

Creekview Middle School
Home of the Colts



Ed Wilkie Middle School
Home of the Badgers



Highland Middle School
Home of the Hawks



EAGLE MOUNTAIN-SAGINAW ISD



2023-2024
MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE
DESCRIPTION HANDBOOK



Marine Creek Middle School
Home of the Mustangs



Prairie Vista Middle School
Home of the Coyotes



Wayside Middle School
Home of the Wildcats



TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT	3
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	4
MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS	5
EMS ISD MISSION	6
ADVANCED ACADEMICS	7
G/T PROGRAM	9
TRANSFER GRADES	10
PERSONALIZED COURSE SELECTION PROCESS	11
TESTING/OPTIONS FOR CREDIT	12
ACADEMIC VOCABULARY	14
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	15
6 TH GRADE COURSES ELA, MATH, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, FINE ARTS, AND ELECTIVES	16
7 TH GRADE COURSES ELA, MATH, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, FINE ARTS, AND ELECTIVES	20
7 TH GRADE ATHLETICS	22
8 TH GRADE COURSES ELA, MATH, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES, FINE ARTS, AND ELECTIVES	25
8 TH GRADE ATHLETICS	28
8 TH GRADE COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT	30



EAGLE MOUNTAIN
SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

Dear EMS ISD Students and Parents:

We are proud to present the 2023-2024 Academic Course Planning Guide which includes graduation requirements, course descriptions, and other general information you may need to make informed decisions about your education career in EMS ISD.

The mission of Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District is to foster a **culture of excellence that instills a passion for a lifetime of continuous achievement in every student**. Creating a successful future for every student in our district is a result of the combined efforts of students, school personnel, and parents. Through the course selection process, you have the opportunity to create your own pathway of success by carefully selecting your classes since these choices will be a foundation for your future.

In EMS ISD, we recognize that every student is a unique individual with unique potential, and we encourage you to consider your own personal likes as well as your strengths and aspirations when choosing courses. We also encourage you to challenge yourself so as to best prepare for continued success as you move into a college environment in the near future. All students should consider taking advanced coursework including Advanced/AP classes, dual credit, OnRamps, and advanced certification eligible CTE courses. Course choices also should include consideration of the many career and technology classes and co-curricular courses including athletics and fine arts. With careful planning, students may graduate as an AP scholar or with an industry-recognized certification. Please review your options carefully, discuss these options with your parents, and ask questions of our counselors.

With strong academics as our focus, we understand that the best-prepared students are those who also are actively involved in their schools and community. Therefore, we encourage you to balance class loads as well as become involved in extra-curricular opportunities as an important component in your personal development in high school. Our goal is for all students to have a meaningful educational experience throughout their time in EMS ISD that inspires life-long learning and prepares them for future success in their chosen paths beyond graduation. Please contact your school counselor or a school administrator if you have any questions in the course selection process.

I wish you success in your planning efforts.

Sincerely,

Jim F. Chadwell, Ed.D.
Superintendent



EAGLE MOUNTAIN SAGINAW ISD

Fostering a Culture of Excellence

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Dr. Dana Barnes, Chief Academic Officer

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District is to foster a **culture of excellence** that instills a **passion** for a **lifetime of continuous achievement** in every student.

EMS ISD MIDDLE SCHOOLS**PRINCIPALS**

Creekview Middle School 6716 Bob Hanger Street Fort Worth, TX 76179 817-237-4261	Jennifer Stark
Ed Willkie Middle School 6129 Texas Shiner Road Fort Worth, TX 76179 817-237-9631	Brian Booker
Highland Middle School 1001 E. Bailey Boswell Road Fort Worth, TX 76131 817-847-5143	Andrea Lasher
Marine Creek Middle School 5825 Marine Creek Parkway Fort Worth, TX 76179 817- 847-2945	Ron Gatlin
Prairie Vista Middle School 8000 Comanche Springs Drive Fort Worth, TX 76131 817-847-9210	Wat Harden
Wayside Middle School 1300 Old Decatur Road Fort Worth, TX 76179 817-232-0541	John Fahey

OUR MISSION:

The mission of Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District is to foster a culture of excellence that instills a passion for a lifetime of continuous achievement in every student.

We Believe:

1. Every student is a unique individual with unique potential.
2. Effective communication is key to success.
3. Engaged and interested students learn more effectively.
4. Respect is a key to success.
5. Education is a team effort.
6. High quality educational facilities optimize student and staff success.
7. Accountability is essential to success.
8. A physically and emotionally safe environment promotes student learning.
9. A high quality education is barrier free.

Strategic Objectives:

1. Each student will have a dynamic-customized education plan from registration to graduation which contains post-secondary goals and inspires individual success.
2. Each student will be equipped with innovative technological skills to complete and contribute to a constantly evolving global society.
3. Each student will be challenged to fulfill the district's high expectations and leave the district prepared and qualified to succeed in their chosen path(s).

Strategies:

1. We will design and implement a system in which personal education plans are created that promote high expectations and meet the academic, social, emotional, and extra-curricular needs of each student.
2. We will create an interconnected community where technology is integrated into the fabric of all we do. The district will provide the resources, training, and skill development to drive our students' future success.
3. We will provide each teacher with the resources and opportunities to collaboratively plan the innovative implementation and delivery of the instructional program.
4. We will create a culture that promotes each student's inner drive, providing the opportunity to reach full potential.
5. We will systematically evaluate and assess learning, processing, and programs against internal and external benchmark standards to hold staff and students accountable for our culture of excellence.
6. We will employ and retain high-performing, dynamic educators with character and conviction to improve themselves and their students through effective strategies by innovative, targeted continuing education, freedom and flexibility to teach beyond established assessments, all with District support.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Welcome to EMS ISD, home to Creekview, Ed Willkie, Highland, Marine Creek, Prairie Vista, and Wayside Middle Schools. As our Aspire 2025 shows, we are committed to every child's success as they journey through our district. We strive to design our courses to not only meet the Texas Education Agency's requirements for middle school, but to also meet the interests and talents of the individual student through a variety of courses displayed in this course selection guide. As students make their selections and the schedules are created, some courses may not be able to "make" due to low enrollment numbers. When that situation occurs, the alternative course(s) listed will be selected for the student's schedule. Please feel free to contact your school counselor or administrator if you have any questions or concerns in course selection.

ADVANCED ACADEMICS

The Advanced Academics courses, such as eligible Advanced courses and Advanced Placement courses, offer a more challenging and fast-paced classroom experience. Teachers for these courses are trained in advanced methodology and curriculum that correlates with the Advanced Placement courses and/or exams. Students in Advanced Placement courses are able to take the AP test in May with the goal of attaining college credit hours in that subject.

