year only]

The purpose of 6th Grade Pre-Athletics is to prepare students for the expectations of 7th Grade Athletics and the fundamental skills for sports offered in EISD Athletics. The 4 focus areas of this course are:

1. Role of a Student Athlete (academics, teamwork, character, competitor)
2. Fundamentals of Lifting Weights
3. Speed, Agility, Balance, Stamina, Flexibility
4. Sport-specific movements, fundamentals, and schemes

Students participating in Pre-Athletics must recognize that the workouts will build up to, and then be comparable to the workouts given to 7th and 8th grade student-athletes. The physical demands are greater than Physical Education, and the expectation is to give your best every day. Coaches expect students to work hard, have a positive attitude, and have fun. Pre-Athletics is NOT required for participation in Athletics.

ATHLETICS 7 [full year only] | **ATHLETICS 8** [full year only]

A physical exam and clearance from a physician is required before students are able to participate.

There is an athletic uniform fee; additionally, participation fees must be paid prior to participation in the sport. Fees are:

- \$375 flat fee for participation in one or more team sports (football, volleyball, basketball, soccer) **OR**
- \$250 fee for participation in one individual sport (track, cross-country, golf, tennis) **OR**
- \$375 fee for participation in more than one of the individual sports.
- No fee is required for off-season athletics if you do not make the team.

NOTE: All students enrolled in the Pre-Athletics/Athletics classes remain enrolled through the entire year and will participate in the "off season" program when their sport is out of season. Schedule change requests will not be accepted.

Cross-country, golf, tennis, and soccer are available before or after school as set up by the coach. Students in these sports are not required to sign up for the Athletics class.

ATHLETICS: Boys

This class is only for boys interested in trying out for **football, basketball, or track and field**. During the first semester, boys will try out for UIL football or be in an off-season basketball class. Boys try out for the basketball team at the conclusion of the football season. UIL track and field follows basketball in the spring semester.

- **7th grade** football and basketball practice begins at 7:30 a.m. and continues through 1st period.
- **8th grade** football and basketball practice begins in 8th period and continues until 5 p.m.



ATHLETICS: Girls

This class is only for girls who are trying out for UIL competition in **volleyball, basketball, or track and field**. The athletes who are not competing in volleyball in the fall semester will participate in the “off-season” program, preparing for competition in basketball. This will be in the athletic period only. Basketball season follows volleyball and runs through both semesters. UIL track and field follows basketball in the spring semester.

- **7th grade** teams start practice at 7:30 a.m. and continue through 1st period.
- **8th grade** teams start practice in 8th period and continue until 5 p.m.

EVE [full year only]

There is a \$50 fee for all students and a \$250 fee for students who wish to compete.

Elite Visual Ensemble (EVE) is a year-long course designed to teach, train, and develop individual performance skills through the use of color guard equipment. This performing arts group will use contemporary guard equipment (flags, rifles, sabers), modern dance, acting, and a wide variety of props. Numerous performance opportunities include half-time shows, pep rallies, and competitions. The winter guard competes indoors during the spring semester.

PE WAIVERS [full year or one semester]

Students participating in an extensive sports program outside school hours may submit an application requesting approval of the program to fulfill the physical education requirement. Approval requires a letter from the participating agency. The application and supporting documents must be submitted by the deadline. In order to receive credit, attendance logs are required and must be submitted by the deadline. Students enrolled in PE or Athletics on campus are not eligible for a PE Waiver. The application and attendance logs are found online: [HCMS PE Waiver Info](#) and [WRMS PE Waiver Info](#).

Category 1 Waiver (6th-8th): Students must be participating in a program that leads to Olympic level of participation and/or competition for a minimum of 15 hours per week (for a minimum total of 270 hours per semester) of highly intense, professionally supervised training. The student may be dismissed from school one period per day, but may not stay on campus during the PE waiver period.

