

Course Descriptions

ENGLISH 7 PRE-AP

This is a rigorous college preparatory course that prepares students for success when they take Advanced Placement and other challenging courses in high school. Added to this specialized curriculum are advanced grammar and logic, such as inference and generalization; literature of various genres, periods, and cultures; multi-paragraph essays for a variety of purposes and audiences; oral presentations and listening skills; study skills; and research involving documentation.

MATH PRE-AP (Pre-Algebra)

This course content interweaves the strands of mathematics with emphasis on non-routine problem solving, real-life applications, rational numbers, and graphing in the coordinate plane. The full range of topics needed for the successful study of algebra in eighth grade is covered in this course. To be successful in this course, a student must have a strong foundation in the concepts of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and percents.

READING

In reading 7, students refine and master previously learned language arts and reading skills in increasingly complex reading selections. They continue to receive instruction in higher level reading skills while reading widely in classic and contemporary selections and informational texts. Emphasis is on comprehension, vocabulary and thinking skills in an interactive environment so that students: listen actively; speak/talk to construct; read, write and view critically. Significant blocks of time are provided for reading independent, instructional and recreational materials.

ADVANCED CONTEMPORARY LITERACY- (ACL)

This reading course, designed for students possessing advanced reading skills, is a research-based course in which students apply those reading skills in problem-solving, project-based assignments requiring research in and reading of a wide variety of non-fiction materials. At seventh grade, this rigorous class focuses on the "reading" of contemporary media. Students research the issues raised by modern media and investigate its impact on society. Students learn to understand and use this media to communicate this understanding. Strategies, such as Socratic seminar and student portfolios, encourage higher level thinking and discussion concerning contemporary cross-curricular issues.

AIM

This class is designed as an enrichment opportunity for students to review academic concepts, seek assistance in solving academic problems, promote independent skills in time management, and learn strategies for success such as vocabulary development, agenda use, binder organization, goal setting and character education.

LANGUAGES

Spanish 1A - This course is the first year of a two-year middle school Spanish program designed to introduce students to the formal study of the Spanish language. The middle school program allows students more time to acquire the fundamental language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. The middle school Spanish I program emphasizes the development of oral language the study of introductory vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar. The culture of the Spanish-speaking world is integrated into all aspects of the course.

FINE ARTS

Band I – This course is designed for those students who exhibit an interest in learning a band instrument. In most cases, students will need to furnish their instruments and be committed to an advanced band after one year of study. Students will be placed appropriately according to instrument selection and/or proficiency level.

Band II – This course is designed for students who have completed one or two years of study on their band instrument, but who have not yet achieved a level of excellence commensurate with being named to an advanced band. The students will continue to strive to achieve this level in hopes of being placed in an advanced band after the second year of study.

Band III - This is the advanced band that is made up of students who have attained a high degree of proficiency on their instrument. Members of this organization will perform at UIL competitions and at concerts, and should be prepared to spend time outside of the school day preparing for these performances.

Choir II - The intermediate of choir is offered to those students who have not yet attained performance proficiency commensurate with being in an advanced choir. Students will continue to focus on proper vocal techniques and sight-reading.

String Orchestra I - This course is designed for students who exhibit an interest in learning how to play the violin, viola, cello, or string bass. In most cases the student will need to provide his/her own instrument and be committed to achieving an established level of performance commensurate with being placed in an advanced orchestra during his/her second year of performing.

String Orchestra II - This course is designed for those string performers who have completed one or more years of study. Students will be placed appropriately according to instrument selection and/or playing proficiency.

String Orchestra III - This course is offered to those students who wish to study orchestral literature and who have attained a certain level of performance capability. Members of this organization will perform at UIL competitions and at concerts, and should be prepared to spend time outside of the school day preparing for these performances.

Art - Seventh Grade Art compares and contrasts the art elements and principles through experiences with a variety of art media and tools in design, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fiberart, photographic imagery and electronic media-generated art, analyzes historical and cultural influences on artwork; and evaluates through discussion and critique.

Theatre Arts II - This is an intermediate level course that allows the student to study in depth the various aspects of theatre performance. Emphasis is placed on the development of the tools one needs to be an effective performer.

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

Internet Exploration - Internet Exploration is an advanced technology course that focuses on the creative use of multimedia in the webpage design process. Students will create, edit and develop web pages using industry standard software. This class will be project based utilizing pod casting, photographic and computer animated technologies.

Exploration of Multimedia - Multimedia is an advanced technology course that focuses on digital multimedia production. Students will develop multimedia through the production process using industry standard software. This class will be project based utilizing stop-animated, photographic and digital video technologies.

Robotics I: Introduction to Robotics - This is an enrichment course designed to combine a review of science concepts with robotic systems to gain knowledge and skills in the engineering process (similar to the scientific method). These skills include: the ability to conduct scientific (engineering) inquiry; the ability to solve problems, think critically, make decisions related to technology, properly apply technology, and the ability to assess the effects of technology on the world to prepare students for success in the modern world.

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY

Exploring Manufacturing Technology - This is an exploratory course designed to investigate the types of activities performed in the manufacturing industry, and through laboratory experiences students explore the skills and technologies of this industry. Content includes the application of technology, the design of products and services, emerging and innovative technologies, safety and maintenance of technology, codes, laws, standards, marketing and technology-related career explorations. Activities may include designing and drafting, manufacturing parts, using tools and machines, and planning a manufacturing project.

OTHER ELECTIVES

Debate I & Debate II - First semester topics: logic, persuasion, and speaking and debate formats. Competitive events covered in the class include impromptu speaking, modern oratory, and Lincoln Douglas debate. Second semester topics: philosophy, current events, and debate formats. Students in both semesters will research, write, and present original works as well as critically evaluate works from others. Competitive events covered in the class will include Student Congress, and Public Forum debate.

Athletics 7 - This course will include instruction for boys in the sport of football, basketball and track. Instruction for girls will be in volleyball, basketball, and track. Basic motor skills will be taught, as well as higher forms of physical skills that are required of athletes. A high degree of physical and cardiovascular fitness will be emphasized.