

BUSH MIDDLE SCHOOL

8TH GRADE

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2019 - 2020

CORE ACADEMICS

English 8 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 presentation and listening skills; study skills, and research involving documentation.

Algebra I Pre-AP - 2314

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 pre-algebra skills.

Science 8 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.

U.S. History 8 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 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.

Reading Pre-AP - 0816

Designed for 8th 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, focusing on reading to support argumentation, persuasion, and debate, students will research, formulate arguments, and formally debate. Socratic seminar and student portfolios strategies encourage higher level thinking skills.

LANGUAGES

Spanish I, 8th Grade - 5313

This is a one-year course designed for students who have the interest, motivation, and study skills to take Spanish I, but who cannot schedule the Spanish IA and IB sequence over the 7th and 8th grades. The development of oral language skills is emphasized along with pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar. The culture of the Spanish-speaking world will be integrated into the learning of the language.

Spanish IB - 5314

This course is taken for the second year of the middle school-two year Spanish 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.

Students who successfully complete Level 1A and 1B or Spanish 1 will receive one unit of credit on their high school transcripts that will count toward graduation. It may also be used with credits earned in high school to meet college entrance requirements.

Spanish II Native Pre-AP – 5315

This course is designed for students who already have an ability to understand and speak Spanish. The emphasis of the instruction will be to expand the students' existing oral proficiency and to develop the skills of reading and writing Spanish so that they can communicate more successfully in social and business situations.

Students who successfully complete Spanish II Native Pre-AP will receive high school credit for Spanish I and II.

FINE ARTS

Band I - 0471

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 - 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 III - 0463

The advanced level of choir is offered to those students who have attained the 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.

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.

Art 1 - 0675EA (Beginning)

This is a full year art course in which students will work with a variety of processes and materials such as painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, fibers, jewelry and digital media at a beginning level. 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 work and the works of other artists.

Art 2 - 0295 (Intermediate)

This is a full year art course in which students will work with a variety of processes and materials such as painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, fibers, jewelry and digital media at an intermediate level. 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 work and the works of other artists.

Art 3 - 0452 (Advanced)

This is a full year art course in which students will work with a variety of processes and materials such as painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, fibers, jewelry and digital media at an advanced level. 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 work and the works of other artists.

Theatre 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.

Theatre 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.

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

Principles of Art, Audio/Video Technology, and 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 Communications projects. The student is expected to use information management, email, Internet, writing and publishing, presentation and spreadsheet or database applications.

CAREER & TECHNOLOGY

Principles of Applied Engineering - 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.

Robotics/College and Career Readiness (CCR) – 3042

This course is a local middle school credit only.

Students will integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions about career choices. There will be an element on robotics technology.

OTHER ELECTIVES

AIM - 0291

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.

Debate I, II, III - 0215/0218/0221

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.

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.

Athletics 8 - 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 is 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.

Aide - 0402

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.