



2021-2022

Course Catalog

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Contents

Our Mission	2
Core Values	2
Board of Trustees.....	2
DeSoto ISD Cabinet	2
Course Catalog Committee 2020-2021	3
Introduction.....	4
Suggested Course Sequence	5
Curriculum At A Glance	6
Who Should Take Honors Classes?	6
Honors Courses: Enrollment Considerations	7
High School Courses available at the Middle School.....	8
Endorsement Graduation Plan Overview (Class of 2018+)	10
Endorsements Overview	12
Arts and Humanities	12
Business and Industry.....	12
Public Services	13
Multidisciplinary Studies.....	14
English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR)	15
Mathematics.....	20
Science.....	24
Science Elective Courses (East Middle School Only).....	27
Social Studies.....	29
Career and Technical Education.....	32
Fine Arts	35
Physical Education.....	45
JROTC.....	50

Our Mission

The mission of DeSoto ISD is to prepare each student academically and socially to be a problem solver and productive citizen.

Core Values

- Equal Access
- Individualized Learning
- Quality Teachers
- Relationships

Board of Trustees

President - Amanda Sargent - Place 7

Vice President - DeAndrea Fleming, Place 6

Secretary – Abe Cooper, Jr. - Place 5

Cynthia Watson-Banks - Place 1

Kathy Goad, Place 2

Karen Daniel, Place 3

Tiffany Clark - Place 4

DeSoto ISD Cabinet

Dr. D'Andre Weaver, Superintendent

Sonya Cole-Hamilton, Chief of Staff

Benjamin Mackey, Chief of Research, Evaluation & Design

Mia Stroy, Chief of Human Resources

Dr. Mya Asberry, Chief Academic Officer

Course Catalog Committee 2020-2021

- Chasiti McKissic, Ex. Director of State and Federal Grants
- Nicholas Johnson, Director of Career & Technical Education, Chair
- Andrae Rhyne, Coordinator of MTSS and RTI, Co-Chair
- Dr. Jaime Kovar, Director of Fine Arts, Co-Chair
- Kareeme Hawkins, Interim Director of Social Emotional Learning and Guidance

Committee Members

- Deidre Hannible, Deputy Chief Academic Officer
- Danielle Moore, Instructional Design Leader K-12 Science
- Montwanette Taylor, Instructional Design Leader K-12 Social Studies
- Sonja Head, Instructional Facilitator 6-12 Math
- Kesha Cole, Instructional Facilitator 6-12 ELAR
- Nneka McGee, Director of GT and Advanced Academics
- Jereese Johnson, Project Director Next Generation GEAR UP
- Chastity Jackson, Director of Special Education
- Larry Davis, Director of Athletics
- Debbye Garner, Executive Director of A2E2
- Dr. LaBotta Taylor, Early College High School Principal
- Melinda Pugh, CTE/STEM Coordinator
- Dr. Helena Castañón-Vargas, BE, ESL and L.O.T.E. Supervisor
- Robin Ford, Project Director LETS Gear-UP

Reviewers Included:

All Secondary Principals and DeSoto ISD Middle School Counselors

Introduction

In this guide, you will find information that will help as you plan your course sequence from sixth through eighth grade, and information to help guide you to college readiness. Each year it is recommended that you spend time in the current course guide for your campus to identify course options, note any changes to the graduation program requirements, and to help you in your decision-making process as you register for the upcoming year. Additionally, it is recommended that you view the websites for any colleges, certifications, or post-graduation programs you may be interested in to pinpoint their specific requirements.

The staff of DeSoto ISD encourages you to spend time in the course planning process as an investment in your future.

- Read the course descriptions for your campus.
- Note the content and any requirements for the core and elective classes that are available.
- Review the suggested course sequence options and information to prepare for college and career pathways.
- Feel free to make an appointment with your campus counselor to discuss any questions regarding the course guide.

For more specific campus information, follow this link: [DeSoto ISD: Home](#). →Go to schools →middle schools.

Suggested Course Sequence

These are the recommended sequences for courses in the four core areas based on the student's level of ability and performance. These course sequences are only suggested; a student is not locked into a sequence once it is started. For example, a student may take Math 7 or Math 7 Honors in the seventh grade, then Math 8, or Algebra I in 8th grade. In most cases, students may not select a sequence of courses which would result in a loss of grade-level instruction in a content area. Advanced 6th and 7th grade courses in Math are designed to include content from higher grade levels so that all 6th – 8th learning standards are covered prior to the high school credit course in the 8th grade.