Category 2 Waiver (7th-8th): Students must be participating in a program that is of high quality, well-supervised by appropriately trained instructors, and consisting of a minimum of 5 hours per week (for a minimum total of 90 hours per semester). The student will fulfill the physical education requirement, but may not leave campus for any portion of the school day.

- 6th grade students enrolled in EISD Spanish Immersion or a year-long intervention course (i.e. Reading) are eligible to apply for a Category 2 PE Waiver.
- Students enrolled in cheerleading and cross country may complete a Category 2 PE Waiver application if that activity is intended to satisfy the physical education requirement.



ELECTIVE COURSES: 6th GRADE

WHEEL

All 6th graders participate in 12-week exploratory elective rotations in art, computer literacy, and drama.

Art

Art students will experience a sampling of various media (such as drawing, painting, mixed media, design, and ceramics). Students will explore art appreciation, art history, careers in art, and cultural artworks through group discussions.

Computer Literacy

Students will use technology tools to build 21st-century skills. Students will practice digital citizenship, media literacy, create documents, presentations, and be introduced to coding.

Drama

Drama explores sensory awareness, spatial perception and body movement, mime, mask-making, improvisation, dramatic storytelling, puppetry, audience etiquette, and theater appreciation. The course encourages creativity and imagination on the part of the student.

MUSIC

*Sixth graders must select one year-long music course (beginning band, beginning choir, or beginning orchestra); students may not combine the first semester of one music course with the second semester of another music course. Students with experience above the beginning level can talk to the director regarding auditions for appropriate placement. **See pages 10-11 for course descriptions.***

SPANISH II A

This is a high school credit course; final semester grades will appear on the high school transcript.

Prerequisite: Completion of Eanes ISD Spanish Immersion Program (K-4) AND qualifying score on Eanes ISD placement exam.

This course is a continuation of the listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills students developed through their immersion experience in elementary school. Students continue their language development through a variety of written and oral activities. The course also focuses on grammar. Students will study Spanish-speaking countries to develop a deeper awareness and appreciation of Spanish speaking cultures. This course should be thought of as a core academic class. Students will be held to high academic standards. Good study skills, homework habits, and participation in class are critical. A minimum of 15-30 minutes each day is needed to complete assignments. Spanish is primarily spoken in the class, but English may be used by the teacher to clarify concepts. **This is a two-year commitment for the student.** Completion of Spanish II A and II B entitles students to a Spanish II credit and a Spanish I credit. Students who score below a 70% in the fall semester will be removed from the course, and no high school credit will be awarded.

- *NOTE: Spanish Immersion students who are approved for a Category 2 PE Waiver may drop PE or Pre-Athletics in order to take both the Wheel and a Music elective. Students taking PE or Pre-Athletics will take either Wheel or Music.*



FULL-YEAR ELECTIVE COURSES: 7th & 8th GRADES

Students select a combination of full-year (2 semesters) and one-semester elective courses for a total of 3 class periods (6 semesters). Electives offered at each middle school depend on the number of students who select each course. If enrollment is low, a course may not be offered or may only be available at one middle school.

MUSIC (Band, Choir, Orchestra for all grade levels)

Note: Fees are associated with each music elective. All music classes are taken for the full year.

BAND: Placement in specific ensembles will be determined by the campus director and will occur in May. Purchase of supplies and uniforms is required for all band classes.