Advanced Courses

Academic courses that lead to Advanced Placement [AP] courses are referred to as Advanced courses. Advanced courses can be taken in grades 6 – 11. In middle school, Advanced courses cover curriculum with greater depth and complexity. They require additional studies outside of the classroom as well as good time management skills. Emphasis is given to the skills and strategies students need to succeed in AP courses in grades 9 - 12 and in post-secondary education. Advanced courses are offered in English, mathematics, science, social studies and other selected courses. Students who are interested in enrolling in an Advanced course should consider that these courses will require extra time for study and preparation. Successful completion of previous courses with an average of 85 or above and a score of Meets or Masters grade level on STAAR tests are also recommended.

Middle school students who are identified as gifted and talented are served through Advanced and AP coursework, as well as GT Humanities opportunities. In order for students to continue to be served in the Gifted and Talented program, they must be enrolled in at least one of these courses (see Gifted and Talented section for more details).

Advanced Mathematics

Middle school Advanced math courses are compacted and cover four years of curriculum in three years. A student may show readiness for Advanced math at the start of any school year. Those mastering Advanced coursework in the 6th and 7th grade may enroll in 8th grade Advanced Algebra I. Others may choose Advanced math for the first time in 8th grade, then continue on the Advanced/AP math path throughout high school. Due to requirements in Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), §101.3011, students who have completed STAAR EOC assessments while in middle school must take either the corresponding ACT or the SAT while in high school to fulfill federal testing requirements.

MATH RECOMMENDED SEQUENCE

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	HS Year 1
Math 6 <i>6th Grade STAAR</i>	Math 7 <i>7th Grade STAAR</i>	Math 8 *Advanced Math 8 <i>8th Grade STAAR</i>	Algebra I *Advanced Algebra I <i>Algebra I EOC</i>
Advanced Math 6 <i>6th Grade STAAR</i>	Advanced Math 7 <i>8th Grade STAAR</i>	*Advanced Math 8 <i>8th Grade STAAR</i> *Advanced Algebra I <i>Algebra I EOC</i>	*Advanced Geometry

**The following criteria is recommended for students enrolling in Advanced math courses:*

- *Maintain an overall 85+ GPA in current math class*
- *Perform at the masters level on math STAAR*
- *Score 80+ on district placement test*
- *Demonstrate strong work ethic and study skills*
- *Master new concepts at a fast pace*
- *Enjoy challenges and problem-solving*

Students who do not meet the recommended criteria yet desire enrollment in these courses should contact their counselors to discuss.

Students will only be allowed to exit Advanced Algebra I prior to the end of the first semester. Students will not be allowed to exit after the end of the first semester.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

AP Spanish for Native Speakers is offered in 8th grade. Students in the AP Spanish for Native Speakers may earn college credit hours based on an acceptable score on the AP exam.

GIFTED AND TALENTED PROGRAM

The EMS ISD Gifted and Talented Program [G/T] is designed to meet the needs of identified gifted students who have demonstrated above-average ability in the following two areas of giftedness as defined by the Texas State Plan for the Gifted: 1) high general-intellectual ability; and 2) creative and productive thinking. In Eagle Mountain Saginaw ISD, secondary G/T students are served through Advanced and AP classes, as well as GT Humanities opportunities. As per the Texas State Plan for the Gifted and Talented, our G/T students have regular opportunities to work with their likeability peers and have differentiated instruction to increase the depth and complexity of the curriculum within the Advanced and AP classes. We accomplish this through clustering (defined as 5 or more G/T students in a class). This strategy allows our students to benefit from both heterogeneous and homogeneous grouping methods. G/T cluster classes are not exclusively for G/T students and are not comprised of all G/T students. Teachers assigned to G/T cluster classes have G/T training including the 30-hour initial G/T training, 6-hour annual G/T training updates, as well as district training opportunities with other G/T teachers.

In EMS ISD, middle school students who are identified as Gifted and Talented are served through the following ways:

- 6th Grade
 - Clustering in Advanced ELAR and Advanced Math courses (and in Advanced Science as their individual schedules allow)
 - 6th GT and Advanced Humanities Social Studies and 6th GT and Advanced Humanities Reading (taken together)
- 7th Grade
 - Clustering in Advanced ELAR, Advanced Math, Advanced Science and in Advanced Texas History as their individual schedules allow.
 - 7th GT and Advanced ELAR Humanities
- 8th Grade
 - Clustering in Advanced ELA, Advanced Algebra I, Advanced US History, and Advanced Science
 - 8th GT Advanced Humanities ELAR/SS

G/T students must enroll in at least one Advanced or AP course each year through middle and high school. If the student decides not to take at least one eligible Advanced or AP course, then the student must enter into furlough or exit from the program.

Although EMS ISD identifies general academic giftedness, students have particular areas of strengths and interests. As students move into middle school and high school, it is important to realize that this is the appropriate time to specialize in specific courses and hone strengths. Our goal is to help our students explore learning opportunities in a variety of subjects and experiences as they journey through Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Students entering from out of state or an accredited private school where grades are awarded in letter form rather than numerical form shall be converted using the EIC (local) grade conversion chart shown below. School administration, teachers, and counselors will consider the placement of students from a non-accredited public, private, parochial, or home school through careful consideration of academic documentation and observation.

A+	=	99
A	=	95
A-	=	92
B+	=	89
B	=	85
B-	=	82
C+	=	79
C	=	75
C-	=	73
D+	=	72
D	=	71
D-	=	70
F	=	65

PERSONALIZED COURSE SELECTION PROCESS

- Parent and student informational meetings will be held prior to course selection.
- Students will be guided through the course selection process.
- Students who do not submit a course selection form will have a schedule arranged for them by their counselor according to their academic needs and/or graduation plan.

Schedule Changes

At the discretion of the campus, the following reasons may be considered in making schedule changes:

- Balancing class size
- Students are scheduled in a course they've already taken and passed
- Student is enrolled in a course for which they haven't taken a prerequisite
- A change or addition is needed to complete a student schedule

Exit Guidelines for Advanced/AP Courses

- Change requests for exiting Advanced/AP courses will not be considered before the 10th instructional day of the course.
- Requests to exit the Advanced/AP course during the first semester will be considered between the end of the first 10 instructional days and the end of the first six weeks of a course. Requests for second semester changes will be considered at the end of the first semester. A student must turn in a written request providing an explanation of the schedule change request to his/her counselor. The request must be signed by a parent/guardian.
- Before enacting the process to exit an Advanced or AP course, the reason for the schedule change, in conjunction with the student's past academic history, absences, and use of tutorials and interventions will be reviewed.
- A conference to include the student, teacher, counselor, administrator or designee, and parent will be held once the written request is received and reviewed. Options to be discussed at the conference include:
 - o Developing a plan for the improvement of the student's performance that includes alternative instructional strategies, student attendance, student effort, student utilization of tutorials and other interventions, and specific target dates for progress reports to students and parent.
 - or**
 - o Exiting the student from the course and placing the student in another appropriate course if the student's past academic history and the committee assessment indicate the student does not have the skills to be successful in the course and the student was inappropriately placed in the course.