Content Area	Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
ELAR	*ELAR 6 *ELAR 6 Honors (H)	*ELAR 7 *ELAR 7 Honors (H)	*ELAR 8 *ELAR 8 Honors (H)
Math	*Math 6 *Math 6 Honors (H)	*Math 7 *Math 7 Honors (H)	*Math 8 *Algebra I
Social Studies	*Contemporary World Cultures 6 *Contemporary World Cultures 6 Honors (H)	*Texas History 7 *Texas History 7 Honors (H)	*US History 8 *US History 8 Honors (H)
Science	*Science 6 *Science 6 Honors (H)	*Science 7 *Science 7 Honors (H)	*Science 8 *Science 8 Honors (H)
CTE	*Investigating Careers	*General Employability Skills	*Fundamentals of Computer Science
Fine Arts	Art, Band, or Choir	Art, Band, or Choir	Art, Band, or Choir
Electives	*Physical Education *Beginning Tennis	*Physical Education *Athletics *JROTC *Tennis	*Physical Education *Athletics *JROTC *Tennis
Optional Elective	*College & Career Readiness I *Technology Application	*College & Career Readiness II *Technology Application	*College & Career Readiness III *Technology Applications

Curriculum At A Glance

DeSoto ISD provides middle school students a well-balanced curriculum that exceeds the requirements of the Texas Education Agency (TEA). The DeSoto ISD academic program offers all students the same basic course of study. Students in grades 6-8 are required to take courses in English language arts, math, science, and social studies all three years of middle school.

During the middle school years, students need to broaden their academic and career options and develop the foundation needed for success in high school. In addition to the required courses, students choose optional courses (electives) in fine arts, courses in technology education and career exploration, or they may take additional physical education courses. All students must complete one fine arts credit in grades 6-8.

DeSoto Middle Schools offer Honors courses in English, mathematics, science, and social studies. The Honors sequence for mathematics is accelerated to prepare students to take Algebra I during their 8th grade year. Please be aware that Honors courses require a full-year commitment. Honors courses include specific content and activities designed to prepare students for both STAAR exams and success in college-level Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Depth of material requires students to read and write extensively in and out of class.

Who Should Take Honors Classes?

There are no prerequisites for Honors courses in English, Science, or Social Studies. Due to the accelerated nature of Honors middle school mathematics, students must take 6th Grade Honors Math in order to enroll in 7th grade Honors mathematics, and subsequently, Algebra I. Consider these factors:

- Your child's past performance in the subject area: if a student has always excelled at science, Honors Science may be a great idea. Conversely, if a student tends to struggle in math, the accelerated Honors Math sequence might not be the best fit.
- Your child's skills: some Honors courses, such as Honors English, require extensive reading and writing. Consider whether your student is prepared for long, difficult reading assignments, multiple essays, and in-depth research papers. Review the descriptions for each Honors course to ensure your child will benefit from the rigors of advanced coursework.
- Your child's schedule: A student who plays sports year-round or holds leadership positions in one or more extracurricular activities may find it difficult to meet the obligations of Honors classes.

Honors Courses: Enrollment Considerations

Honors English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR)

1. STAAR scores of Meets or Masters in Reading
2. A final grade in the last ELAR course of 85 or higher (if Honors, 80 or higher)

Honors Math*

1. STAAR scores of Meets or Masters in Mathematics
2. A final grade in the last math course of 85 or higher (if Honors, 80 or higher)

*Please note: due to the accelerated schedule of middle school Honors mathematics, students who have not taken 6th grade Honors Math or an equivalent course will need approval before enrolling in 7th grade Honor Math or Algebra I.

Honors Science

1. STAAR scores of Meets or Masters in Science (6th grade)
2. STAAR scores of Meets or Masters in Mathematics (7th grade)
3. A final grade in the last science course taken of 85 or higher (Honors, 80 or higher)

Honors Social Studies:

1. STAAR scores of Meets or Masters in Reading
2. A final grade in the last social studies course taken of 85 or higher (or Honors, 80 or higher)

Once enrolled in Honors courses, can a student get a schedule change?

Once enrolled in an Honors course, a student may only request a schedule change with permission. A conference including the student, parent, teacher, counselor, and campus administrator will be held to determine the outcome of the student's request. Schedule changes will generally not be permitted mid-semester.

High School Courses available at the Middle School

The middle schools also offer selected courses for high school credit. A school counselor will assist students and parents in choosing appropriate courses. Teachers may also make recommendations to parents to move students into courses.

Below are the courses offered:

- Algebra I
- Employability Skills
- Fundamentals of Computer Science

In Spring 2012, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) became the new state standardized assessment. The STAAR program includes annual assessments in the following grades and subjects for middle school.