- Beginning Band requires no prior experience. Fundamentals of performance in the wind and percussion instruments will be the focus of daily instruction in the beginning band. Instrument selection is under the advice of the band directors. Our goals will include development of ear training, listening skills, playing skills (both individual and ensemble), tone production, technical mastery of the instrument, and musicianship. The band will perform concerts, and the students will participate in the Eanes Solo and Ensemble Festival. Students will also rehearse and perform for a special spring band activity.
- Concert Band is the intermediate ensemble for those who have completed at least one year of beginning band. Emphasis is placed on refining ensemble playing skills and developing individual performance skills. Students are expected to participate in some pep rallies, football games, formal concerts, solo & ensemble, and the Spring Trip. Students are expected to participate in a weekly help session held before or after school.
- Symphonic Band is the most advanced ensemble for those who have completed at least one year of beginning band. Emphasis is placed on refining ensemble playing skills and developing individual performance skills; however, performance expectations and instruction are more rigorous than in Concert Band. In addition to the Concert Band performance opportunities, students will participate in several additional performances and are expected to audition for the TMEAAll-District Band. Students are expected to participate in a weekly help session held before or after school.
- Wind Ensemble (WRMS only) requires at least one year's experience in a school band program. This ensemble is for advanced players auditioning at the regional level. Attention is given to advanced ensemble techniques and skills of good ensemble playing, in addition to developing and refining individual playing skills for advancement to the high school level. Placement is based on a taped audition and directors' evaluation of the student's playing skills.
- Jazz Band is open to any 7th or 8th-grade student who is concurrently enrolled in another band, choir, or orchestra class. Instruction will take place during the class period. Students will develop technical, theoretical, and improvisational skills inherent in modern jazz and pop music. Performance opportunities are dependent upon the instrumentation of the students enrolled.

CHOIR: Students of all ability levels are welcome to join the Choir. Placement in one of the choirs will be at the recommendation of the choir directors. All members will participate in concerts, Choir UIL, and will be encouraged to participate in the All-Region Choir. Note: purchase of a performance uniform is required.

- Beginning Choir is open to all students. This course emphasizes training in basic choir skills, including healthy vocal production, development of music reading skills, personal responsibility, and working together as a team. The students will sing a wide variety of musical styles and will have the opportunity to share their accomplishments in several evening performances and school assemblies throughout the year, as well as perform in and prepare for a special spring choir activity.



- Concert (HCMS) and Honor (WRMS) Treble Choir is open to all seventh and eighth-grade students. Previous music experience is helpful but not required. Students will receive training in music skills, will learn to read music, and will enjoy singing a wide variety musical styles. Opportunities for performances both on and off campus will be provided for all students. Choir members will perform in several evening performances throughout the year. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in All-Region Choir, UIL, assemblies, and our annual spring music festival trip.
- Varsity Treble Choir is open to seventh and eighth-grade students who have at least one year of choir experience. Emphasis is placed on advanced music skills, and further development of the voice. Students will study and perform a wide variety of musical styles with increasing depth and challenge. Choir members will perform in several evening performances throughout the course of the year. They will also perform at school assemblies and pep rallies. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in All-Region Choir, UIL, and our annual spring music festival trip.
- Tenor Bass Choir is open to all seventh and eighth-grade students. Previous music experience is helpful, but not required. Students will receive training in music skills, will learn to read music, and will enjoy singing a wide variety of musical styles. Special attention will be devoted to the care of the developing, changing voice. Opportunities for performances both on and off campus will be provided for all students. Choir members will perform in several evening performances through the course of the year. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in All-Region Choir, UIL, assemblies and our annual spring music festival trip.

ORCHESTRA: *Purchase of some supplies and a uniform is required. Placement in specific ensembles will be determined by the campus director and will occur in May.*

