



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Descriptions 2011-2012

### **REQUIRED CLASSES**

**M2001/M2002 Year PRE-ALGEBRA** - Pre-Algebra is a bridge between arithmetic and algebra. Students will study number systems and number theory and select appropriate methods for numerical computation including paper and pencil methods, estimation, and calculators. They will be introduced to the language of algebra and they will use technology and manipulatives to explore abstract algebra concepts informally. Students will develop problem-solving for modeling real-world problem situations.

**M3001/M3002 Year ALGEBRA 1** –Elementary Algebra extends students’ problem-solving strategies and their abilities to model real-world problems algebraically, numerically, and graphically. Students study the properties of the real number system and use these properties to solve linear equations; the greater emphasis is on conceptual understanding of algebra as a means of representation and as a problem-solving tool. Technology and manipulatives are used to explore these ideas.

**M4001/M4002 Year GEOMETRY** – Students investigate geometric concepts using technology, manipulatives, and hands-on explorations. The major postulates and theorems of Euclidean geometry form the basis of this course. Students will move between synthetic, coordinate, and transformational systems for representing geometric ideas and will use right triangle trigonometry to model problems from the real world. (Both inductive and deductive reasoning are emphasized.)

**EN081/EN082 Year ENGLISH 8** – This course continues developing language skills including reading, writing, and oral work, with a major emphasis on grammar review taught through the writing process. These skills include a review of punctuation and capitalization skills, a unit on composition and usage, a unit on sentence structure and applications of grammar to more effective speaking and writing. The department offers units in such areas as: short stories, library skills, study skills, and a novel unit. *Computer lab fee required.*

**HUS11/HUS12 Year U.S. HISTORY 8** – This United States History course is designed to emphasize historic events from the age of exploration to reconstruction and the western movements. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, the age of exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, national period, constitutional issues, Civil War, reconstruction, and the western movement. The emphasis of this course is on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. There will be a continued effort to review and develop content, process, and thinking skills introduced in previous grades.

**S1801/S1802 Year INTEGRATED SCIENCE 8** – Eighth Grade Integrated Science focuses on the theme of “change.” Topics from physical, earth, and life, science are integrated to illustrate the concept of change in nature. Students will study chemical and physical changes; changes in force, motion, and energy; changes in the earth’s crust and climate. Hands-on inquiry-based instruction is used to help students value science as a process for obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence. *Science lab fee required.*

**POH10 Sem. HEALTH** – This course acquaints students with body functions and the problems that might disrupt normal processes. It also helps students develop wise practices and habits that will assure them of sound mental, social and physical health.

**P1080 Sem. PE BOYS & GIRLS BEGINNING FITNESS** – This course is a sequence of experiences in physical activities which challenge all ability levels. It focuses on social interaction and cognitive learning as well as skill development. *PE fee required.*

### **ELECTIVES FOR FULL YEAR**

#### **FOREIGN LANGUAGE:**

**LSP11/LSP12 Year SPANISH 1** – This class stresses the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students practice the skills by means of dialogues, structure drills, reading selections and written exercises. Emphasis will be on near-native pronunciation, speaking, listening and writing correct Spanish. *Computer fee required.*

**LAS11/LAS12 Year AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1** – This class provides students with instruction in American Sign Language (ASL) or other deaf languages, finger spelling, orientation to deaf culture, and interpreting from signing to voice and from voice to signing.

**LCH11/LCH12 Year CHINESE 1**- In level 1, students begin to communicate sufficiently to satisfy basic survival needs and minimum courtesy requirements. They can ask and answer some simple questions, respond to and sometimes initiate short statements and maintain simple conversation. Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics. Students will begin to identify and react to perspectives and practices of the target culture.

#### **YEAR LONG FINE ARTS CLASSES**

**A3311/A3312 Year BEGINNING BRASS** –This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential through learning to play a brass instrument. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have the opportunities improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture or the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. An ensemble directed toward building music performance skills in percussion. Curriculum includes 2-4 performances per year including introduction to music theory, history, and composition. *Instrumental fee of \$70.00 may be required.*

**A3611/A3612 Year BEGINNING WOODWINDS**- This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential through learning to play a brass instrument. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have the opportunities improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture or the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society; An instrumental ensemble directed toward building music performance skills. Curriculum includes 6-8 performances per year including adjudicated music festivals, introduction to music theory, history and composition. *Instrumental fee of \$70.00 may be required.*