TESTING INFORMATION

The STAAR test evaluates student-based learning on the state required curriculum- the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students are tested in the areas of 6th grade Math and Reading; 7th grade Math, Language Arts; and 8th grade Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies.

OPTIONS FOR CREDIT

Recovery/Acceleration Credit by Examination

Eagle Mountain-Saginaw offers three different types of Credit by Exam (CBE): with prior instruction, without prior instruction for the purposes of acceleration, and for validating credit. The tests are administered several times throughout the school year, and they are administered during non-school hours. The tests are designed to measure the student's essential knowledge as delineated by the TEKS.

Credit by Exam with Prior Instruction (CBE)

Credit by examination for students in grades 6 - 12 who have lost credit is available in courses approved by the Board of Trustees. Students must have had prior formal instruction to be eligible for CBE. Students must score a grade of 70 or above to receive satisfactory completion/credit. The cost for this testing is the student's responsibility. CBE shall not be used to gain eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities, nor shall it be used to earn satisfactory course completion/credit when students have excessive absences. Students should contact their counselor for additional information. Exams may be administered as needed. We recommend tests be administered outside of the school day in order to maintain daily attendance. Pre-registration and parental approval are required.

Credit by Examination without Prior Instruction

A student will be permitted to take an exam to earn credit for an academic course for which the student has no prior instruction. The passing score required to earn credit is 80. All four subjects must be passed to qualify for grade level acceleration. The student (or parent) must register with the campus counselor no later than 60 days prior to the scheduled testing date. See the district website at: www.emsisd.com for Acceleration by Examination information located under the parent drop down menu.

Credit by Exam is only administered to students who are enrolled and attending the Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD.

Texas Virtual School Network

The **Texas Education Agency (TEA)** provides online courses to eligible students through the **Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN)**. TxVSN partners with Texas Public Schools to provide students with opportunities to enroll in middle or high school courses, including Advanced Placement and dual-credit courses offered by TEA-approved course providers. See your counselor for more information.

Correspondence Courses

Students may earn a maximum of two of the total units required by the state through correspondence courses. Prior to enrollment in correspondence courses, students must submit a written request to the principal or designee for approval. Students will not be awarded credit toward graduation if approval is not granted. Students may be enrolled in only one correspondence course at a time.

Credit toward state graduation requirements may be granted for correspondence courses only under the following conditions:

1. The institution offering the course is The University of Texas at Austin, Texas Tech University or another public institution of higher education approved by the Texas Commissioner of Education.
2. The correspondence course includes the state-required essential knowledge and skills for such a course or TEKS.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING OF STUDENTS: GRADING GUIDELINES SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Please Visit
EMS ISD Grading and Reporting Handbook
<https://www.emsisd.com/domain/4052>

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

- **ADVANCED** – Advanced classes are higher level classes within a subject area. Successful completion of an Advanced level course prepares students for enrollment into high school AP (Advanced Placement) level courses.
- **AP – ADVANCED PLACEMENT**—These are rigorous courses that prepare students to take the national Advanced Placement test in May where college credit may be earned.
- **ARD COMMITTEE** – Admission, Review and Dismissal Committee
- **ADVISORY**- A class that includes lessons that support students’ Personal Education Plan, college and career readiness, goal-setting, and social and emotional learning.
- **CBE** – Credit by Exam
- **CLUSTER**—Term used to group Gifted/Talented students in heterogeneous classes.
- **CREDIT** – Unit assigned to a high school course of study. A student must earn twenty-six (26) credits to graduate. Some two semester courses receive 1 credit while one semester courses receive one-half credit. Some Career and Technology courses can receive up to three.
- **ELECTIVE** - A course that a student chooses to take, although it is not specifically required.
- **ENDORSEMENT** – An area of specialized study, that helps a student prepare for a career or a series of courses that better prepare a student for college.
- **GIFTED AND TALENTED** - Secondary students who are identified as gifted and talented. In order for students to continue to be served, they must be enrolled in one of the classes listed as Advanced or G/T.
- **IEP** – Individualized Education Program is a written education plan designed to meet a child's learning needs.
- **PREREQUISITE** - A requirement that must be met in order to take a specific course.
- **REQUIRED COURSE** - A specific course that a student must take and pass to be promoted to the next grade and ultimately to graduate from high school.
- **SEMESTER** – Three six weeks grading period for secondary makes up one semester. Two semesters make up the school year on the middle school level.
- **STAAR** – State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness is the State student testing program for core subject areas – reading, math, science and social studies. The number of tests will vary from two to four depending on grade level.
- **TEKS** - (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) The statewide curriculum mandated by the State Board of Education.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

FOR STUDENTS ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL 2014-2015 AND AFTER

EMS-ISD Distinguished Level of Achievement Plan includes one Endorsement	Endorsement Choices	Performance Acknowledgements
<p>English Language Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English 1 • English 2 • English 3 • Advanced English <p>Mathematics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra 1 • Geometry • Algebra 2 • Advanced Math <p>Social Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Geography • World History • US History • Government & Economics <p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biology • IPC, Chemistry, or Physics • Advanced Science • Advanced Science <p>World Languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 • Year 2 <p>Fine Arts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of course options <p>Physical Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of course options <p>Electives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective 1 • Elective 2 • Elective 3 • Elective 4 • Elective 5 • Elective 6 <p>STAAR EOC – English 1, English 2, Algebra 1, US History and Biology</p>	<p>STEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science • Engineering: Aerospace or Robotics* • Math – 2 courses above Algebra 2 • Science – Algebra 2, Bio, Chem, Phys, & 2 additional science credits <p>Business and Industry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture: Horticulture or Vet* • Architecture or Construction* • Audio or Video Technology* • Business, Marketing, or Finance* • Communication (Journalism or Debate) • Culinary* • Graphic Communication: Animation or Graphic Design* • Information Technology* • Manufacturing: Welding or Manufacturing Engineering* • Transportation: Auto or Aircraft* <p>Public Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education* • Health Science* • Human Services: Counseling or Cosmetology* • JROTC • Legal and Protective Services: Law Enforcement, Court Systems, or Fire Fighter* <p>Arts and Humanities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine Arts – Art, Band, Choir, Dance, Theatre • Social Studies • World Language <p>Multidisciplinary Studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4X4 - four English, four Math, four Social Studies, four Science – to include English 4 and Chemistry or Physics • Four credits in Advanced Placement (AP) or Dual Credit selected from English, math, science, social studies, and languages other than English 	<p>Dual Credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 College credit hours with a grade of 3.0 or higher • Associate Degree <p>Bilingualism/Biliteracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all ELA requirements with a minimum GPA of 80, and one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 credits in the same world language with a minimum GPA of 80 - Pass level 4 or higher world language with a minimum GPA of 80 - 3 credits in world language with a minimum GPA of 80 - AP world language score of 3.0 or higher - IB world language score of 4.0 or higher <p>ELL Students Must Also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate and meet exit criteria for a bilingual or ESL program - Score Advance High Level on TELPAS <p>AP/IB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Score 3 or higher on an AP exam • Score 4 or higher on an IB exam <p>College Entrance Exam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSAT score of commended or higher • College Benchmark score on two out of four exams on the ACT-PLAN • SAT 1310-reading/math combined • ACT 28-composite score without writing <p>Business/Industry Certification</p> <p>Complete a national or international certification for business or industry</p>
<p>Distinguished Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have to be eligible for top 10% Automatic Admission • Algebra 2 must be one of the students math credits 	<p>*CTE Endorsements - A coherent sequence of 4 credits - at least 2 courses in same cluster, including at least one advanced CTE course that is third or higher in a sequence.</p>	