- Beginning Orchestra is for all students who are new to playing a string instrument. This class provides foundational instruction on violin, viola, cello, bass, or harp, with the campus orchestra teacher assisting each student in selecting the instrument that best suits their interests and abilities. Students will learn basic playing techniques, proper posture, and the fundamentals of music reading. The focus is on building confidence, establishing strong musical habits, and enjoying the collaborative experience of playing in an ensemble. Orchestra students are expected to participate in evening performances and school assemblies during the school year.
- Concert Orchestra is the intermediate ensemble for any student with at least one year of experience in beginning orchestra. This group emphasizes developing tone quality, improving instrumental technique, and strengthening music reading skills. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and to work effectively within a team of musicians. Members perform a variety of repertoire and participate in concerts, assemblies, UIL contests, Solo & Ensemble events, and a spring trip. This Orchestra fosters growth in musical skills and a sense of community within the ensemble.
- Camerata Orchestra (WRMS only) is an advanced intermediate ensemble for 7th and 8th-grade students who have shown outstanding musical growth and leadership in the Concert Orchestra or through auditions. This group challenges students with more complex repertoire and places a strong emphasis on expressive playing, advanced techniques, and ensemble cohesion. Members are expected to participate in all the performance opportunities offered to Concert Orchestra members, with additional leadership roles in rehearsals and special events. Camerata is an ideal ensemble for students who seek to elevate their musicianship in preparation for advanced opportunities.
- Sinfonia Orchestra is the most advanced ensemble; students are placed through a rigorous audition process. This elite group focuses on high-level performance skills, advanced music reading, and artistic collaboration. Students perform a demanding repertoire that requires dedication and a commitment to excellence. In addition to participating in concerts, assemblies, UIL contests, Solo & Ensemble, and the spring trip, members also join Full Orchestra rehearsals and performances during the spring semester. This ensemble represents the highest level of musical achievement, providing an enriching and challenging experience for its members.



WORLD LANGUAGES

NOTE: 8th grade students who are fluent in a world language are eligible to take an AAPPL exam over the summer before 9th grade to determine placement above Level I at Westlake and/or to earn credit. [Learn more here](#); see your school counselor with questions.

World Language courses started in 7th grade are a two-year commitment. Prospective students need to have maintained at least a 'B' average in sixth-grade English Language Arts to consider taking one of these courses. Language courses should be thought of as a core academic class. Students will be held to high academic standards and will need to maintain an 80 average to be recommended for Course 8. *Successful completion with a grade of 70 or above in Course 7 and Course 8 in the same language earns one high school credit of Level I of the language. The final semester grades will appear on the high school transcript, but are not factored in the GPA calculation. A minimum of two full credits in the same language are required for high school graduation.*

FRENCH 7 (French 1A)

This is a full-year high school credit course; a passing grade will earn 0.5 credit for French IA.

Introduction to French with emphasis on all skills: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Students who score below 70% in the fall semester will be removed from the course, and no high school credit will be awarded. Recommended for students with a B+ average or better in English and who will devote 15 to 20 minutes to homework each night.

FRENCH 8 (French 1B)

This is a full-year high school credit course; a passing grade will earn 0.5 credit for French IB.

Prerequisite: French 7

Continuation of 7th grade French with emphasis on all skills: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Students who successfully complete this course are eligible to enroll in French II. Students who score below a 70% in the fall semester will be removed from the course, and no high school credit will be awarded for French IB; credit earned for French IA will remain. Students must be prepared to devote 15 to 20 minutes to homework each night.

SPANISH 7 (Spanish 1A)

This is a full-year high school credit course; a passing grade will earn 0.5 credit for Spanish IA.

Introduction to Spanish with emphasis on all skills: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Passing the full year of Spanish 7 allows the student to earn 0.5 high school credit for Spanish IA. Grades from both semesters will be posted to the high school transcript but are not factored in high school GPA calculation. Students who score below 70% in the fall semester will be removed from the course, and no high school credit will be awarded. Recommended for students with a B+ average or better in English and who will devote 15 to 20 minutes to homework each night. *This is an academic elective; it also counts toward the world language graduation requirement.*

SPANISH 8 (Spanish 1B)

This is a full-year high school credit course; a passing grade will earn 0.5 credit for Spanish IB.

Prerequisite: Spanish 7

Continuation of 7th grade Spanish with emphasis on all skills: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Students who successfully complete this course are eligible to enroll in Spanish II. Students who score below a 70 in the fall semester will be removed from the course, and no high school credit will be awarded for Spanish IB; credit earned for Spanish IA will remain. Students must be prepared to devote 15 to 20 minutes to homework each night.

SPANISH I

This is a full-year high school credit course; a passing grade will earn 1.0 credit for Spanish I.