**A3261/A3262 Year SYMPHONIC BAND** – This course further develops and refines core concepts and fundamentals introduced in Beginning Band. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Pre-requisite course is Beginning Band, or audition. Instrument fee may be required.*

**A80011/A8012 Year ORCHESTRA** – This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *No pre-requisite course is required. Instrument and performing group fee may be required.*

**A8011/A8012 Year INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA** – This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Study includes the care and cultivation of a beautiful tone, the ability to read music with increasing fluency, the building of technical skills, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Pre-requisite course is Beginning Orchestra, or audition. Teacher Approval required. Instrument and performing group fee may be required.*

**A8021/A8022 Year ORCHESTRA ADVANCED\*** - Students will be part of an ensemble of intermediate to advanced string players directed toward performing the finest in classical and contemporary music. *Instrument and performing group fee may be required.*

**A3511/A3512 Year PERCUSSION** – (Pre-Req. – 2 years piano or previous band experience on a non-percussion instrument.) This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play percussion instruments. Study includes the building of proper technique on all percussion instruments, the ability to read music, team spirit, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to improvise, compose, strengthen listening skills, analyze performances and relate their music experiences to the time and culture of the pieces they study, as well as to contemporary society. *Two years piano or previous instrument experience, audition, and \$70 instrument rental fee required.*

**A4321** **Year** **MIXED CHOIR\***- Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance of suitable music SATB (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) voices. *Performing group fee may be required.*

## ***ELECTIVE CLASSES FOR A SEMESTER***

### **SEMESTER FINE ARTS CLASSES**

**A0010** **Sem.** **ART FOUNDATIONS I** – The student learns the basic elements and principles of art through drawing, painting & sculpturing. *There is a class fee for materials.*

**A2210** **Sem.** **CERAMICS I** - (Pre-req. Art Foundations 1, May take Art Foundations 1 1<sup>st</sup> semester then Ceramics 2<sup>nd</sup> semester) The student receives instruction in ceramics and designing in ceramic clays. Preparation of clay bodies, use of tools and equipment, firing and construction methods, and an introduction to wheel throwing is included. *Materials for projects in addition to the lab fee will be approximately \$10.00.*

**A2000** **Sem.** **ART MEDIA & METHODS** – (Pre-req. Art Foundations 1) In this class, students will expand their knowledge of the Principles and Elements of Art utilizing a wide variety of art media, methods and styles from around the world. *There is a class fee for materials.*

**A3410** **Sem.** **GUITAR I** – This course will teach how to play chords, the basis of guitar technique, how to read music. Guitar notes use the same clef as the right hand on the piano. Learn how to play different styles by ear.

**A6000** **Sem.** **DRAMA FOUNDATIONS** – This course introduces the student to the beginning elements of theatre and performance with emphasis of self-improvement in performance and public communication. Mime, oral interpretation, scene and monologue study are taught along with production criticism and dramatic and comedic literature. The students will study audition techniques, scene performance, cinema appreciation and criticism, and an introduction to acting.

**A6010** **Sem.** **DRAMA I** – This class is an advanced study of theatre history, advanced performance skills, trust, Shakespearean acting, resume and audition preparation, and improvisation. The student will be required to see a play each term. *Teacher Approval Only*

**A7201/A7202** **Sem.** **MUSICAL THEATRE** – Designed to familiarize performing arts students with the process of auditioning and performing in the realm of musical theatre. Students will work individually and in groups with staging, choreography, etc. Voice repertoire, selection, singing style, acting, coaching, and evaluation will be covered. Students will be required to sing and dance.

**A5000** **Sem.** **DANCE FUNDAMENTALS** – (Fine Arts credit) In this introduction to dance, beginning dance techniques and movements will be taught. This beginning level class will explore rhythms, style, and techniques of modern and jazz dance, emphasizing the basic elements of choreography. *PE fee required.*

**A5010** **Sem.** **DANCE IA** – This class is a continuation of Intro to Dance. Intermediate dance techniques and movements will be taught and different dance styles will be explored. Emphasis will be placed on the elements of modern dance. *PE fee required.*

### **CTE CLASSES**

**C24110** **Sem.** **KEYBOARDING**- In this beginning semester keyboarding course, the student will master touch operation on a typewriter or computer keyboard. Correct techniques including fingering, key strokes, posture, and the development of speed and accuracy will be stressed. The student will learn to format simple reports, personal and business letters, and tables. The acquisition of business communication skills will be integrated throughout the course.

