



Home of the Blackhawks
Vista Heights Middle School
Counseling Department

8th Grade Course Descriptions 2018-2019

REQUIRED CLASSES

ENGLISH 8 Year (Fee)

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.*

INTERMEDIATE MATH II Year (Fee)

Students in Intermediate Math 2 will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

SECONDARY MATH I^H (Accelerated) Year (Fee)

This is an accelerated and challenging course, with high expectations for homework completion and assignments. Students in Intermediate Math 2AC will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. *Pre-requisite of Intermediate Math IAC or Placement test required.*

INTERMEDIATE MATH II H (Accelerated) Year (Fee)

Students in Intermediate Math 2 will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. *(Pre-requisite of Intermediate Math II Honor placement test required)*

U.S. HISTORY 8 Year

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, the Constitution, Civil War, reconstruction, and the western movement. The emphasis of this course is on the 18th and 19th centuries. There will be a continued effort to review and develop content, process, and thinking skills introduced in previous grades.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 8 Year (Fee)

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 student's value science as a process for obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence. *Science lab fee required.*

HEALTH Semester

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.

PE BOYS & GIRLS BEGINNING FITNESS Semester (Fee)

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.

AEROBICS Semester (Fee)

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.*

DIGITAL LITERACY Semester (Fee)

This course is an introduction to computer literacy. Students will have opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, digital citizenship, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. Students will create projects in desktop publishing, spreadsheets, and presentations. Students will also learn skills in digital media where they will use their creativity to design and present photography and video presentations. Students will complete this course with a prerequisite to move into more advanced computer literacy courses.

ELECTIVES

LANGUAGES

SPANISH 1 Year (Fee)

A year long course which focuses on acquiring survival language and skills needed to greet people, hobbies, personal descriptions, preferences. Foods, talking about family, school life, making friends and discuss likes and dislikes. Intro to Spanish is strongly suggested but not required to participate in this course.

SPANISH 4 HONORS – IMMERSION PROGRAM ONLY Year (Fee) (*Pre-requisite, prior immersion programs students*)

A year long course for students who participate in Spanish Immersion. The curriculum and language instruction will help students understand the 6 AP language themes. Students in this course will be able to effectively write and use speech to convey meaning of concepts taught in class. (Heritage language speaking students, interested in participating in the Immersion program, will need to have an interview with an Immersion teacher. Parents will also need to talk with an Immersion teacher to learn about program expectations.)

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1 Year (Fee)

Basic ASL skills, both receptive and expressive; Basic conversation skills, emphasizing vocabulary building and pragmatics; Introduction to deafness and ASL. This course begins by teaching concepts of American Sign Language with emphasis on receptive and expressive skills to achieve fluency on a grammatically appropriate level. Students use a variety of techniques as a learning tool. This course is taught mainly without using voice.

CHINESE 1 Year (Fee)

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.

SPANISH CULTURE & MEDIA 1 Semester (*Pre-requisite, prior immersion programs students*)

A semester class focusing on comparing the history, culture and media of the different Spanish speaking countries. A student in Immersion should take one semester in 7th grade, and one semester in 8th grade.

SPANISH CULTURE & MEDIA 2 Semester (*Pre-requisite, prior immersion programs students*)

This course is for students in 7th & 8th grade Dual Immersion programs only. ONLY students who have participated in the DLI programs should be enrolled in this course.

ART

ART FOUNDATIONS 1 Semester (Fee)

The student will learn basic elements and principles of art through drawing in various media. Art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated into all lessons taught.

ART FOUNDATIONS 2 Semester (Fee)

The student builds on skills and concepts learned in Art Foundations 1 using various media. Art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated into all lessons taught. Pre-req. Art Foundations 1

CERAMICS 1 Semester (Fee)

The student receives instruction in ceramics and designing in ceramic clay. Preparation of clay bodies, use of tools and equipment, and different construction methods are covered. Art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated into all lessons taught. Pre-req. Art Foundations 1

MUSIC

BEGINNING BRASS Year (Fee)

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 opportunities to 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. This class is 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.

BEGINNING WOODWINDS Year (Fee)

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 opportunities to 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. This class is 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.

CONCERT BAND Year (Fee)

This intermediate instrumental ensemble is directed toward building music performance skills in preparation for Symphonic Band. Curriculum may include six to eight performances per year including adjudicated music festivals, varsity games, and introductions to music theory, history, and composition. *Teacher approval required.*

SYMPHONIC BAND Year (Fee)

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 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. *Pre-requisite course is Beginning Band, or audition.*

BEGINNING CELLO/BASS Year (Fee)

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 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.

BEGINNING VIOLIN/VIOLA Year (Fee)

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 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.

