

**EISENHOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL
PLANNING FOR SEVENTH GRADE 2009-2010**

LOOKING AHEAD

Seventh grade is a new and important part of your education. You will have the opportunity to improve skills you have learned and to gain new skills that you will need for the courses and activities that are ahead of you. You should try to participate in extracurricular activities and have fun, but don't lose sight of your future goals. To participate in any extracurricular activity, you must be passing all classes with a 70 or above average. The courses taken and the grades earned in seventh grade will help to determine what you will take in eighth grade. Regular attendance, participation and a cooperative attitude are as important on your school records as good grades.

REQUIRED COURSES

As a seventh grade student, you will be required to take the following courses:

- EnglishAll Year
 - Reading.....All Year
 - Math.....All Year
 - Science.....All Year
 - Texas History.....All Year
 - **Physical EducationAll Year
 - Elective.....Two All Year electives
- OR
- One All Year elective/Two semester electives
- OR
- Four semester electives

**All year Athletics may substitute for Physical Education. A commitment form signed by a coach, parent and student is required.

PRE-AP CLASSES

Pre-AP is a concerted effort to fulfill the College Board mission to champion educational excellence for all students. Pre-AP teaches and reinforces crucial academic skills in the greatest possible number of students, beginning in the middle school years. Pre-AP is a set of content-specific strategies to:

- Build rigorous curricula
- Promote access to Advanced Placement (AP) in high school for all students
- Introduce skills, concepts, and assessment methods to prepare student for success when they take AP and other challenging courses
- Strengthen curriculum and increase the academic challenge for all students

At the seventh grade level Pre-AP classes are offered in English and math. A student should possess the following: subject grades of 90's with occasional 80's, good study habits, high level of motivation, positive attitude toward the subject area, good attendance, and a willingness to accept the challenge and time commitments of Pre-AP work. **IN ORDER TO BE ENROLLED IN THE PRE-AP CLASSES, THE STUDENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO RETURN A COMMITMENT FORM SIGNED BY BOTH THE PARENT AND THE STUDENT.**

PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL - The North East Board Policy regarding grade promotion reads:

Promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 or above for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in Language Arts (English and reading), mathematics, social studies, and science. Students in grade 8 must pass TAKS reading and TAKS math in order to be promoted to grade 9.

SEVENTH GRADE ACADEMIC CLASSES

ENGLISH 7 GT - This is a rigorous college preparatory course that prepares students for success when they take Advanced Placement and other challenging courses in high school. The theme for grade 7 in the differentiated curriculum is "Discovery of Community." The research process is emphasized, and materials are chosen to offer an appropriate challenge in all areas of language arts.

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.

ENGLISH 7 – Regular

English 7 continues to provide training for students in these language arts skills: writing, reading, viewing, speaking, listening, and producing. The scope and sequence covers (1) language & grammar; (2) literature; (3) sentence combining, multi-paragraph papers & editing skills; (4) oral presentations & listening skills; (5) study skills, library reports, and research with some documentation.

ADVANCED CONTEMPORARY LITERACY – Grade 7

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. At seventh grade, this rigorous class focuses on nonfiction reading, oral presentation, and written expression. Strategies, such as Socratic seminar and student portfolios, encourage higher level thinking and discussion concerning contemporary cross-curricular issues.

READING 7 – Regular

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.

PRE-ALGEBRA 7 GT - The course assumes a solid foundation in elementary mathematical concepts and skills. It is a transition into abstract mathematics for advanced students who will be taking Algebra I in the eighth grade. Topics to be introduced include operations involving rational numbers, graphing in the coordinate plane, the concept of variable, and solving basic equations. Non-routine problem solving skills are developed throughout the year by analyzing real-world situations from a mathematical perspective. Students are encouraged to develop original material related to the topics covered.

PRE-ALGEBRA 7 – PRE-AP

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.

MATH 7 - Regular

This course is designed to continue the transition between concrete and abstract mathematics begun in sixth grade. Topics introduced in sixth grade will be reinforced and expanded. For example, geometry includes the study of 3-dimensional figures, probability includes the study of frequency distributions and problem-solving includes ratio and percent. Pre-algebra topics, such as variables and equations, are also introduced at this level. The use of calculators and computers as problem-solving tools is introduced and explored as well.

SCIENCE 7

This course uses lab and field investigations, the inquiry and scientific method and the tools of science to gain problem-solving techniques. Concepts include equilibrium in systems such as ecological and earth movements; Newton's laws; chemicals and their effects, their place in the periodic table; energy and its applications, structure and function as it applies to humans and genetics, the food chain; earth movements, seasons, ways of marking time; and the effects of catastrophic events.

TEXAS HISTORY

Students study Texas from early times to the present. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including the cultures of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration and the eras of mission-building, colonization, revolution, republic, and statehood. Students use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas. Students analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations.

INFORMATION REGARDING ELECTIVES

SELECTION OF AN ELECTIVE

You should choose your elective carefully. Once choices have been made, changes will not be permitted. All year electives require a full year commitment. Therefore, it is recommended that you:

1. Consider your interests and your abilities.
2. Study the descriptions of the electives.
3. Discuss your choice with your parents.
4. Ask your teachers or counselor for assistance if you need additional information.