**C24120** **Sem.** **KEYBOARDING APPLICATIONS**- This 7-12 grade course is designed to increase student keyboarding skill through drill practice and reinforcement of correct techniques. Students will use word processing software to create, format, and edit personal and business documents. Note: Students who enter this course with a minimum timed-writing level competence are expected to improve keyboarding speed and accuracy by increasing between 4 to 8 words per minute with a maximum of 2 errors per minute.

**C20010** **Sem.** **COMPUTERS IN BUSINESS**- *Prerequisite: Keyboarding* This course introduces students to important business and economic concepts. Students will work in business teams as entrepreneurs to solve simulated business problems using technology as a teaching tool. Basic business communication skills that include writing, speaking, thinking, listening, and reading will be integral parts of the course. *Class lab fee required.*

**C30510 Sem. FACS EXPLORATION:FOOD & CHILD CARE** – This course provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills. It allows them to develop skills in childcare and safety, consumerism, family relationships, personal responsibility, and job-related tasks. It is designed for students who are interested in understanding the principles of nutrition and maintaining a healthy level of fitness for life. *Class lab fee required.*

**C30410 Sem. FACS EXPLORATION: SEWING & INTERIOR DESIGN** – This course provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills. It allows them to develop skills in clothing construction and style, clothing care and maintenance, textiles, interior design, and consumerism. Students will be required to purchase supplies. *Class lab fee required.*

**C80110 Sem. INTRO TO TECHNOLOGY ED**– Students will be introduced to the technological systems of aerospace, communications, construction, energy/power/transportation, manufacturing and biotechnology. The course emphasis is on exploration activities using computers, technology, equipment and manufacturing tools. *Class lab fee required.*

**C83110 Sem. COMMUNICATIONS TECH (VIDEO)** This class will introduce students to a wide range of communications technologies. Students will apply skills and concepts through the completion of action-based activities and projects, centered in the following areas: Computer-Aided Design and Drafting, Video and Audio production, space technologies, Digital Media, Animation, Electronics, and many more. This course will provide opportunities for students to work individually and in a team, while also developing skills in technological design, innovation, and problem solving. *Class lab fee and project cost required.*

**C84110 Sem. CONSTRUCTION TECH 1 (WOODS)** A Technology Education program that introduces basic skills, applications, and impacts related to Construction Technology and students' modern society. Areas of instruction include, but are not limited to math, physics, applied communications, building design and construction, construction systems, residential and commercial construction, thermal systems, plumbing, engineering concepts, electrical and mechanical systems, social and environmental issues and impacts. Understanding the relationship between Construction Technology and other technological systems is essential. Utilizing advanced problem solving skills in a synthesized environment, students will develop skills and attitudes that impact and expand their occupational opportunities. *Class lab fee and project cost required.*

#### **OTHER ELECTIVES**

**END10 Sem. DEBATE** – This is a basic course in speech and debate. Students will learn techniques of research, persuasion, organization, refutation, and group processes. Content will include important issues facing the world, our nation, and ourselves. *Computer fee required.*

**ENCR0 Sem. CREATIVE WRITING** – This class is designed to provide experiences and activities which will enhance the communication of ideas through written expression. *Computer fee required.*

**X4201/X4202 Sem. PEER LEADERS** – This course focuses on the qualities of leadership and then works to develop these qualities in the lives of students. This course includes developmental skills in the areas of relationships, communications, human development, decision making, and interpersonal skills. *Students will be participating in service and activities. Counselor approval and application required.*

**X4210 Sem. PEER TUTOR** – Students will be involved in peer tutoring students in special education and resource classes in math, English, reading, life skills and other academic areas. This class would be most helpful to students considering a career in teaching, coaching, etc. This course involves working with disabled students. It is extremely important that the students chosen for this class have a very good attendance record. During the school year this class goes on a number of community trips, a few of them may require the student to bring a dollar or so. *Application Required.*

#### **P.E. ELECTIVES**

**P8000 Sem. AEROBICS** – This total body fitness class involves cardiovascular exercises as well as body toning exercises. Exercise routines will be choreographed to music. Basic principles of fitness will be taught and applied in class. *This class does NOT fill any PE credit. PE fee required.*

**P8400 Sem. FITNESS TRAINING** – This class is designed for students to tone, shape and strengthen. Cardiovascular exercise will be incorporated for an overall training program. *This class is elective only and does NOT fill any PE credit. PE fee required.*