Open to students enrolled in 8th grade Honors Language Arts who maintained a 90 average in 7th grade



Honors Language Arts. This course is a highly structured academic course that emphasizes the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Class participation, work completion, and good study habits are needed to form a solid language foundation. A minimum of 15-30 minutes each day is needed to complete homework. This course includes oral presentations, group work, and collaboration.

SPANISH IIB (Spanish Immersion 7th graders only)

This is a full-year high school credit course; a passing grade will earn 0.5 credit for Spanish IIB.

Prerequisite: Spanish IIA in 6th grade

Spanish IIB is a continuation of Spanish IIA, including development of listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through a variety of written and oral activities as well as cultural exploration from Spanish speaking countries. The course requires daily practice, collaboration, and active participation in order to maintain a strong language proficiency. Students should expect a minimum of 15-30 minutes of daily homework. Passing the full year of Spanish IIB in 7th grade allows the student to earn 0.5 high school credit for Spanish IIB. Grades from both semesters will be posted to the high school transcript but are not factored in high school GPA calculation. Completion of Spanish II A and II B entitles students to a Spanish II credit and a Spanish I credit. Additionally, this course will prepare students for enrollment in Spanish III in 8th grade.

SPANISH III (Spanish Immersion 8th graders only)

This is a full-year high school credit course; a passing grade will earn 1.0 credit for Spanish III.

Prerequisite: Spanish IIB in 7th grade

This course continues developing students' listening, reading, writing, and speaking skills. The focus is on increasing one's vocabulary and knowledge of grammar to support language proficiency. Spanish is generally spoken in the class, but English is used as needed to clarify concepts. A minimum of 15-30 minutes each day is needed to complete homework. Projects and oral presentations are major components of the Spanish 3 curriculum. Spanish III prepares students to continue into Spanish IV.

YEARBOOK 1 / YEARBOOK 2

Application/approval may be required. This is a full-year course.

This year-long journalism class is responsible for the production of the yearbook. Students design page layouts, take photos of peers, conduct interviews, write stories/captions, and develop desktop publishing skills. Students must be able to work independently, work well with others, and attend extracurricular events outside of the school day to meet deadlines. Students need their own transportation to events outside the school day. Students selected to serve as editors must be willing to work with the adviser & other editors outside of class time.

HILL COUNTRY PLAYERS (HCMS course)

Audition required. This is a full-year course with an associated fee.

This is a hands-on approach to theater where 8th grade students at Hill Country Middle School develop a dramatic production to present to the student body. Building on the basics of theatrical performance, such as characterization, stage presence and vocal production, students in HCP can further their on-stage dramatic skills as well as practice some elements of technical theater, including sound and lighting design.



ONE-SEMESTER ELECTIVE COURSES: 7th & 8th GRADES

*Students may select a combination of full-year courses (2 semesters) and one-semester courses to combine for a total of 3 class periods (6 semesters) of elective courses. One-semester courses are typically taken one time in either 7th or 8th grades. **Elective offerings are based on the number of students who choose to take each course. If selection is low, a course may not be offered. It is possible that some courses will only be available at one middle school.***

ABOVE AND BEYOND: Explorations of Philosophy, Law, and Engineering

This hands-on, project-based course explores topics such as philosophy, law, and engineering. Students will use critical and creative thinking skills as they ponder questions, learn about courtroom procedures, and work through the engineering design process. Activities include making videos and/or podcasts, conducting mock trials, designing solutions, and building a variety of simple machines and structures.

ANIMATION & GAME DESIGN

Students will be challenged to use problem-solving techniques and higher-level thinking skills along with creative design to produce animations and games using a variety of programs. Students will have the opportunity to practice animating in several different styles while learning the 12 Animation Principles and learn game design principles and apply them in creating gaming worlds. Skills refined within this class will enable students to be confident, efficient, and successful when given technology-based assignments.

ART I

There is a supply fee for consumables for this class.