We offer all year classes in art, band, choir, orchestra, theater arts, Debate and Foreign Language in the eighth grade. If you are interested in one of these areas, you may wish to consider one as your elective this year with the idea of doing the all year program in the eighth grade.

ALTERNATE ELECTIVES

You will be given your first choice elective if at all possible. However, if it is necessary, you will be placed in your alternate choice, so choose carefully. Alternate choices will be used in the case of a scheduling conflict. Electives of insufficient size will not be able to be offered, and alternate choices will be used.

ELECTIVE PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of elective classes in middle school is to explore a variety of interests, and they are designed to meet the State TEKS as well as the North East Standards. Although electives can be considered fun to attend, they require commitment: homework, tests, outside activities, projects, and performances. Grades earned will be used to determine eligibility for extra-curricular activities. Elective grades are also used in computing overall averages required for promotion.

ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE (ALL YEAR)

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.

Note: Basic music and playing instruction for wind and percussion instruments are the two major goals of this class. No previous music training or band experience is necessary. Students will participate in concerts, elementary school programs, and solo and ensemble contest. Students and parents **must** meet with the band directors to determine which instrument the student will play and to receive information about renting or purchasing an instrument. Students will be placed in separate classes for each instrument to facilitate specialized instruction. Enrollment is limited for particular instruments in accordance with typical band instrumentation. Beginning percussion will not be offered for seventh and eighth grade.

SYMPHONIC BAND - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE (ALL YEAR) TEACHER APPROVAL

Placement is determined by audition. This is a performing band with an emphasis on individual and group performance and continuation of development of the basic and advanced fundamentals of instrumental playing (tone production, embouchure, music history, style, and music theory). Students will be required to perform in several concerts, UIL contest, and solo and ensemble contest. They will also have the opportunity to participate in district auditions and other events.

CONCERT BAND - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE (ALL YEAR) TEACHER APPROVAL

Placement is determined by audition. This band has an emphasis on the continuation of development of basic fundamentals of instrumental playing (tone production, embouchure, music history, and music theory). Students will perform in some concerts and will have the opportunity to participate in solo and ensemble contest and other events.

HONORS BAND - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE (ALL YEAR) TEACHER APPROVAL

Placement is determined by audition. This is the highest level of performing band at Eisenhower, with emphasis on both individual and group performance, and the continuation of advanced fundamentals of instrumental playing (tone production, style, music theory, musicianship, and music history.) Students will be required to perform in several concerts, UIL contest, solo and ensemble contest, district band auditions and to represent Eisenhower at school and other events. Membership in this organization will be strictly limited and is by audition only. Members must have a sincere desire to excel and work for outstanding performance results, not only for the band, but also for themselves.

GIRLS CHOIR - 7TH GRADE (ALL YEAR)

This class is open to all 7th grade girls with or without choral experience. Emphasis will be placed on strengthening the fundamentals of singing, rhythmic and melodic accuracy, and sight singing. Students will have the opportunity to perform in Solo and Ensemble contest, Region Choir auditions, UIL Concert/Sight-reading Contest, a Spring Pop Show and numerous concerts throughout the school year. There will be a required uniform and a number of required performances.

BOYS CHORUS - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE BOYS (ALL YEAR)

This choir is open to all 7th and 8th grade boys that would like to learn to sing. No previous choir experience is necessary. While learning the basics of music, special attention will be paid to the changing adolescent male voice. Styles to be sung will range from traditional choral music to pop. Students will have the opportunity to perform in Solo and Ensemble contest, Region Choir auditions, UIL Concert/Sight-reading Contest, a Spring Pop Show and numerous concerts throughout the school year. There will be required uniform and a number of required performances.

VARSITY ORCHESTRA - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE (ALL YEAR) TEACHER APPROVAL

This class is open to 7th and 8th grade students with previous orchestra experience. To be selected for this class, a recommendation from the orchestra director is required. Students study advanced techniques on violin, viola, cello, or string bass. Students will be encouraged to perform in the solo and ensemble contest, participate in Region orchestra auditions and participate in the UIL String Contest. Performance possibilities will be broad, including: elementary schools, assembly programs, special programs and contests. There will be a required uniform and a number of required performances.

JUNIOR VARSITY ORCHESTRA - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE (ALL YEAR) TEACHER APPROVAL

Seventh and eighth grade students who have successfully completed beginning orchestra or 6th grade intermediate orchestra are selected for this group. Students audition for Region Orchestra, District Honor's orchestra, Solo and Ensemble, UIL, and music festivals throughout the year. There will be a required uniform and a number of required performances.

THEATRE ARTS/SPEECH I (Beginning) - 7TH AND 8TH GRADE (ONE SEMESTER)

Students will be introduced to pantomimes, storytelling, improvisational acting, characterization and role-play through theatre games. Students will learn and demonstrate competent speaking skills, learn public speaking techniques and theatre etiquette. Other topics that will be included are: basic communication skills, verbal and non-verbal communication, communication and speaking terminology, speech outlines, the writing process and presentations. Different types of speeches, storytelling and characterization will also be presented. UIL contests and competitions along with school performances will be optional for the most dedicated students.