6TH GRADE

All sixth graders must take **LANGUAGE ARTS and READING, MATH, SCIENCE, WORLD CULTURES and GEOGRAPHY, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ADVISORY, and ONE ELECTIVE**. Based on current or previous year's performance and/or the results of the state accountability test (STAAR), a student may be scheduled into a Reading Plus and/or Math Plus class(s) in lieu of the elective.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

406011/406031 Advanced English Language Arts and Reading 6A/6B

Advanced English students are expected to apply previously learned skills, including comprehension, response, and author's purpose and craft, in increasingly more complex texts. This two-period course allows students to explore the reciprocal connection between reading and writing through the genres of literary, informational, and argument texts. Strong attention is given to increasing students' ability to read works of literary merit in conjunction with independent, student-selected texts, as well the skills of complex vocabulary development, grammar study, and research. Furthermore, students write to interpret and analyze literary works on a regular basis, some of which will include in-class, timed writings. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

406032/406012 GT/Advanced Humanities English Language Arts and Reading 6A/6B

This GT/Advanced Humanities ELAR course explores the reading-writing connection as students apply previously learned skills in increasingly more complex texts, presentations, and compositions. Students will develop intellectual character by pursuing a conceptual question for each unit to engage in complex thinking about advanced content. Students will pursue the same question in GT/Advanced Social Studies through multiple lenses. These units entail independent research, collaborative problem-solving, and a significant amount of reading and writing to produce real-world products. Furthermore, students write to interpret and analyze literary, informational, and argument works on a regular basis, some of which will include in-class, timed writings. There is a significant amount of reading and writing in this course, which assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success. **Prerequisites: Students must be identified as gifted/talented or must have scored masters grade level on Reading/Language Arts STAAR for 5th grade.**

Must take with 406092 GT/Advanced World Cultures 6

406021/406041 English Language Arts and Reading 6A/6B

This two-period course emphasizes the reading-writing connection as well as listening, speaking, and critical thinking. Students will engage in vocabulary, grammar study, and research and will read and write in various genres, including literary (fiction, poetry, and drama), informational, and argument text. This course focuses on independent, student-selected reading and whole-class mentor texts while allowing students to deepen their skills of comprehension, response, and author's purpose and craft.

409011 – English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

This course is offered to identified English learners to help them develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. **Placement in this course is determined by the LPAC.**

409520/509511 Basic Language Arts and Reading 6A/6B

Designed to reinforce the skills of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking, students engage in critical literacy in this two-period course. An emphasis on student-selected texts is instrumental in order to increase the ability and the desire to read. Teachers model using whole-class mentor texts, co-created reading responses, and written compositions. Students are expected to think critically, present ideas logically, and use language effectively. Growth in these processes is developmental and occurs as concepts and skills are integrated and developed in meaningful situations. This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student. **Placement in this course is determined by ARD Committee.**

MATHEMATICS

406051 – Advanced Math 6

This course is designed for advanced level students planning to enroll in Algebra I in the eighth grade. All of sixth and part of seventh grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills are compacted to prepare students for Advanced Math 7. Critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills are emphasized. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

406061 – Math 6

Focal points in mathematics at Grade 6 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 in a variety of contexts; understanding data representation; and financial literacy. Use of mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate understanding is emphasized.

409551 – Basic Math 6

This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student and provides the experiences necessary to become mathematically literate for the 21st Century. Focal points in mathematics at Grade 6 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 in a variety of contexts; understanding data representation; and financial literacy. Use of mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate understanding is emphasized.

Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.

SCIENCE

406082 – Advanced Science 6

6th Grade Advanced Science curriculum studies the same topics as 6th grade on-level but with more depth and complexity. In 6th grade Advanced science there is a focus on students doing inquiry-based science by designing and conducting their own investigations, learning to use and develop critical thinking skills, and problem-solving methods. The course is intended to ground students in the inquiry skills of science and encourage thinking and acting like a scientist. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

406081 – Science 6

This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to apply science concepts to their everyday life. Along with being able to ask questions and solve problems, students are able to collect and organize data, and draw conclusions based on their findings. While much of the focus is on physical science, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment.

409561 - Basic Science 6

This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to apply science concepts to their everyday life. Along with being able to ask questions and solve problems, students are able to collect and organize data, and draw conclusions based on their findings. While much of the focus is on physical science, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment.

Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.

SOCIAL STUDIES

406093 – Advanced World Cultures and Geography 6

Designed to meet the needs of students who desire to take their learning deeper in a more challenging classroom, this course is a study of the people and places of the contemporary world. This course is built on the Social Studies strands: history, geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture, science and technology and social studies skills. Students will read and interpret primary and secondary source documents, sharpen writing and research skills and/or to develop creative projects for historical periods covered. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

406092 – GT/Advanced Humanities and World Cultures 6

In this GT/Advanced Humanities Social Studies course, students will develop intellectual character by pursuing a conceptual question for each unit in order to engage in complex thinking about advanced content. Students will pursue the same question in GT/Advanced Humanities Reading through other lenses. These units will entail both independent research and collaborative problem solving to produce real-world products. Products will be presented in various forms for authentic audiences.

Prerequisites: Students must be identified as gifted/talented OR must have scored masters grade level (formerly Level III) on Reading STAAR for 4th or 5th grade.

Must take with 406032 - GT/Advanced Humanities Literature 6

406091 – World Cultures and Geography 6

Designed as a study of the people and places of the contemporary world, this course is built on the Social Studies strands: history, geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture, science and technology and social studies skills. The content, as appropriate for the grade level, includes an assortment of written, visual and auditory, primary and secondary sources.

409562 – Basic World Cultures and Geography 6

Designed as a study of the people and places of the contemporary world, this course is built on the Social Studies strands: history, geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture, science and technology and social studies skills. The content, as appropriate for the grade level, includes an assortment of written, visual and auditory, primary and secondary sources. This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student. **Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

406201 – PE/Lifetime Fitness

Students in this course will acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment and continued social development through physical activity. Students will learn specialized skills and concepts that lead to confidence and competency in a variety of physical activities. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports, aerobic sports and adventure outdoor sports.