- Reading, Grades 6th - 8th
- Mathematics, Grades 6th - 8th
- Writing, Grade 7
- Science, Grade 8
- Social Studies, Grade 8

Students taking Algebra I will take the Algebra I EOC

The Student Success Initiative (SSI) requires students in grade 8 to pass the STAAR Reading and Mathematics assessment in order to move on to the next grade level.

All high school courses taken in the middle school will be recorded on the students' transcript, but grades will not be used to determine a students' overall high school grade point average (GPA).

Graduation Endorsements



STEM

Public Service



Arts & Humanities

**Business &
Industry**



**Multidisciplinary
Studies**

Endorsement Graduation Plan Overview (Class of 2018+)

This section of the Course Guide is designed to provide you with information about the Texas Foundation Endorsement Graduation Plan which effects the Class of 2018 and beyond. The purpose of the plan is to provide students greater flexibility and choice in the selection of courses that will best prepare them for their individual postsecondary goals. Employers and leaders in the Texas workforce have encouraged career-oriented training and certification at the high school level to help meet their growing demands.

All eighth graders will be required to choose one of five endorsements as outlined in the graduation plan. The five endorsement areas are:

1. *Arts and Humanities*
2. *Business and Industry*
3. *Multidisciplinary Studies*
4. *Public Services*
5. *Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)*

The earned endorsement will be reflected on the student's official transcript at the completion of their high school career.

As you use this catalog, you will see recommended Programs of Study organized within each of the Endorsements. It is based on the idea that the education of the 21st century should combine rigorous academics with relevant career education. When schools integrate academic and technical education, students can see the "relevance" of what they are learning. The Program of Study allows students to study a field in depth and helps to facilitate a seamless transition from secondary to postsecondary opportunities.

DeSoto ISD has built our curriculum offerings into the endorsements plan using the subsection of Programs of Study and then adding defined concentrations to drive students toward their graduation goals and college and career aspirations. Students will select their Personal Graduation Plan based on their endorsement, pathway and concentration.



Endorsements Overview



Arts and Humanities

- (A) Arts and Humanities includes courses directly related to fine and performing arts, world languages, cultural studies, and English literature.
- (B) A student may earn an endorsement in Arts & Humanities by meeting one or more of the following requirements:
- (C) five social studies credits
- (D) four levels of the same language in a language other than English
- (E) two levels of the same language in a language other than English and two levels of a different language in a language other than English
- (F) a coherent sequence of four credits by selecting courses from one or two categories or disciplines in fine arts
- (G) four English credits by selecting from the following: English IV; or Independent Study in English; or Literary Genres; or Creative Writing; or Research and Technical Writing; or Humanities; or Communication Applications; or AP English Literature and Composition; or AP English Language and Composition.



Business and Industry

Business and Industry includes courses directly related to the following programs of study:

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communication
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
- Business, Marketing, and Finance
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology

A student may earn an endorsement in Business and Industry by meeting one or more of the following requirements:

- (A) A coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in CTE that consists of at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following areas: Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; or Audio/Video Technology, and Communications; or Business, Marketing, and Finance; or Hospitality and Tourism; or Information Technology; or Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics; or a Career Preparation and Project-Based Research course.

- (B) Courses required to complete a TEA-designated program of study related to business and industry; or
- (C) Four English elective credits to include three levels in one of the following areas: public speaking; or debate; or advanced broadcast journalism; or advanced journalism newspaper; or advanced journalism yearbook.



Public Services

Public Services includes courses directly related to the following programs of study:

- Human Services
- Education and Training
- Law & Public Service
- Health Science

A student may earn an endorsement in Public Service by meeting one or more of the following requirements:

- (A) a coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in CTE that consists of at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following: Education and Training; or Human Services; or Law & Public Service; or Health Science; or a Career Preparation and Project Based Research course
- (B) four courses in Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC).



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

STEM includes courses directly related to the following programs of study:

- STEM

A student may earn an endorsement in STEM by meeting one or more of the following requirements:

- (A) a coherent sequence of courses for four or more credits in career and technical education (CTE) that consists of at least two courses in the same career cluster and at least one advanced CTE course. The final course in the sequence must be selected from one of the following: STEM; or Career Preparation and Project-Based course
- (B) A coherent sequence of four credits in computer science
- (C) Three credits in mathematics by successfully completing Algebra II and two additional mathematics courses for which Algebra II is a prerequisite.
- (D) Four credits in science by successfully completing chemistry, physics, and two additional science courses.
- (E) a coherent sequence of four courses in cybersecurity to consist of Foundations of Cybersecurity and Cybersecurity Capstone and two additional courses to be selected from

the following: AP Computer Science A; or Computer Science I; or AP Computer Science Principles; or Computer Maintenance; or Networking

- (F) in addition to Algebra II, chemistry, and physics, a coherent sequence of three additional credits from no more than two of the categories or disciplines represented by subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) above.



