English 7
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.

English 8
English 8 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 and grammar; (2) literature; (3) cumulative sentences, multi-paragraph papers & editing skills; (4) oral presentations & listening skills; (5) study skills, library reports, and research with documentation.

Pre-AP English 7
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. (Pre-AP English 7 & ACL 7 must be taken together.)

Pre-AP English 8
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 presentation and listening skills; study skills; and research involving documentation. (Pre-AP English 8 & ACL 8 must be taken together.)

English 7 GT/PreAP
Prerequisites: Previous enrollment in the North East GT English Program or qualification for the Middle School GT English Program. 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 8 GT/PreAP
Prerequisites: Previous enrollment in the North East GT English Program or qualification for the Middle School GT English Program. The theme for grade 8 in the differentiated curriculum is “Discovery of Self.” Classical literature is stressed, along with structured essay writing as well as creative types of writing. The materials chosen offer an appropriate challenge in all areas of language arts.

Pre-AP Reading 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. (Pre-AP English 7 & ACL 7 must be taken together.)

Pre-AP Reading 8
This reading course is 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 8th 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. (Pre-AP English 8 & ACL 8 must be taken together.)

**Math 7**
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 8**
Designed to be transition into the abstract mathematics of algebra at the high school level, the curriculum is focused on preparing all students to enter Algebra I in the ninth grade. Sixth and seventh grade topics are extended with emphasis placed upon the pre-algebra skills of Cartesian graphing, operations involving integers, and the concepts of variables and equations as mathematical models.

**Pre-AP Math 7 (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. (Pre-requisite: Math 6 Pre-AP)

**Pre-AP Math 8 (ALGEBRA I)**
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. (Pre-requisite: Pre-AP Math 7) (*1HS Credit)

**Math 7 GT/PreAP**
Prerequisites: Student must qualify for GT Math Program
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

**Algebra I GT/PreAP**
Prerequisites: Student must meet appropriate entry criteria
This course 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.

**Science 7**
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.

**Science 8**
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.

**Pre-AP Science 8**
This course will include the regular eighth grade Science TEKS with an emphasis on extending the Physics and Chemistry strands to align with the Integrated Physics and Chemistry TEKS. The course will challenge the students to use critical thinking skills and problem solving techniques that will require the use of higher-level math skills. There will be extensive use of technology for analysis, extrapolation and communication of data. Students will be required to do a competition-quality Science Project (i.e. Science Fair).

**Texas History 7**
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.

**American History 8**
Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on 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.

**Pre-AP American History 8**
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 Advance 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.

**Physical Education 7**
This full year 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. (A full year is required for all 7th grade students.)

**Physical Education 8**
This one semester or full year course will include instructions and opportunities in physical fitness development to improve the quality of life, motor skills that develop positive body image, and skills related to games and sports. (At least one semester is required for all 8th grade students.)

**Athletics 7 and Athletics 8**
This full year 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. All students who participate in the Athletics class must play, at least, two sports, one of which must be football (boys) or must be volleyball (girls).

**ELECTIVES**

**Art 2**
Art 2 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.

**Art 3**
Art 3 defines a variety of concepts directly related to the art elements and principles through experiences with media and tools in design, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, fiber art, photographic imagery, and electronic media-generated art; analyzes technological, historical and cultural influences on artwork; and evaluates artworks through discussion and critique.

**AVID 7**
This 7th grade course is an in-school academic support program that prepares students for college eligibility and success. Students are enrolled in a college preparatory sequence and in an elective section of AVID where they receive the academic and motivational support to succeed. Students are coached by college tutors, and work in collaborative groups using a curriculum focused on writing and inquiry. (Application Required)

**AVID 8**
This 8th grade course focuses on the skills and strategies necessary for students to make a successful transition into high school and an academic career. Students will explore the options available in high school, higher education, and the professional world in order to establish both immediate and long-range personal goals. (*1 HS Credit) (Application Required)

**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. (Teacher Recommendation Required)

**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 at concerts, and should be prepared to spend time outside of the school day preparing for these performances. (Teacher Recommendation Required)

**Choir II**
The intermediate level of choir is offered to those girls 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. (Teacher Recommendation Required) (Pre-requisite: Choir I)

**Choir II (Male)**
This intermediate level of choir class is offered to boys 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. (Teacher Recommendation Required) (Pre-requisite: Choir I)

**Choir III**
The advanced level of choir is offered to those girls who have attained performance proficiency commensurate with the ability grouping for a specific choral group (i.e. mixed choir, boy’s 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. (Teacher Recommendation Required) (Pre-requisite: Choir II)