406211 – Pre-Athletics

For students interested in athletics. Students will be taught the fundamentals of team sports and training will be provided on agility, speed/endurance, explosiveness, nutrition, the basics of proper weight training, and sport-specific skills. Students will dress out each day. Students are required to purchase the campus PE uniform that is available through an online store.

Each campus will offer a variety of electives. Not all electives will be offered each year or on all campuses. See your counselor for information about electives offered on your campus.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

406401/406411 – Beginning Treble or Tenor/Bass Choir

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn fundamental vocal techniques and music reading skills. Through learning music, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group ensembles; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course.**

406301 – Band

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn fundamental instrumental techniques and music reading skills on brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. Through learning music, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group ensembles; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course.**

406130 – Theatre 6

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn skills in speaking, acting, directing, production, design and technical theatre. Through studying theatre, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group casts; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image.

406431 – Art 6

6th grade students learn the basics of art concepts. They will explore and learn about 2-D and 3-D art and are provided opportunities to create personal artwork. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course.**

GENERAL ELECTIVES

409106 – Reading Plus 6

Emphasizes study skills and critical reading and thinking strategies that students need to become mature, independent learners. This course is taken in addition to the regular language arts class. **Placement is determined by Academic Placement Committee, administrators, or counselors.**

409601 – Math Plus 6

The course is to be taken in addition to the regular mathematics class and is required for students identified to need support in mathematics. It provides additional and individualized instruction in Grade 6 Math concepts. Problem-solving skills and vocabulary development are emphasized. **Placement in this course is determined by the Academic Placement Committee, administrator, or counselor.**

7TH GRADE

All seventh graders must take **LANGUAGE ARTS and LITERATURE, MATH, SCIENCE, TEXAS HISTORY, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, ADVISORY/AVID and ONE ELECTIVE**. Based on current or previous year's performance and/or the results of the state accountability test (STAAR), a student may be scheduled into a Reading Plus and/or Math Plus class(s) in lieu of the elective.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

407011/407031 Advanced English Language Arts and Reading 7A/7B

Designed for highly motivated students with above grade-level proficiency in language arts and reading, Advanced ELAR students are expected to apply previously learned skills, including comprehension, response, and author's purpose and craft, in increasingly more complex texts. This two-period course engages students as they deepen their knowledge of reading and writing through the genres of literary, informational, and argument texts. Students intensify their ability to read works of literary merit in conjunction with independent, self-selected texts, as well the skills of complex vocabulary development, grammar study, and research. Students further develop their literary analysis skills, writing on a regular basis, including in-class, timed writings. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

407012/407032 GT/Advanced Humanities English Language Arts and Reading 7A/7B

In the ELAR Humanities course for GT and Advanced learners, students will synthesize and connect their understanding from above-grade level, classical, and contemporary texts, including primary historical documents, philosophical works, Supreme Court majority and dissent opinions, speeches, novels, poetry, memoir, art with accompanying commentary, and music. Students will continually read, write, and discuss texts, with a predominance of exploration through independent reading in order to produce an advanced-level product each six weeks. Students will deepen their response and writing skills by exploring multiple genres and writing for various audiences. There is a significant amount of reading and writing in this course, which assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success. **Prerequisites: Students must be identified as gifted/talented or must have scored masters grade level on Reading/Language Arts STAAR for 6th grade.**

407021/407041 English Language Arts and Reading 7A/7B

This two-period course integrates the study of literary, informational, and argument texts through the contexts of reading and writing. Students engage in independent, self-selected reading, listening, and speaking while deepening their skills of comprehension, response, author's purpose and craft, and critical thinking. Teachers model complex literacy skills through mentor texts. Students also engage in vocabulary, grammar study, and research.

409012 – English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) 7

This class is offered to identified English learners to help them develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. **Placement in this course is determined by the LPAC.**

409521/509512 Basic Language Arts and Reading 7A/7B

Literacy skills include vocabulary development, comprehension, composition, grammar study, response, and research. Students engage in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking in this two-period course. Students read both self-selected and whole-class readings in order to build their stamina of grade-level texts. Usage skills develop the student's ability to communicate and write effectively. This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student. **Placement in this course is determined by ARD Committee.**

MATHEMATICS

407051 – Advanced Math 7

This course is designed for advanced level students who have successfully completed Advanced Math 6 or its equivalent. All of eighth and part of seventh grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills are compacted to prepare the students for 8th grade Advanced Algebra I. Critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills are emphasized. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success. **Students in this course will take the 8th Grade STAAR test, and successful completion of this course is a prerequisite for Advanced Algebra 1 in 8th grade.**

407061 – Math 7

Focal points in mathematics at Grade 7 include developing fluency with rational numbers and operations to solve problems in a variety of contexts; representing and applying proportional relationships; using expressions and equations to describe relationships in a variety of contexts, including geometric problems; comparing sets of data; and financial literacy. Use of mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate understanding is emphasized.

409552 – Basic Math 7

This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student and provides the experiences necessary to become mathematically literate for the 21st Century. Focal points in mathematics at Grade 7 include developing fluency with rational numbers and operations to solve problems in a variety of contexts; representing and applying proportional relationships; using expressions and equations to describe relationships in a variety of contexts, including geometric problems; comparing sets of data; and financial literacy. Use of mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate understanding is emphasized. **Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.**

SCIENCE

407071 – Advanced Science 7

This course is designed to provide students with the advanced skills necessary to be able to use evidence to construct testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena. While much of the focus is on organisms and the environment, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment. Advanced critical thinking and problem solving will be developed with individual or group research projects presented in a competitive or public forum. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

407081 – Science 7

This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to apply science concepts to their everyday life. Along with being able to ask questions and solve problems, students are able to collect and organize data, and draw conclusions based on their findings. While much of the focus is on organisms and the environment, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment. The students are encouraged to advance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by participating in individual or group research.

409563 – Basic Science 7

This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to apply science concepts to their everyday life. Along with being able to ask questions and solve problems, students are able to collect and organize data, and draw conclusions based on their findings. While much of the focus is on organisms and the environment, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment. The students are encouraged to advance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by participating in individual or group research. **Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.**

SOCIAL STUDIES

407093 – Advanced Texas History 7

Designed to meet the needs of the district's more advanced students, this course is designed to help students develop an understanding and appreciation of the history and geography of Texas as well as the state's cultural heritage from early times to the present. Students will read and interpret primary and secondary source documents, sharpen writing and research skills and/or to develop creative projects for historical periods covered. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

407091 – Texas History 7

This course is designed to help students develop an understanding and appreciation of the history and geography of Texas as well as the state's cultural heritage from early times to the present.

409565 – Basic Texas History 7

This course is designed to help students develop an understanding and appreciation of the history and geography of Texas as well as the state's cultural heritage from early times to the present. This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student. **Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students must participate in Physical Education or a PE Equivalent for a full year in either their 7th or 8th grade year, to meet State and District requirements.