Multidisciplinary Studies

Multidisciplinary Studies includes courses from the curriculum of each endorsement area and credits in a variety of advanced courses sufficient to complete the Distinguished Level of Achievement under the Foundation High School program.

A student may earn an endorsement in Multidisciplinary Studies by meeting one or more of the following requirements:

- (A) Four advanced courses that prepare a student to enter the workforce successfully or postsecondary education without remediation from within one endorsement area or among endorsement areas that are not in a coherent sequence.
- (B) Four credits in each of the four foundation subject areas to include chemistry and/or physics and English IV or a comparable AP English course
- (C) Four credits in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or dual credit selected from English, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, languages other than English, or fine arts.

English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR)



English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 6

Local: 601520

TEA: 03200510

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: English Language Arts and Reading Grade 5

Course Description: Grade 6 English provides opportunities for students to increase and refine their communication and literacy skills by engaging in meaningful activities in five key areas. Students in English 6 master previously learned skills in increasingly complex reading selections and written compositions. Sixth grade students read and respond to literature, learning to make inferences and recognize the purpose of essential literary devices. In reading informational text, students interpret information, synthesize and make logical connections between ideas, and explain how different organizational patterns develop the main idea and the author's viewpoint. Students will engage in a reading and writing workshop experience that includes the study of oral and written conventions, research and library skills, and teamwork.

English Language Arts and Reading Honors, Grade 6

Local: 601521

TEA: 03200510

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

Course Description: Students in English Language Arts and Reading 6 Honors will experience the content described in the regular course; however, they will be expected to direct their own studies more independently and in greater depth than students in a regular section. This course emphasizes the development of writing skills into polished, multi-paragraph formats, such as memoir, persuasive text and, letter writing, non-fiction, and multi-genre research activities. To meet the demands of English and other core subjects, the elements of additional genres are presented as student writing needs arise. Writers' analyses of classic and contemporary selections on a challenging level are also required. Students study special units requiring independent research/activities/ projects.

English Learner Language Art (ELLA), Grade 6

Local: 001551

TEA: 03200510

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Students participating in ESL program with LPAC approval

Course Description: This course is the ESL students reading and English course (ESL/English instruction for 1 period and reading for 1 period). The curriculum for this course is based upon the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and uses the state-adopted textbook. The focus is on accelerated language acquisition in the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Materials used in the program are appropriate for the linguistic levels of the students and are also cognitively demanding.

Accelerated Reading, Grade 6 (Elective)

Local: 005625

TEA: 03273410

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Students who are not successful on the state reading assessment in fifth grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional reading instruction.

Course Description: This required course is designed for students who were not successful on the first administration of the state reading assessment in the fifth grade, score below district criteria, or experience reading difficulties. Students eligible for Special Education may only be placed in this course through the ARD process. This course focuses on word analysis, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension skills, literary responses, and reading strategies. Targeted intervention closes gaps identified by diagnostic assessments. In addition to direct instruction, technology-based programs will be utilized to enhance reading comprehension.

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 7

Local: 701520

TEA: 03200520

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: English Language Arts and Reading6

Course Description: This course combines the study of English and reading experience. Grade 7 ELA relies on the study of well-crafted essays, stories, and poems to direct student writing in literary, expository, and persuasive texts. Students will study theme, genre, and sensory language through contemporary and traditional literary and informational texts and will use a reading and writing workshop approach as they engage in teacher-directed and self-selected reading and writing experiences. Language study in this course emphasizes grammar, spelling, sentence development, punctuation, and capitalization.

English Language Arts and Reading Honors, Grade 7

Local: 701522

TEA: 03200520

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

[Honors course] This course combines the study of English and reading experience.

Course Description: This course is designed for students who wish to have a more challenging and rigorous seventh-grade English Language Arts and Reading experience. Students in ELAR 7 Honors will experience the content described in the regular course; however, they will be expected to direct their own studies more independently and in greater depth than students in a regular section. In addition to reinforcing broad based skills and essential knowledge and skills that are a part of the regular curriculum, students will integrate multiple disciplines into the study of ELAR 8 content. Students will develop higher level thinking skills through independent study projects. There will also be a focus on open-ended tasks and the development of products that challenge existing ideas and produce new ideas. Students will read and analyze a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections and will write creative and expository compositions based on these selections.

English Learner Language Arts (ELLA), Grade 7

Local: 001552

TEA: 03200520

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Students participating in ELLA program with LPAC approval (EL/English instruction for 1 period and reading for 1 period).

