

English Language Arts (ELA) this course lays the foundational strategies and skills that will bridge the transition from middle school to high school. Reading selections shall include a variety of genres including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Focus will be on vocabulary development and the understanding of literary elements including plot, character, theme setting, point of view and author's tone, mood, and style. The course focuses on close reading and critical thinking including literary and language analysis.

Advanced English Language Arts will help prepare students for the challenge and rigor of the high school PreAP/AP courses. Students are expected to complete a reading program that includes exploring all Dewey Decimal Classes of nonfiction genre.

Math 8 is a math course that lays the foundational strategies and skills that will transition students from middle school math to high school math. Focus will be on the 8th grade math TEKS as well as Pre-Algebra concepts that will help with the transition to high school Algebra I.

Algebra I (HS credit) is a high school math class that lays the foundational strategies and skills that will facilitate the transition to the advanced math classes in high school and help prepare students for the challenge and rigor of the high school Pre AP/AP courses. Algebra I is a more rigorous class with a heavier workload and a quicker pace than the 8th grade math class. **Students will take the Algebra I EOC instead of the 8th Math STAAR test.** (70 or above is required for HS credit)

US History is a study of the history of the United States from colonial period through reconstruction. The historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events. At the end of the course students are assessed with a mandated STAAR test.

Science 8 is an integrated science course that involves topics from physical, earth, and life science, with special emphasis on earth science. Laboratory and field investigations are designed to promote an understanding of basic concepts and theories through investigations and experimentation. At the end of the course students are assessed with a mandated STAAR test which includes concepts from 6th - 8th grade science courses.

College & Careers Exploration is designed to create a culture of high expectation and continuous improvement that provides middle school students with a foundation for success in high school, future studies, and careers. Students explore college and career planning with specific career clusters.

Accelerated Instruction

Students who do not pass the STAAR test will be placed in intervention class in lieu of their elective. More information will be provided following test results.

ADVANCED COURSE SUGGESTED CRITERIA

Overall average of an 88 or better

Masters or Meets category on STAAR

Teacher Recommendation

Parent/Guardian signature of approval

ELECTIVES & PE COURSES

Art I, II, III guides the student to develop visual literacy skills using critical thinking, imagination, and observation skills by learning about, understanding, and evaluate the elements of art, principles of design, and expressive qualities. The student expresses and communicates ideas creatively through original artworks using a variety of media with appropriate skills and develop solutions to visual problems. The student demonstrates an understanding of art history and culture by analyzing artistic styles, historical periods, and a variety of cultures. The student responds to and evaluates the artworks of self and others. (I - first year /II - second year /III - third year)

Concert Band is comprised of 7th and 8th grade students. This band performs at an advance level. Students must have completed beginning band in order to participate. Performances will include school pep rallies, one or two football games, and two concerts. Additionally, this group competes in UIL concert and sight-reading contest and festival competitions.

Jazz Band is a honors band. You must be enrolled in Band 8 as well. Selection is based on audition performance.

Broadcasting I & II Students will use current and emerging technologies to design and create multimedia projects. Students will create video announcements, slides, and presentations. (I - first year /II - second year)

American Sign Language I (HS credit) - is an beginning course in American Sign Language, introducing students to the language and culture values as well as historical aspects of the language and deaf community. ASL I satisfies the first year credit for LOTE. Students are required two-consecutive years of LOTE. (70 or above is required for HS LOTE credit)

Health is designed for students to acquire the health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults and learn about behaviors that will safeguard their health. Social health, human development, nutrition, CPR, and body systems are covered in this course.

P.E. - All students are expected to suit out and to participate each day.

Athletics is for the serious-minded athlete who has a desire to participate in athletic competition with other schools.

Requirements include:

- Physical form must be on file before first practice.
- Student-athletes must meet UIL standards of eligibility by maintaining a 70% average or above in all subjects.
- Student-athletes must comply with all JNISD drug testing policies.