409201/409211 – Boys/Girls Physical Education and Fitness

Students enrolled in this course will understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately and develop plans for improvement. Students will continue to acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment and continue social development through physical activity. Students will begin to understand the need to remain physically active throughout life by participating in enjoyable lifetime activities. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports, aerobic sports and adventure outdoor sports.

409981 - Partners in PE (PIP)

This is a success-oriented PE program featuring supervised peer tutors and individualized learning and instruction. The purpose of the program is to encourage physical activity, increase knowledge of health and fitness strategies, and assist in the acquisition of individual lifetime recreation activities and/or skills associated with team sports. Please see your counselor if you are a 7th or 8th grader interested in participating.

ATHLETICS

Girls/Boys Athletics

Sports Available

Girls – **407211** Volleyball, Basketball, Cross Country, and Track

Boys – **407201** Football, Basketball, Cross Country, and Track

Soccer – **407261** students interested in Soccer only should sign up for this course.

Tennis – **409221** students interested in Tennis only should sign up for this course.

Gymnastics* – **409241** students interested in Gymnastics only should sign up for this course.

Golf* - **409261** students interested in Golf only should sign up for this course. Students may be cut if the number of interested golfers exceeds what can be accommodated for practice and golf competitions. The tryout process will be the first two weeks of school.

*** A basic gymnastic or golf skills tryout will be held for acceptance into one of these classes. Parent transportation to/from the high school for morning/afternoon workout is required.**

Middle school athletics is designed for students interested in participating in competitive sports. Students must be available before school, after school, evenings and Saturdays for practice sessions and games. In order for a student to participate in or try-out for a sport, the school must have a physical form completed by a medical doctor. These forms must be on file with the campus athletic coordinator at the student's school. Maximum team size for each sport will be established and maintained based on written criteria. If enrollment exceeds the number that can be accommodated on the teams, then a cut will take place. Students who are not selected for a team will be assigned to an off-season conditioning class during the athletic period until the beginning of a new sport. This procedure will be used for each sport. ***There is a uniform fee for these sports.***

Note – Cross Country is held before school and does not require participation in the athletics class. A physical form and all UIL paperwork is required. A uniform fee is associated with this sport.

Soccer players should be enrolled in either 407261, 407211, or 407201.

ELECTIVES

Each campus will offer a variety of electives. Not all electives will be offered each year or on all campuses. See your counselor for information about electives offered on your campus.

1561/1562 – Spanish for Native Speakers

This course is designed for students who demonstrate, through a placement test, skills in understanding and speaking Spanish but who need to give greater attention to reading, writing, and conventions of the language. The course is conducted almost entirely in Spanish. Prerequisite: Placement Exam.

407191 – AVID 7

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success. Each week, students receive instruction on tutor-facilitated study groups, motivational activities, and academic success skills. Students engage in activities centered around exploring college and career opportunities and their own agency. The 7th grade AVID Elective course focuses on the foundational components of the AVID philosophy. Students will refine short- and long-term goals, broadening their writing practice and take an active role in their learning. They will expand their knowledge base regarding note-taking in relation to studying and test preparation. Students will be exposed to various field trips, guest speakers, and research to increase their knowledge of college and career options. AVID students are expected to maintain enrollment in an Advanced course. District selection process is applicable. Students enrolled in AVID 7 will take it in place of middle school advisory. AVID 7 can be used to meet the 7th grade Advisory requirement.

409107 – Reading Plus 7

This course is to be taken in addition to the regular reading class. It provides additional and individual instruction to develop better reading and comprehension skills. Vocabulary development and listening skills are also stressed. **Placement is determined by Academic Placement Committee, administrator or counselor.**

409701 - Math Plus 7

The course is to be taken in addition to the regular mathematics class and is required for students identified to need support in mathematics. It provides additional and individualized instruction in Grade 7 Math concepts. Problem-solving skills and vocabulary development are emphasized. **Placement in this course is determined by Academic Placement Committee, administrator or counselor.**

409371 – Honor Band

Honor Band is the varsity-level student ensemble for middle school students. Designed as a performance-based course, students learn advanced instrumental techniques and music reading skills on brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. Through learning music, students are provided opportunities to: 1) perform in large and small group ensembles; 2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; 3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and 4) develop a positive self-image. Previous band experience is required. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course.**

409381 – Symphonic Band

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn advanced instrumental techniques and music reading skills on brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. Through learning music, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group ensembles; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course. Class placement determined by director through tryouts.**

408401/408411 – Intermediate Treble or Tenor/Bass Choir

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn advanced vocal techniques and music reading skills. Through learning music, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group ensembles; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course. Class placement is determined by director through tryouts.**

407131 - Theatre Arts 7

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn skills in speaking, acting, directing, production, design and technical theatre. Through studying theatre, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group casts; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image.

407103 – Art 7

Designed as a survey course, students learn a broad overview of art concepts. Students explore and learn about 2-D and 3-D art and are provided opportunities to create personal artwork. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course.**

407123 – Intro to Family and Consumer Science

This semester course is an introduction to the career clusters that focus on the area of Family and Consumer Sciences. Topics will include post-secondary education, careers, time and money management, health and nutrition, clothing choices and care, relationships, communication, and community. The purpose is to increase student knowledge and ability in skills necessary for everyday living. Students will also focus on high school planning, college, careers, and becoming a successful member of society.

407113 - Technology Education

This semester course is designed to be an introduction to technology education including engineering, construction, and architecture. Students will work individually and with partners on various projects with computer applications such as Power Point, Publisher, Word, and Excel. Various software packages, such as Sketch Up and West Point Bridge Design, will be used to design projects that will be produced in the industrial shop lab.

8TH GRADE

All eighth graders must take **LANGUAGE ARTS and READING, MATH, SCIENCE, U.S. HISTORY, and ADVISORY/AVID**. In addition, elective offerings may be chosen. Based on current or previous year's performance and/or the results of the state accountability test (STAAR), a student may be scheduled into a Reading Plus and/or Math Plus class(s) in lieu of one or two electives.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

408011 – Advanced English Language Arts and Reading 8

Designed to meet the needs of advanced students in language arts and reading, this course focuses on integrated reading, writing, speaking, and listening that will allow in-depth study of the total communication process. Emphasis is placed on using interpretive reading skills for stimulating thinking and developing ideas for writing multi-level descriptive, narrative, argumentative, and informational compositions. Grammar, spelling and vocabulary are taught through application. Research skills are strengthened through varied activities. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

408012– GT/Advanced Humanities English Language Arts and Reading 8

In this GT/Advanced Humanities English Language Arts and Reading course, students will develop intellectual character by pursuing a conceptual question for each unit in order to engage in complex thinking about advanced content. Students will pursue the same question in GT/Advanced Humanities United States History through other lenses. These units will entail independent research, collaborative problem solving, and a significant amount of reading to produce real-world products. Products will be presented in various forms for authentic audiences. Prerequisites: Students must be identified as gifted/talented OR must have scored masters grade level (formerly Level III) on Reading STAAR for 7th grade. Must take with 408093 - **GT/Advanced Humanities US History 8**

408021 – English Language Arts and Reading 8

Provides written communication skills as the major focus for eighth grade language arts and reading students, including practice with narrative, descriptive, argumentative, and informative compositions using a process approach to writing. Reading and literary skills emphasized in eighth grade address critical and analytical thinking. Oral communication and study skills are applied through appropriate activities. Research skills are strengthened through varied activities.