Course Description: The curriculum for this course is based upon the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and uses the district-adopted textbook. The focus of EL is placed on accelerated language acquisition in the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Materials used in the program are appropriate for the linguistic levels of the students and are also cognitively demanding.

Accelerated Reading, Grade 7 (Elective)

Local: 005725

TEA: 03273440

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Students who are not successful on the state reading assessment in sixth grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional reading instruction.

Course Description: This required course is designed for students who were not successful on the 6th grade administration of the state reading assessment in the 6th grade, score below district criteria, or experience reading difficulties. Students eligible for Special Education may only be placed in this course through the ARD process. This course focuses on word analysis, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension skills, literary responses, and reading strategies. Targeted intervention closes gaps identified by diagnostic assessments. In addition to direct instruction, technology-based programs will be utilized to enhance reading comprehension.

English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 8

Local: 801520

TEA: 03200530

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: English Language Arts and Reading 7

Course Description: In this course, students will learn and practice reading comprehension, interpretation, and analysis processes through the study of literary and informational texts. With an emphasis on collaborative discussions to discover and develop understandings about texts, students will keep records of their reading responses and experiences and use these as the foundation for analytical writings. Using the writing process, students will compose literary texts (poetry and imaginative stories), expository texts, and persuasive texts. Language study in this course emphasizes grammar, spelling, sentence development, punctuation, and capitalization.

English Language Arts and Reading Honors, Grade 8

Local: 801521

TEA: 03200530

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

[Honors course] This course combines the study of English and reading experience.

Course Description: This course is designed for students who wish to have a more challenging and rigorous seventh-grade English Language Arts and Reading experience. Students in ELAR 8 Honors will experience the content described in the regular course; however, they will be expected to direct their own studies more independently and in greater depth than students in a regular section. In addition to reinforcing broad based skills and essential knowledge and skills that are a part of the regular curriculum, students will integrate multiple disciplines into the study of English I content. Students will develop higher level thinking skills through independent study projects. There will also be a focus on open-ended tasks and the development of products that challenge existing ideas and produce new ideas. Students will read and analyze a variety of fiction and nonfiction selections and will write creative and expository compositions based on these selections.

English Learner Language Arts (ELLA), Grade 8

Local: 001553

TEA: 03200530

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Students participating in the ELLA program with LPAC approval.

Course Description: This course is the EL students' reading and English course (EL/English instruction for 1 period and reading for 1 period). The curriculum for this course is based upon the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and uses the district-adopted textbook. The focus of EL is placed on accelerated language acquisition in the domains of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Materials used in the program are appropriate for the linguistic levels of the students and are also cognitively demanding.

Accelerated Reading, Grade 8 (Elective)

Local: 005825

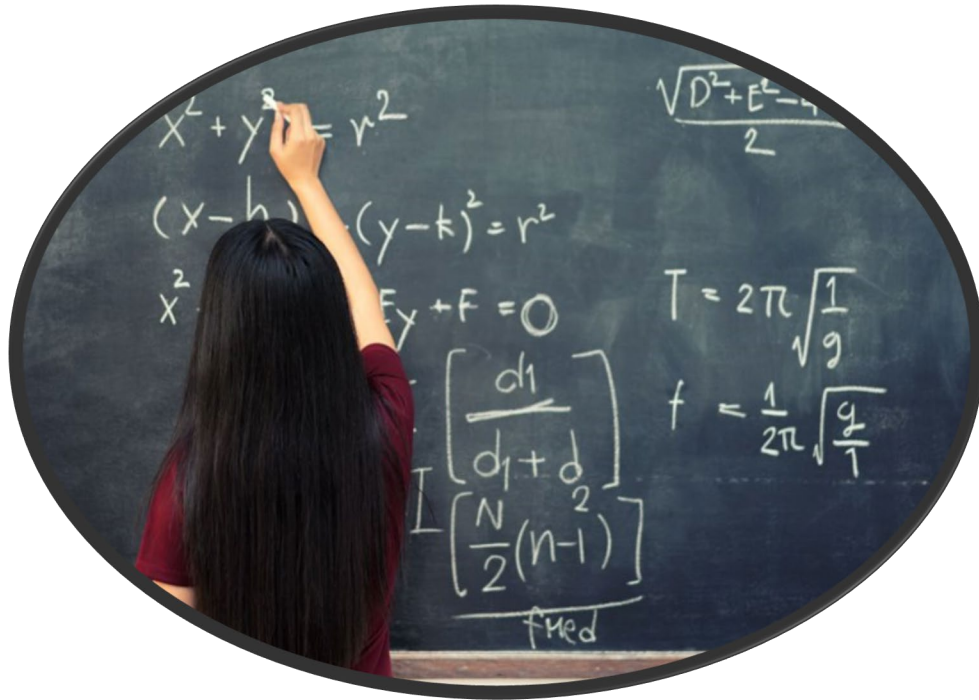
TEA: 03273450

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Students who are not successful on the state reading assessment in seventh grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional reading instruction.