This art studio course concentrates on the art techniques of both two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. Students will explore a variety of ideas and creative expression drawn from the imagination, art history, art careers, and various cultures. This class will take the student from drawing to painting, printmaking, perspective, three-dimensional works, computer graphics, and textiles. New technologies are enthusiastically explored with each project. When creating art, students will rely on their perceptions of the environment to develop an increased visual awareness and sensitivity to their surroundings, memory, imagination, and life experiences. The environment of this class is one of cooperative learning, a high level of creative activity and personal responsibility. This course develops the skill of making informed judgments and evaluations on works of art. Visual Art is a way of encouraging a creative approach to life necessary for invention and problem solving in a variety of situations. Art teaches creative thinking. Students will be expected to acquire and keep a sketchbook.

ART II (WRMS only)

There is a supply fee for consumables for this class.

This art studio course is a continuation of Art I that covers different curriculums; it is offered at WRMS only.

COMPUTER GRAPHICS & WEB DESIGN

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the more sophisticated programs from the Adobe Express suite and will include basic HTML5 and CSS3 used in website content design and styling. Students will create detailed graphic designs, manipulate photographs and use these to build content for their website. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of separating content (HTML5) and style (CSS3). Students will develop multifaceted skills to prepare them to make more informed choices when selecting high school courses.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

This hands-on, project-based course allows students to get creative while developing problem-solving skills. This class uses STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics)-based activities to develop critical thinking skills and collaboration amongst the students. Students will explore areas of coding, mechanical engineering, computer-aided design and drafting, civil engineering, flight, and digital electronics.



FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FCS I)

There is a supply fee for consumables for this class.

This single-semester course is designed to provide 7th and 8th grade students with a well-rounded understanding of essential life skills. Through hands-on experiences and engaging activities, students will explore the 7 Pillars of Family and Consumer Science: Interior Design, Sewing/Fashion, Child Development, Financial Literacy, Career Exploration, Nutrition/Wellness, and Food Science.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES ADVANCED (FCS II) (WRMS only)

Prerequisite: FCS 1

There is a supply fee for consumables for this class.

Currently offered at WRMS only, this course deepens students' understanding and skills in various aspects of life through real-world applications. Utilizing thematic units combining many of the seven FCS pillars, students will explore multiple aspects of FCS simultaneously using the foundational knowledge from FCS 1. FCS 2 aims to empower students with practical life skills that are essential for personal and professional future success.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Open to 8th graders. This is a one-semester high school credit course: a passing grade will earn 0.5 credit

This course provides opportunities for students to acquire facts, develop proper attitudes, and establish practices and habits that will contribute to personal, family, and community health. The course includes lectures, speakers, group discussions, and videotapes. The following topics will be covered: wellness, mental health, nutrition, first aid, consumer education, environmental health, diseases, substance abuse, tobacco use, sexually transmitted diseases, human sexuality, and decision-making skills.

METHODOLOGY FOR ACADEMIC & PERSONAL SUCCESS – MAPS

This course can be taken for multiple semesters with approval.

MAPS is a one semester course offered to 7th & 8th grade students that focuses on the skills necessary for students to be successful. Essential knowledge and skills include: time management, goal setting, organizational skills, study skills/habits, attitude, resilience, and character education.

PEER PARTNERS 1

Approval required; discipline history and teacher referral considered.

This course is designed for students who are interested in learning about various developmental and physical disabilities while supporting peers with disabilities during the school day. Peer Partners will work with these students in a variety of settings, including academic courses, PE, and lunch, and may assist with activities such as reading, playing games, or working together on computer software. Peer Partners also model appropriate social behavior and building lasting friendships. Peer Partners must be motivated, responsible, and self-disciplined.

PHOTO/FILM PRODUCTION 1

This course can be taken for one semester in either 7th or 8th grade.