409013 – English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) 8

This course is offered to identified English learners to help them develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. **Placement in this course is determined by the LPAC.**

409522 - Basic Language Arts 8

Provides written communication skills as the major focus for eighth grade language arts students, including practice with narrative, descriptive, argumentative, and informative compositions using a process approach to writing. Reading and literary skills emphasized in eighth grade address critical and analytical thinking. Oral communication and study skills are applied through appropriate activities. Research skills are strengthened through varied activities. This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student. **Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.**

MATHEMATICS

1215 – Advanced Algebra I

This course is designed for advanced level students who have successfully completed Advanced Math 7 or have met the district credit-by-exam requirements for 8th grade math. Topics of study include linear functions, equations, and inequalities; quadratic functions and equations; exponential functions and equations; and a variety of algebraic methods. Use of mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate understanding is emphasized. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success. Due to requirements in Title 19 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), §101.3011, students who have completed STAAR EOC assessments while in middle school must take either the corresponding ACT or the SAT while in high school to fulfill federal testing requirements. **Students will only be allowed to exit Advanced Algebra I prior to the end of the first semester. Students will not be allowed to exit after the end of the first semester. Students who take Algebra I in 8th grade must take three, but are encouraged to take four additional math courses in high school.**

408053 – Advanced Math 8

This course is designed for advanced level students planning to enroll in ninth grade Advanced Algebra I. All of the eighth grade Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills are taught with increased depth and complexity. Critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills are emphasized. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

408061 – Math 8

The primary focal points at Grade 8 include representing, applying, and analyzing proportional relationships; using expressions and equations to describe relationships, including the Pythagorean Theorem; making inferences from data; and financial literacy. Use of mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate understanding is emphasized.

409553 – Basic Math 8

This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student and provides the experiences necessary to become mathematically literate for the 21st century. The primary focal points at Grade 8 include representing, applying, and analyzing proportional relationships; using expressions and equations to describe relationships, including the Pythagorean Theorem; making inferences from data; and financial literacy. Use of mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate understanding is emphasized. **Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.**

SCIENCE

408071 – Advanced Science 8

This course is designed to provide advanced skills necessary to be able to use evidence to construct testable explanations and predictions of natural phenomena. While much of the focus is on earth and space science, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment. Advanced critical thinking and problem solving will be developed with individual or group research projects presented in a competitive or public forum. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

408081 – Science 8

This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to apply science concepts to their everyday life. Along with being able to ask questions and solve problems, students are able to collect and organize data, and draw conclusions based on their findings. While much of the focus is on earth and space science, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment. The students are encouraged to advance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by participating in individual or group research.

409564 – Basic Science 8

This course is designed to provide students with the skills necessary to apply science concepts to their everyday life. Along with being able to ask questions and solve problems, students are able to collect and organize data, and draw conclusions based on their findings. While much of the focus is on earth and space science, the course is built on the following strands: scientific investigations and reasoning; matter and energy; force, motion, and energy; earth and space; and organisms and environment. The students are encouraged to advance their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by participating in individual or group research. **Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.**

408092 – Advanced United States History 8

Designed to meet the needs of the district's more advanced students, this course is a study of United States History from the early Colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will read and interpret primary and secondary source documents, sharpen writing and research skills and/or to develop creative projects for historical periods covered. This course assists in preparing students for the challenges offered by the Advanced Academics program through sustained habits necessary for college success.

408093– GT/Advanced Humanities United States History 8

In this GT/Advanced Humanities US History course, students will develop intellectual character by pursuing a conceptual question for each unit in order to engage in complex thinking about advanced content. Students will pursue the same question in GT/Advanced Humanities English Language Arts and Reading through other lenses. These units will entail both independent research and collaborative problem solving to produce real-world products. Products will be presented in various forms for authentic audiences. Prerequisites: Students must be identified as gifted/talented OR must have scored masters grade level (formerly Level III) on Reading STAAR for 7th grade. Must take with **408012 - GT/Advanced Humanities English Language Arts and Reading 8**

408091 – United States History 8

This course is a detailed study of United States history from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will read and interpret primary and secondary source documents, research major themes and/or develop creative projects for historical periods covered. Knowledge of the founding documents will be stressed as well as the skills and attitudes of responsible citizenship.

409566 – Basic United States History 8

This course is a detailed study of United States history from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will read and interpret primary and secondary source documents, research major themes and/or develop creative projects for historical periods covered. Knowledge of the founding documents will be stressed as well as the skills and attitudes of responsible citizenship. This course is designed to meet the individual needs of the student. **Placement in this course is determined by the ARD committee.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students must participate in Physical Education or a PE Equivalent for a full year in either their 7th or 8th grade year to meet State and District requirements.

409201/409211 – Boys/Girls Physical Education and Fitness

Students enrolled in this course will understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Student will continue to acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment and continue social development through physical activity. Students will begin to understand the need to remain physically active throughout life by participating in enjoyable lifetime activities. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports, aerobic sports and adventure outdoor sports.

409981 Partners in PE (PIP)

This course is a success-oriented PE program featuring supervised peer tutors and individualized learning and instruction. The purpose of the program is to encourage physical activity, increase knowledge of health and fitness strategies, and assist in the acquisition of individual lifetime recreation activities and/or skills associated with team sports. Please see your counselor if you are a 7th or 8th grader interested in participating.

ATHLETICS

408211/408201 -Girls/Boys Athletics

Sports Available

Girls - **408211** Volleyball, Basketball, Track, and Cross Country

Boys - **408201** Football, Basketball, Track, and Cross Country

Boys/Girls Soccer – **408261** Students interested in Soccer only should sign up for this course.

Tennis - **409231** Students interested in only Tennis should sign up for this course.

Gymnastics* - **409241** Students interested in only Gymnastics should sign up for this course.

Golf*- **409261**, students interested in Golf only should sign up for this course. Tryouts will be held the first two weeks of school.