Course Description: This is a required course for students who were not successful on the state reading assessment in seventh grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional reading instruction. Students eligible for Special Education may only be placed in this course through the ARD process. This course is designed to emphasize reading as a process. In this full-year course, students practice reading strategies to improve skills in word analysis, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, and written literary response using a variety of materials differentiated to meet student needs. In addition to direct instruction, technology-based programs will be used to enhance reading comprehension.

Mathematics



Math, Grade 6

Local: 601530

TEA: 02640060

2 Semesters

Course Description: This course expands the study of using rational numbers operations, representing proportional relationships, understanding data representations, and using expressions and equations in multiple contexts.

Math Honors, Grade 6

Local: 601531

TEA: 02640060

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

Course Description: 6th Grade Honors Math is an accelerated program designed to prepare the student to study Algebra in the 8th grade and to continue their high school math education to AP Calculus. The course will cover the entire 6th grade curriculum and half of the 7th grade curriculum.

NOTE: Students taking 6th grade Honors will take the 6th grade STAAR test in the spring. Students taking Math Grade 7 Honors will take the 8th grade STAAR test in the spring.

Accelerated Math, Grade 6 (Elective)

Local: 005615

TEA: 02640060

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Students who are not successful on the state mathematics assessment in fifth grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional math instruction.

Course Description: This is a required course for students who were not successful on the state mathematics assessment in fifth grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional math instruction. Students eligible for Special Education may only be placed in this course through the ARD process. This course is designed to emphasize math processes. In this year long course, students practice math strategies to improve basic skills, vocabulary, math fluency, and math comprehension. Students will be instructed using a variety of materials differentiated to meet student needs. Targeted intervention including closes gaps identified by diagnostic assessment to ensure academic success. In addition to direct instruction, technology-based programs will be utilized to enhance math comprehension.

Math, Grade 7

Local: 701530

TEA: 03103000

2 semesters

Course Description: This course continues the development of fluency with rational number operations, representing and applying proportional relationships, using expressions and equations in multiple contexts including geometry and comparing sets of data.

Math Honors, Grade 7

Local: 701531

TEA: 03103000

2 semesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Grade 6 Honors Math or equivalent

Course Description: 7th Grade Honors Math is an accelerated program designed to prepare the student to study Algebra in the 8th grade and to continue their high school math education to AP Calculus. The course will cover the second half of the 7th grade curriculum and the entire 8th grade curriculum. Students taking Math Grade 7 Honors will take the 8th grade STAAR test in the spring. Students taking Algebra I in 8th grades will take the Algebra I EOC in the spring. Student schedules are final, and changes cannot be made after the start of a new semester.

Accelerated Math, Grade 7 (Elective)

Local: 005715

TEA: 03103000

2 Semester

Prerequisite: Students who are not successful on the state mathematics assessment in sixth grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional math instruction.

Course Description: This is a required course for students who were not successful on the state mathematics assessment in sixth grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional math instruction. Students eligible for Special Education may only be placed in this course through the ARD process. This course is designed to emphasize math processes. In this year long course, students practice math strategies to improve basic skills, vocabulary, math fluency, and math comprehension. Students will be instructed using a variety of materials differentiated to meet student needs. Targeted intervention including closes gaps identified by diagnostic assessment to ensure academic success. In addition to direct instruction, technology-based programs will be utilized to enhance math comprehension.

Math, Grade 8

Local: 801530

TEA: 03103100

2 semesters

Course Description: The primary focus of this course is to use algebraic thinking to apply and analyze proportional relationships, use expressions and equations to describe relationships including the Pythagorean Theorem, and make inferences from data. This Course prepares students for the future study of Algebra.

Accelerated Math, Grade 8 (Elective)

Local: 005815

TEA: 03103100

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Students who are not successful on the state mathematics assessment in seventh grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional math instruction.

Course Description: This is a required course for students who were not successful on the state mathematics assessment in seventh grade, score below the district criteria, or who need additional math instruction. Students eligible for Special Education may only be placed in this course through the ARD process. This course is designed to emphasize math processes. In this year long course, students practice math strategies to improve basic skills, vocabulary, math fluency, and math comprehension. Students will be instructed using a variety of materials differentiated to meet student needs. In addition to direct instruction, technology-based programs will be utilized to enhance math comprehension.

