DAVID LEE “TEX” HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL
7th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2017-2018
CORE COURSES

English 0703

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.

Reading 0718

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.

English Pre-AP 0701

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.

Reading Pre-AP 0716

Designed for 7th grade advanced reading students, this class is a research-based course where application of reading skills provides opportunities to problem solve, research project-based assignments, and read selections of contemporary media. Students research related issues and investigate their impact on society. Learning to understand and apply the media, students engage in strategies such as Socratic seminar and student portfolios, encouraging higher level thinking.
Math 0723

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.

Math Pre-AP 0721

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 percent's.

Texas History 0743

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.

Science 0733

This course uses lab and field investigations, scientific investigation and reasoning and the tools of science to develop problem solving and critical thinking skills while learning concepts such as photosynthesis and the flow of energy through living systems; organic compounds and large molecules in living system; force, motion and energy in living systems; catastrophic events in weather that affect environments; the relationship between living things and their environment and characteristics of Earth and relationships to objects in our solar system that allow life to exist.

ATHLETICS AND P.E. COURSES

Athletics 0757

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.

Physical Education (P.E.) 0751

This course will include instructions and opportunities in motor skills for efficient movement, participation in individual, dual and team sports, development of a high level of personal and physical fitness, and knowledge and skills for leisure and life-time sports activities.
Physical Education/Dance 0758

This course is designed to focus on an intensive study of the basic forms of dance at this beginner/intermediate level. Emphasis will include a guided study of dance skills and technique in ballet, modern jazz and hip hop. Aerobic activities and fitness activities will be incorporated.

FINE ARTS COURSES

Art I 0675

Students will work with a variety of processes and materials such as painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, fibers, jewelry and digital media. Students rely on their perceptions of the environment, developed through increasing visual awareness and sensitivity to surroundings, memory, imagination, and life experiences, as a source for creating artworks. Art courses include the study of works of art and cultures and evaluation of student work and the works of other artists.

Art II 0295

Students will work with a variety of processes and materials such as painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, fibers, jewelry and digital media. Students rely on their perceptions of the environment, developed through increasing visual awareness and sensitivity to surroundings, memory, imagination, and life experiences, as a source for creating artworks. Art courses include the study of works of art and cultures and evaluation of student work and the works of other artists.

Band I 0771

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 0772

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.

Choir II 0762

The intermediate of choir is offered to those students who have not yet attained a performance proficiency commensurate with being in an advanced choir. Students will continue to focus on proper vocal techniques and sight-reading.
**Intro to Dance 0453**

This introductory/intermediate course is designed to focus on various mediums of dance, including ballet, modern jazz and folk/ethnic. Emphasis is on training the student to coordinate elements of dance and to enhance student confidence, poise and collaborative skills. Aerobic activities and fitness activities will be incorporated.

**String Orchestra I 0790**

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 0791**

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 0792**

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.

**Theater Arts I 0350**

This is an introductory level course that allows the student to study the various aspects of theatre performance. Emphasis is placed on the development of individual techniques utilized in theatre performance.

**Theater Arts II 0352**

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.
HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

Principles of Applied Engineering 3019

This course provides an overview of the various fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematic and their interrelationships. Students will use a variety of computer hardware and software applications to complete assignments and projects. Upon completing this course, students will have an understanding of the various fields and will be able to make informed decisions regarding a coherent sequence of subsequent courses.

Principles of Art, A/V, & Communication 3020

This course develops a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong academic foundation, and a proficiency in oral and written communication. The student applies information technology applications when completing Arts, Audio/Video technology, and Communication projects. The student is expected to use information management, email, Internet, writing and publishing, presentation and spreadsheet or database applications.

Principles of Information Technology 3017

Students develop computer literacy skills to adapt to emerging technologies used in the global marketplace. Students implement personal and interpersonal skills to prepare for a rapidly evolving workplace environment. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication and reasoning skills and apply them to the information technology environment.

Spanish IA 5312

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.

OTHER ELECTIVE COURSES

Academic and Individual Motivation (AIM) 02917

The focus of AIM is to enhance the curriculum by providing enrichment and/or support to the core academic subjects. AIM may also provide students with critical skills such as study habits, note-taking, test taking strategies, organizational skills, time management, goal setting, and character education. If time allows, students may also receive study hall support.

Debate I 0215

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. Students should have strong reading and writing skills.

**Debate II 0218**

First semester topics: logic, persuasion, and speaking and debate formats. Competitive events covered in the class will 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.

**Career Readiness-Robotics I 3042**

This course provides students with a working knowledge of methods for design and analysis of robotic and intelligent systems. Particular attention is given to modeling dynamic systems, measuring and controlling their behavior and making decisions about future courses of action and programming.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

- English Pre-AP and Reading Pre-AP must be taken together.
- NEISD requires all middle school students to have one year of a Fine Arts Course within the three middle school years.
- The prerequisite for Math Pre AP is that the student had to successfully completed Math Pre AP the previous year.
- NEISD Pre-AP agreement must be signed by student and parent in order to be enrolled in Pre-AP courses.
- Each middle school student must take four semesters of P.E. or a P.E. equivalent by the end of their 8th grade year.
- Also, each student must be enrolled in one semester of P.E. or an equivalent at minimum each year in middle school.
- Student may earn a maximum of 2.0 CTE high school credits from any combination of high school courses offered.