*** A basic gymnastic or golf skills tryout will be held for acceptance into one of these classes. Parent drop-off/pick-up at the high school for morning/afternoon workout is required.**

Designed for students interested in participating in competitive sports. Students must be available before school, after school, evenings and Saturdays for practice sessions and games. In order for a student to participate in or try-out for a sport, the school must have a physical form completed by a medical doctor. These forms must be on file with the campus coordinator at the student's school. Maximum team size for each sport will be established and maintained based on written criteria. If enrollment exceeds the number that can be accommodated on the teams, then students will compete for the available positions. Students who are not selected for a team will be assigned to an off-season conditioning class during the athletic period until the beginning of a new sport. This procedure will be used for each sport. **There is a uniform fee for these sports.**

Note – Cross Country is held before school and does not require participation in the athletics class. A physical form and all UIL paperwork is required. A uniform fee is associated with this sport.

Soccer players should be enrolled in either 408261, 408211, or 408201.

ELECTIVES

Each campus will offer a variety of electives. Not all electives will be offered each year or on all campuses. See your counselor for information about electives offered on your campus.

408191 - AVID 8

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an academic elective course that prepares students for college readiness and success. Each week, students receive instruction on tutor-facilitated study groups, motivational activities, and academic success skills. Students engage in activities centered around exploring college and career opportunities and their own agency. The 8th grade AVID Elective course focuses on preparation for high school. Students will refine previous goals, focusing on their transition to high school as part of a college-preparatory path. Their writing will focus on completing all steps of the writing process and include persuasive, expository, descriptive, and timed writing. Students will transition from active learners to leaders. Other areas of focus include increasing the use of technology and building upon test-preparation and test-taking knowledge. They will become more involved in guest-speaker presentations and field trips, participate in college-preparatory testing and build connections with the high school they will attend. AVID students are expected to maintain enrollment in an Advanced course. District selection process is applicable. AVID 8 can be used to meet the 8th grade Advisory requirement.

409108 – Reading Plus 8

Offered to students who need support in reading. **Placement in this course is made by Academic Placement Committee, administrator or counselors.**

409801 – Math Plus 8

The course is to be taken in addition to the regular mathematics class and is required for students identified to need support in mathematics. It provides additional and individualized instruction in Grade 8 Math concepts. Problem-solving skills and vocabulary development are emphasized. **Placement in this course is determined by Academic Placement Committee, administrator or counselor.**

409371 – Honor Band

Honor Band is the varsity-level student ensemble for middle school students. Designed as a performance-based course, students learn advanced instrumental techniques and music reading skills on brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. Through learning music, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group ensembles; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image. Previous band experience is required. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course. Placement will be determined by director.**

409381 – Symphonic Band

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn advanced instrumental techniques and music reading skills on brass, woodwind or percussion instruments. Through learning music, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group ensembles; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image. Previous band experience is required. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course. Placement will be determined by director.**

409401/409411 – Advanced Treble or Tenor/Bass Choir

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn advanced vocal techniques and music reading skills. Through learning music, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group ensembles; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course. Placement determined by director.**

408131 - Theatre Arts 8

Designed as a performance-based course, students learn skills in speaking, acting, directing, production, design and technical theatre. Through studying theatre, students are provided opportunities to: (1) perform in large and small group casts; (2) interact with other students and develop teamwork skills; (3) develop and increase personal and academic discipline; and (4) develop a positive self-image.

408171-Dance

Dance I will explore various styles of dance including ballet, lyrical, jazz, hip hop, and others. In addition to learning a variety of routines and combinations, students will cover the fundamentals, technique, vocabulary, and history of each dance style. Creativity and expression will be encouraged through student choreography, both individually and as a group. The class will consist of both physical and written activities. **Parent drop-off/pick-up at the high school for morning/afternoon class is required.**

408181 - Journalism/Yearbook

Designed as a course in which students develop skills relevant to real world settings. Students will develop skills using software and cameras to create, produce, and organize the school yearbook. They are also responsible for sales, picture days, and student event photography. They will also practice skills that are necessary for careers in the field of journalism. This course does include a fee for supplies. Application required.

408513 – Office Aide

408523 – Library Aide

408533 - Teacher Aide

An application must be completed and attached with parent signature. Selection is based on grades, attendance, and attitude.

8TH GRADE COURSES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

In addition to Advanced Algebra 1, the following courses are offered for high school credit. For HS GPA purposes, Advanced Algebra 1 and Advanced Art 1 are level 2 classes and will receive an additional 5 points added to the HS GPA.

2010 - Art 1

Credits: 1

Semesters: 2

Prerequisite: none

Art I is an introduction to the use of the elements and principles of design, and the different materials used for Self-expression. The student will be given opportunities to Design and create original works of art. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course.**

2015 – Advanced Art 1

Credit: 1

Semesters: 2

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

The Art Advanced curriculum will follow the College Board directives of the Advanced Placement General and Drawing Portfolio requirements. Art 1 Advanced provides learning opportunities for 9th and 10th grade students beyond those available in the regular Art 1 class by extending the state essential knowledge and skills through drawing and color study (first semester). Students also learn what will be expected of them for the AP Portfolio Examination. The second semester focuses on painting, printmaking, sculpture, and ceramics. **There is a fee per student determined by each campus for this course. For HS GPA purposes, this is a level 2 class and will receive an additional 5 points added to the HS GPA.**

5551 – Principles of Applied Engineering

Credits: 1

Semesters: 2

Prerequisite: none

This course provides an overview of the various fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and their interrelationships. Students will use a variety of computer hardware and software applications to complete assignments and projects. This course is a prerequisite for Introduction to Robotics.

5141 – Business Information Management 1

Credits: 1

Semesters: 2

Prerequisite: None

Business Information Management develops technology skills with applications to personal or business situations focusing on: word processing, spreadsheets, data bases, telecommunication, desktop publishing, presentation management, networking, operating systems, and emerging technologies; and develops intermediate-level skills.

5371- Principles of Human Services

Credits: 1

Semesters: 2

Prerequisite: none

This course will enable students to investigate careers in the human services career cluster, including counseling and mental health, early childhood development, family and community, and personal care services.

1510 - Spanish I

Credits: 1

Semesters: 2

Prerequisite: None

This course is an introductory course for beginning Spanish speakers. Basic language concepts that are important to developing proficiency will be stressed, including production of sounds, stress patterns, and intonation of the language. Students also study basic facts about geography, customs, and culture of the Spanish-speaking countries.

1563/1564 - AP Spanish (Native Speakers Only)

Credits: 2

Semesters: 2

Prerequisite: 1561/1562 or Placement Exam

This course is conducted entirely in Spanish and is designed for students who demonstrate through a placement test or through performance on Spanish II for Native Speakers strong skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In the first semester, students will focus on Spanish III TEKS. In the second semester, students will prepare for the AP Spanish Language exam given in May. AP courses provide students with a learning experience equivalent to that obtained in most college introductory courses.

Students who take this course are expected to take the Advanced Placement Exam in the spring. **For high school GPA purposes, the first semester is a level 2 course (receiving 5 points toward GPA) and the second semester is a level 3 course (receiving 10 points toward GPA).**