Algebra I

Local: 815000

TEA: 03100500

2 semesters

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math Grade 7 Honors or equivalent

Course Description: This course covers Algebra I TEKS and other prerequisite topics for high school mathematics courses. Students will learn Algebra concepts which form the basis for all other math courses. Students will also be instructed in the use of graphing calculators and other technology. Included in the admission requirements to Algebra I is demonstrated mastery of 8th grade TEKS.

Note: One high school credit is earned upon successful completion of this course. Students will be required to take the Algebra I EOC which all students must pass to graduate from high school.

Science



Science, Grade 6

Local: 601540

TEA: 03060600

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This process-oriented science course involves students in a thematic study of the world around them. Small group and individual laboratory experiments will be utilized for in-depth integrated study addressing life, Earth, and the physical sciences. Topics will include energy resources, force, motion and energy, elements and compounds, organization of the solar system, the role of gravity in the solar system, space exploration, interdependence between organisms and their environments, and the levels of organization within ecosystems.

Science Honors, Grade 6

Local: 601546

TEA: 03060600)

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

Course Description: Science 6 Honors is for students who are highly motivated and interested in science. The class is an accelerated academic class that covers the same objectives as sixth grade science in more depth and complexity. Students will be expected to complete more self-directed and independent projects than in a regular sixth grade science class. Honors courses are available to academically ready students willing to be challenged with rigorous content. This course will require additional work and/or reading for successful course completion. In addition, advanced critical thinking and problem-solving skills will be developed with a group or individual project presented in a competitive public forum such as science fair.

Science, Grade 7

Local: 701540

TEA: 03060700

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Science 6

Course Description: This laboratory-oriented course allows students to become actively involved in scientific processes and provides them with the opportunity to use technology as a tool and resource for learning the world around them. Science 7 is a thematic interdisciplinary approach to life sciences. Students will understand the relationships that exist between organisms and their environment through the understanding of Earth science and physical science disciplines. Topics will include characteristics of Earth that allow life to exist, force, motion and energy observed in living systems, matter and energy as it relates to living systems, structure and functions of cells and human body systems, heredity, and ecosystems.

Science Honors, Grade 7

Local: 701541

TEA: 03060700

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

Course Description: Science 7 Honors is for students who are highly motivated and interested in science. The class is an accelerated academic class that covers the same objectives as seventh grade science in more depth and complexity. Students will be expected to complete more self-directed independent projects than in a regular seventh grade science class. Students will be expected to participate in the school Science Fair. Honors courses are available to academically ready students willing to be challenged with rigorous content. This course will require additional work and/or reading for successful course completion.

Science, Grade 8

Local: 801540

TEA: 03060800

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Science 7

Course Description: General Science 8 is a laboratory-oriented course that continues the interdisciplinary approach to the life, Earth, and physical science disciplines begun in Science 6 and 7. Heavy emphasis will be placed on science processes and the relationship of fundamental science concepts to our daily lives. Technology will be utilized to explore the following topics, matter and energy, force, motion and energy, cycles within Sun, Earth, and Moon systems, characteristics of the universe, interactions between organisms in ecosystems, and the impact of man on the Earth.

Science Honors, Grade 8

Local: 801541

TEA: 03060800

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

Course Description: Science 8 Honors is for students who are highly motivated and interested in science. The class is an accelerated academic class that covers the same objectives as eighth grade science in more depth and complexity. Students will be expected to complete more self-directed independent projects than in a regular eighth grade science class. Students will be expected to participate in the school Science Fair. Honors courses are available to academically ready students willing to be challenged with rigorous content. This course will require additional work and/or reading for successful course completion.

Science Elective Courses (East Middle School Only)

(East Middle School Medical/ Environmental Magnet)/A2E2 Magnet Only

Science Magnet Exploratory, Grade 6

Local: 601545

TEA: 03060600

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Magnet program enrollment

Course Description: In conjunction with grade 6 general science content, this course includes studies on solar energy, levers and pulleys, and models and designs. Student computers are utilized extensively, along with hands-on manipulatives to master science concepts with a heavy emphasis on STEM content. Teamwork and student project work will be emphasized.

Human Body Systems, Grade 7

Local: 8300102

TEA: N1302093

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Science Magnet Exploratory or Magnet program enrollment

Course Description: In the Human Body Systems (HBS) course, students examine the interactions of body systems as they explore identity, communication, power, movement, protection, and homeostasis. Students will design experiments, investigate the structures and functions of the human body, and use data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle movement, reflex and voluntary action, and respiration. Exploring science in action, students build organs and tissues on a skeletal model, work through interesting real-world cases, and often play the role of biomedical professionals to solve medical mysteries. Students practice problem solving with structured activities and progress to open-ended projects and problems that require them to develop planning, documentation, communication, and other professional skills.