THEATRE ARTS/SPEECH II - 7TH GRADE (ALL YEAR)

TEACHER APPROVAL WITH PREREQUISITE OR THEATRE ARTS TRAINING.

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. Students will learn all aspects of the performing arts through tournament events and preparing for competition. Students will experience sportsmanship and pride in competition with other schools in theatre events. Emphasis will be placed on research and practice prose and poetry interpretation, dramatic reading, oral interpretation, group improvisation, reader's theatre, solo acting, duet acting, recording pantomimes, oration, impromptu speaking, soap-box speaking and extemporaneous speaking. Students will rehearse and fine-tune performance abilities through characterization and role-play in improvisational games (theatre games). Students will participate in fundraiser events and preparations for school productions. Students will be involved in casting for productions, script searches, stage set production and preparation, costume design, make-up design, props, media program, lighting, sound and show time organization as stage managers. Students will assist and perform a variety show or one-act play for live audiences.

ART (Beginning) – 7TH AND 8TH GRADE (ONE SEMESTER)

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, fiber art, photographic imagery, and electronic media-generated art; analyzes historical and cultural influences on artwork; and evaluates through discussion and critique

Note: This class is designed to introduce students to the basics of art. Students will explore a variety of concepts directly related to the art elements and principles through experiences with different materials. Types of experiences could include, hands on, videos, lectures. Displays and competitions are encouraged during this class. Students are required to furnish some of their own supplies. If a student takes this course in the seventh grade, they cannot take the semester course in the 8th grade.

ART (Intermediate)- 7TH GRADE - (ONE SEMESTER) - TEACHER APPROVAL

This class builds on the skills acquired in sixth grade art. Students will explore a variety of concepts directly related to the elements and principles of art. There is an emphasis on developing three dimensional art with a variety of media and tools. Students will evaluate artworks through discussion and critique. Types of experiences could include hands-on, videos, and lectures. Displays and competitions are encouraged during this class. Students are required to furnish some of their own supplies.

EXPLORATION OF MULTIMEDIA – 7TH OR 8TH GRADE (ONE SEMESTER)

This course will provide an overview of web page design, internet exploration, and video technology. Students will learn to communicate information in a variety of formats.

Note: This course introduces students to several programs that allow users to create, modify, and produce video and audio on a computer. Students use Adobe Premiere, After Effects, Photoshop and Encore to create animations, videos, and DVD menus. At the end of the semester students create a DVD menu and have the opportunity to burn all of their videos to a DVD as a portfolio showing their work throughout the semester.

INTERNET EXPLORATION (Webpage Design and Development) - 7TH OR 8TH GRADE (ONE SEMESTER)

This course introduces students to a history of the World Wide Web and the Internet. They will learn how to use information posted on the Internet in meaningful ways as well as critique the validity of web sites. Further, students learn how to design and create their own web pages.

Note: This course introduces students to what the Internet is, how it works, web design, and web development. Students will learn how to build webpages using HTML and then advance to using Adobe Dreamweaver. Throughout the semester students will also learn how to utilize Adobe Photoshop to modify, enhance and optimize images for web use. By the end of the semester students will have a portfolio of webpages and websites they have created that can be burned to CD, DVD, or copied to flash drives for archiving his/her work.

SKILLS FOR LIVING – 7TH and 8TH GRADE (ONE SEMESTER)

Students get to explore many things about themselves, discover the importance of family relationships, and learn some tips for planning for the future. Emphasis is on communicating and getting along with others, accepting responsibility, becoming aware of resources, making decisions, staying healthy, managing time, and possible career choices. Through meal planning and learning to use recipes to prepare food, students will learn to: measure, mix, cook, and serve food with special emphasis on good nutrition to maintain wellness and a healthy lifestyle.

HOMEMAKING – 7TH and 8TH GRADE (ONE SEMESTER)

Students will learn how to have a neat, attractive appearance, develop good grooming skills, select and care for clothing, and the basics of planning a clothing budget. They will be introduced to beginning techniques of clothing construction and have the opportunity to use sewing machines and other equipment to make something they can wear. Also included are some activities that focus on selecting and maintaining a pleasant and comfortable home, child development and babysitting. Students will be asked to provide some supplies for "take home" projects.

SPANISH 1-A - 7TH GRADE (ALL YEAR)

Spanish IA 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.

Note: It is recommended that the student interested in Spanish 1-A have at least an “80” average in English. Spanish 1-A does not earn high school credit unless Spanish 1-B is taken for a full year in 8th grade also.

EXPLORATORY LANGUAGE - SPANISH - 7TH OR 8TH GRADE (ONE SEMESTER)

This class is a one semester course designed to introduce 7th and 8th grade students to the language learning process aspects of the Spanish culture. The students will experience the four linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish. The students will have opportunities to use Spanish to communicate in real-life situations.

DEBATE – 7TH AND 8TH GRADE (ALL YEAR)

APPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATION BY DEBATE TEACHER IS REQUIRED.

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.