DAVID “LEE” TEX HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL
8th GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2017-2018

CORE COURSE

English 0803

English 0803 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 0818

In Reading 0818, 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 0801

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 0816

This course is designed for the student who intends to take calculus in high school. It is the bridge to the abstract study of mathematics. Topics: the real number system and its properties, linear equations and inequalities (one and two variables), algebraic polynomials, rational expressions, roots and radicals, functions, and quadratic equations. Relevant problem-solving is interwoven. The use of graphing calculators and computers is integrated throughout the curriculum. To be successful in this course a student must have a strong foundation in all the pre-algebra skills.
U.S. History 0843

Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early Republic, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material.

U.S. History Pre-AP 0847

This advanced level course is an enriched and more comprehensive coverage of the regular U.S. History course, based on a set of content-specific strategies designed to introduce skills, concepts and assessment methods that prepare students for success when they take Advanced Placement and other challenging courses in high school. The course will include the regular 8th grade U.S. History TEKS, with an emphasis on learning and writing skills.

Science 0833

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 atoms and the periodic table; chemical reactions, formulas and balanced equations; Newton's Laws of motion; Sun, Earth and Moon systems; plate tectonics; weather patterns and climate and interactions between organisms in the environment.

Science Pre-AP 0834

This course will include the standard eighth grade science TEKS with an emphasis on extending the Matter and Energy, Force, Motion and Energy and Organisms and Environment strands so that students have the necessary background to be successful in Pre-AP high school science courses.

ATHLETICS AND P.E. COURSES

Athletics 8505

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. Emphasis will also be placed on teaching good sportsmanship and developing a respect for other athletes and coaches in order to insure a quality educational experience.

Physical Education (P.E.) 0851

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 (P.E.)/Dance 0858

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.

Art III 0452
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 0471
This course is designed for those students who exhibit an interest in learning a band instrument. Students must 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 0472
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 0473
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 0462
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.
Choir III 0463

The advanced level of choir is offered to those students who have attained a performance proficiency commensurate with the ability grouping for a specific choral group (i.e. mixed choir, boys’ choir, treble choir, etc.). Students enrolling in an advanced class should have a serious interest in singing. They will participate in concerts, programs, and UIL competitions, which require rehearsal and practice outside the school day.

Intro to Dance 0455

This 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 II 0482

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 0483

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 Full year

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 Full year

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.

Theater Arts III 0354

This is an advanced level course that allows the student to study in depth the various aspects of theatre performance. Emphasis is placed on the development of the individual actor and the honing of performance skills focusing toward the presentation of the final dramatic production.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES

Concepts of Engineering and Design 3019

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. 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.

Health 3107
Health is a course required for high school graduation. It includes the study of the human body and the functions of the systems, drug abuse, first aid, CPR, diseases, pollution and its effects, nutrition, exercise, health agencies and sex education.

**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 I 5313**

Spanish I - 8th Grade is a one year course designed for those students who have the interest, motivation, and study skills to take Spanish I. The development of oral language skills will be emphasized along with pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. The culture of the Spanish-speaking world will be integrated into the learning of the language. Please see your counselor for more information.

**Spanish IB 5314**

Spanish IB is the second year of the middle school two year program. This is a continuation of the formal study of the Spanish language. The program is designed to allow 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**

**AIM 02918**

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.

**Office Aide 0408**

This course provides the opportunity for students to develop and practice office skills and responsible behavior patterns under the supervision of teachers or office personnel. Emphasis is placed on interpersonal relationships as well as clerical and communication skills, telephone techniques, record keeping, office protocol.

**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 or two semesters of a Fine Arts Course within the three middle school years.
- NEISD Pre-AP agreement must be signed by student and parent in order to be enrolled in Pre-AP courses.
- The prerequisite for Math Pre AP is that the student had to successfully completed Math Pre AP the previous year.
- 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 credits from any combination of these CTE and Tech application courses in middle school. Additionally, these high school elective courses may or may not satisfy a high school endorsement requirement.