ORCHESTRA INTERMEDIATE Year (Fee)

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 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. *Pre-requisite course is Beginning Orchestra, or audition. Teacher Approval required.*

ORCHESTRA ADVANCED Year (Fee)

Students will be part of an ensemble of intermediate to advanced string players directed toward performing the finest in classical and contemporary music. *Teacher approval required.*

WIND SYMPHONY Year (Fee)

Symphonic Orchestra is an ensemble of 40-70 students who play string, wind, or percussion instruments. The course of study involves performance of various styles of music, such as baroque, classical, romantic, and contemporary, focusing on traditional orchestral literature. Performance opportunities include evening concerts, festivals, school assemblies, and local tours. *Teacher approval required.*

PERCUSSION Year (Fee)

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.*

CHOIR Year (Fee)

Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance of suitable music SATB (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) voices. *Placement by audition required.*

DRAMA

DRAMA FOUNDATIONS Semester

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. Students will study audition techniques, scene performance, cinema appreciation and criticism, and an introduction to acting.

DRAMA I Semester

This class is an advanced study of theatre history, advanced performance skills, trust, Shakespearean acting, resume and audition preparation, and improvisation. Students will be required to see a play each term. *Teacher Approval Only & pre-requisite of Drama Foundations required.*

DRAMA & FILM Semester

This course matches the State Core Standards of Theater Foundations and focuses on the elements of film both behind and in front of the camera. Students will study the elements of film and learn how to analyze techniques of cinematography, direction, acting, etc. Students will learn how to evaluate film.

MUSICAL THEATRE (A) Semester (Fee)

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. *Audition Only*

DANCE

DANCE I Semester (Fee)

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.

DANCE IA Semester (Fee)

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. *Pre-requisite of Dance I.*

CTE

FACS A EXPLORATION: SEWING & INTERIOR DESIGN Semester (Fee)

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, fashion, interior design, and consumerism. Students may need to purchase supplies depending on projects chosen.

FACS B EXPLORATION:FOOD & CHILD CARE Semester (Fee)

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.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY I Semester (Fee)

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, and equipment and wood working tools.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY 2 Semester (Fee)

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, and equipment and wood working tools. This course is more advanced than the Exploring Technology 1 course. (*Exploring Technology 1 pre-requisite*)

DIGITAL DESIGN (Information & Communication Tech 1) 1 Semester (Fee)

This class will introduce students to a wide range of communications technologies. Students will apply skills and concepts through the completion of activity-based hands on curriculum, centered in the following areas: Graphic design, Robotics, Drafting, Video and Audio production, Digital Media, 3D Modeling 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.

EXPLORE BUSINESS & MARKETING Semester (Fee)

Students will be exposed to fundamental concepts of business, finance, and marketing in this course. Concepts explored include: Communication, human resource management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership. Students will learn business and marketing principles from start to finish as they create, advertise, and run their own Teen Entrepreneur businesses. Students will learn interviewing and resume writing skills, marketing principles, how to invest in the stock market, and other business strategies. Student will explore personal finance concepts through hand-on activities including *The Stock Market Game*. This course helps prepare students for the required Financial Literacy class in High School as well as the future business and marketing classes and careers.

OTHER ELECTIVES

EXPLORING AGRICULTURE 8 Semester (Fee)

Exploring Agriculture Education analyzes the different aspects of the agricultural industry. This course is designed to introduce students to the vast opportunities available in Agricultural Education. Students will be given the opportunity to learn how agriculture and agribusiness affects their daily lives. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in FFA activities. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to analyze different aspects of the agricultural industry and how it affects their daily lives. Students will have a working knowledge of Utah agriculture, the National FFA Organization, and the significance of the Agricultural Education program. Students will be made aware of the various career opportunities in agriculture science, forestry and natural resources.

CREATIVE WRITING Semester (Fee)

This class is designed to provide experiences and activities which will enhance the communication of ideas through written expression.

CREATIVE WRITING (NOVEL) Semester (Fee)

This class is designed to provide experiences and activities which will enhance the communication of ideas through written expression.

MYTHOLOGY Semester (Fee)

Study of Greek, Roman, Scandinavian, and American folklore and mythology will help students learn to appreciate the impact they have on our literature.

JOURNALISM A (Intro) Semester (Fee)

Introduction to journalism is an exciting, fast-paced orientation into the highly competitive field of journalism. This course will give students a chance to work in an upbeat environment where you will improve writing, interviewing and photography skills, work with programs like Adobe InDesign and Premiere Pro and learn to use equipment such as digital cameras, video cameras, sound recorders and lighting equipment. Students will learn their civic responsibility through a close examination of the First Amendment with specific attention placed on the Freedom of Press and Freedom of Speech.

JOURNALISM B (Advanced) Semester (Fee)

This course is an advanced journalism course to be taught in high school after a student has completed Journalism 1. It builds upon the skills and teaches more advanced writing techniques of the printed media, i.e., interviewing, observing, writing, editing, photography, and computer layout and formatting. *Application Required.*

YEARBOOK Year (Fee)

Students will produce a school annual on computer. Students should be self-motivated and willing to work extra hours to meet deadlines and due dates. They will develop and use skills in writing, editing, art, layout, design, photography, and leadership. *Application Required.*

PEER LEADERSHIP Semester (Fee)

This course focuses on the qualities of leadership and 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. Application & Counselor approval required.*

PEER TUTOR Semester

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.

TEACHER AIDE (EC) Semester

A student may be an aide for one period only. Students will help the teacher by doing tasks related to the subject. Teacher and counselor approval required.

02/08/2018