[Formerly known as HC-TV/WRMS-TV, EXPANDED CURRICULUM!] This introductory course provides a hands-on exploration of visual communication through the lens of photography and other media. Students will learn to operate photographic equipment and develop technical skills in image capture and editing, including broadcast journalism. The course will also introduce students to the fundamental principles of media analysis and critique, fostering their understanding as both producers and consumers of imagery. Through project-based learning, students will apply creativity and innovation while developing practical technology concepts related to hardware and software. The course aims to prepare students for advanced high school coursework in the Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications cluster, aligning with the foundational concepts of the CTE program of study, including professional standards, communication skills, and basic design principles, as well as relevant Technology Applications TEKS for middle school.



PHOTO/FILM PRODUCTION 2

This course can be taken for one semester in either 7th or 8th grade; prerequisite: Photo/Film Production 1

This continuation of Photo/Film Production I provides a further hands-on exploration of visual communication through the lens of photography with an emphasis on video technology and production. Students will enhance their understanding of photographic equipment and technical skills in editing, special effects as they pertain to digital photography and broadcast journalism. The course will deepen the student's use of media analysis and critique as both producers and consumers of imagery. Through project-based learning, students will apply creativity and innovation while developing practical technology concepts related to hardware and software. The course aims to prepare students for advanced high school coursework in the Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications cluster, aligning with the foundational concepts of the CTE program of study, including professional standards, communication skills, and basic design principles, as well as relevant Technology Applications TEKS for middle school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7 and PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

This course should be taken for one semester in both 7th and 8th grades.

This course is for students who are not interested in Athletics or a PE Waiver. See page 8 for course description.

ROBOTICS I

This STEM course provides students with the opportunity to explore the content areas of Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science through curriculum-based challenges. Students will engage in basic coding processes to help develop logic and sequential processing, as well as, developing knowledge utilizing the engineering design process. This course will utilize VEX IQ robotics hardware. This course is meant to scaffold for Robotics 2 and further participation in high school robotics.

ROBOTICS II

Prerequisite: Robotics 1 or prior club competition and teacher approval

This STEM course is designed for students who are highly motivated to continue pursuing robotics and engineering. Students in Robotics 2 will expand their basic knowledge and skills into a competition format. The class is designed to develop a deeper understanding of syntax-based coding and advanced building. The class Utilizes the VEX IQ robotic hardware.

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS (SPEECH)

Open to 8th graders at WRMS. This is a one-semester high school credit course; a passing grade will earn 0.5 credit.

This public speaking course is designed to help students learn how to prepare & deliver outstanding presentations, interact with different types of people, improve image & voice, work in groups efficiently, manage conflicts smoothly, and more. It is an exciting class with many opportunities for partner & group work in a fun, relaxed setting with minimal homework required.

STUDENT AIDE

Open to 8th graders; application required.

Students should be in good standing academically (passing all courses) and behaviorally to sign up for this class.

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

Prerequisite: Animation & Gaming, Computer Graphics & Web Design, Design & Technology or Robotics.

This comprehensive course equips students with essential technology skills and knowledge for the digital age. Through a series of engaging and hands-on projects, students develop proficiency in core technology areas. The curriculum focuses on computational thinking and teaches problem-solving techniques such as decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction, and algorithm development. Students apply these skills to create text-based programs and improve existing code, making learning exciting and dynamic.



TECHNICAL THEATRE

This is a one semester course open to both 7th and 8th graders once per school year.

Come explore the backstage! We'll be designing and creating sets, costumes, makeup, and props through various hands-on projects. You'll also learn to use sound, lighting, and media to help enhance the theater experience. When you've completed Tech Theatre, you will find that with something as small as duct tape, you can walk away with a wearable work of art!

THEATRE ARTS

This is a one semester course open to both 7th and 8th graders once per school year

This class is designed to bring out the actor in any middle school student. We'll explore acting techniques, improvisation, and live performances. It's a great way to share your talents, boost your confidence, and have fun. Students wanting to participate in main stage, school-wide productions are highly encouraged to take this course.