**Competitive High Powered Rocketry**
*(this course is ONLY AVAILABLE for students enrolled in KSAT magnet program)*

High Powered Rocketry (HPR) is "rockets powered by motors more powerful than "D" class engines". In this course students will continue to incorporate concepts in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to complete inquiry-based engineering design projects and challenges. While competing in the Team America Rocketry Challenges, "Red Horner" HPR rocket project, "Mini Yeller" HPR rocket project and the "Mark Twain II Atmospheric Sounding" HPR rocket project, the students are expected to increase their knowledge and understanding of rocketry design principles.

**Debate II & Debate III**

In this course, the first semester topics are covered: logic, persuasion, and speaking and debate formats. 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. (Pre-requisite: Debate I or Debate I and II)

**Digital Communication In The 21st Century**
*(this course is ONLY AVAILABLE for students enrolled in KSAT magnet program)*

Digital Communication is a laboratory-based course designed to provide an overview of and experience in multimedia technology. Sounds, images, graphics, and video are the informational projects from which students will construct media rich knowledge structures. Students will develop necessary skills and obtain hands-on experiences working with a variety of multimedia tools to build linear and non-linear interactive products.

**Health Education***

Health is a semester 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. This course is offered to 8th grade students only and must be taken with a semester of P.E. (*0.5 HS Credit)

**Jr. PALS**

The Jr. Peer Assistance and Leadership (Jr. PALS) course is a program in which selected middle school students are trained to work as peer helpers and peer mediators and community service learners with students either on their own campus or from feeder elementary schools. (Application Required)

**Office Aide**

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, and decision making. (Teacher Recommendation Required)

**Principles of Information Technology***

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. (*1 HS Credit)

**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.

**Robotics II**
Prerequisites: Students must have good team building skills, and should have taken Robotics I (preferred). Students must apply to the instructor for approval. This course addresses the process to design, manufacture, test, evaluate, and successfully accomplish a robotic challenge, without the use of kits, or commercially designed robots.

**Photography And Digital Graphics**
Students will learn the fundamentals of photographic techniques, composition, photo essays, photo cropping, editing, and caption writing. Students will work with Adobe Photoshop CS3. enter competitions and have the opportunity to have their photos published in the school newspaper, literary magazine, and yearbook. Students will also work with Adobe Premiere to create video productions using photographs.

**Spanish IA**
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.

**Spanish IB**
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. (Pre-requisite: Spanish IA) (*1 HS Credit)

**Spanish I* 8th Grade**
This is a one year course designed for those students who have the interest, motivation, and study skills to take Spanish I, but who cannot schedule the Spanish IA and IB sequence over 7th and 8th grades. 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. (Pre-requisite: Advanced Classes, Regular Attendance, and Good Study Skills)(*1 HS Credit)

**Strings 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. (Teacher Recommendation Required) (Pre-requisite: Strings I)

**Strings 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 UIL competitions and at concerts, and should be prepared to spend time outside of the school day preparing for these performances. (Teacher Recommendation Required) (Pre-requisite: Strings II)

**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. (Pre-requisite: Theatre Arts I)

**Theatre Arts III**
This advanced level course allows the students 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. (Pre-requisite: Theatre Arts II)

**Web Design**
This course covers design, development, creation and maintenance of web sites using both HTML and WYSIWYG software. Students will learn what it takes to create and manage a web site on the Internet and Intranet. Hardware used as part of the class includes digital cameras, scanners, and video cameras. Software used as part of the class includes Dreamweaver, Adobe Photoshop, Fireworks, Flash and an introduction to JavaScript. (*1 HS Credit)

**Principles of Applied Engineering**
*(this course is ONLY AVAILABLE for students enrolled in KSAT magnet program)*
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. Prerequisites: None(*1 HS Credit)

**Yearbook**
Students holding editorial positions gain laboratory experience, along with personal instruction, in magazine production procedures, working to produce the yearbook. Experience includes writing copy, computer copy preparation, page layout and design skills, photo cropping and editing. Work after school as needed to complete assignments is a part of this course. (Application Required)

**Special Notes**
- English Pre-AP and Reading Pre-AP must be taken together.
- NEISD requires all students to complete one year of a fine arts class within their middle school years.
- NEISD requires all students to complete four semesters of P.E./Athletics within their middle school years and students must be enrolled in, at least, one semester of P.E./Athletic per school year.