Environmental Science Magnet, Grade 7

Local: 701547

TEA: 03060700

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: 6th Grade Science Magnet Exploratory or Magnet program enrollment

Course Description: This course includes student computer units with additional software and probe-ware to integrate and display student experimental data collected using computers. A year-long program of problem solving will be central to the course, composed of STEM related units with real-world investigations using higher-order thinking skills. A program of global observations utilizing student-collected data is an additional enrichment strand. Teamwork and student project work will be emphasized.

Medical Interventions, Grade 8

Local: 830010

TEA: N1302094

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: 7th grade Human Body Systems

Course Description: Medical Interventions (MI) allows students to investigate the variety of interventions involved in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease as they follow the lives of a fictitious family. A “How-To” manual for maintaining overall health and homeostasis in the body, the course will explore how to prevent and fight infection, how to screen and evaluate the code in our DNA, how to prevent, diagnose, and treat cancer, and how to prevail when the organs of the body begin to fail. Through various scenarios students will be exposed to the wide range of interventions related to immunology, surgery, genetics, pharmacology, medical devices, and diagnostics. Each family case scenario will introduce multiple types of interventions, reinforce concepts learned in the previous two courses, and present new content. Interventions may range from simple diagnostic tests to treatment of complex diseases and disorders. These interventions will be showcased across the generations of the family and will provide a look at the past, present, and future of biomedical science. Lifestyle choices and preventive measures are emphasized throughout the course as well as the important role that scientific thinking and engineering design play in the development of interventions of the future.

Environmental Science Magnet, Grade 8

Local: 801542

TEA: 03060800

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: 7th Grade Environmental Science

Course Description: Magnet science covers the same information as eighth grade science in the same sequence. Instruction will be differentiated to include STEM related resources and infusion of real-world applied scenarios. Magnet participants will also be assigned long-term projects and open-ended assignments. Students will be encouraged to take ownership of their own learning by investigating self-selected topics in more depth and complexity. Magnet students are expected to participate in the Science Fair.

Social Studies



World Cultures, Grade 6

Local: 601550

TEA: 02660060

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students will use critical-thinking skills to study people and places of the contemporary world within broad regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and East Asia. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies. Students identify locations and geographic characteristics as well as different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. Students also describe the nature of citizenship in various societies and compare institutions common to all societies such as education and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of selected societies. Students will be expected to read, write, and discuss analytically to increase their knowledge about the various regions.

World Cultures Honors, Grade 6

Local: 601551

TEA: 02660060

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

Course Description: In grade 6, learners develop learning, thinking, and research skills that promote understanding of social and environmental influences on human behavior and assist them in making connections between their lives and decisions to the world around them, taking into consideration both past and present. Sixth grade social studies is interdisciplinary with an emphasis on the study of the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in selected societies as well as identifying the locations and geographic characteristics of those societies.

Texas History, Grade 7

Local: 701550

TEA: 03343000

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students will use critical-thinking skills to study the full scope of Texas history from early times to the present. They will study the cultures of Native Americans prior to European exploration, through the eras of mission-building, colonization, revolution, republic and statehood, with a focus on individuals, events and issues and their impact. Students identify the regions of Texas, describe the structure and function of the government, examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens, identify the different ethnic groups who contributed to Texas culture, and analyze the impact of science and technology on the lives of Texans. Students will be expected to read, write, and discuss analytically to increase their knowledge about Texas history.

Texas History Honors, Grade 7

Local: 701551

TEA: 0334300

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

Course Description: This course is designed to provide learners an opportunity to obtain a more in-depth study of Texas history. Emphasis is placed on developing knowledge, skills, and attitudes that will enable learners to research projects, analyze materials, and draw conclusions based on academic reasoning. Course content includes studies of the history and development of the state from early times through the present.

U.S. History through Reconstruction, Grade 8

Local: 801550

TEA: 03343100

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students will use critical-thinking skills to study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students analyze political, social and economic issues, and events within the colonial and revolutionary eras, the development of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges of the early Republic, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction. Students examine the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on how and where Americans lived, the American beliefs and principles reflected in historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution, the effects of major Supreme Court cases and reform movements and the impact of science and technology on the development of the U.S. Students identify the origins of the free enterprise system and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizenship of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society. Students will be expected to read, write, and discuss analytically to increase their knowledge about U.S. history.

U.S. History through Reconstruction Honors, Grade 8

Local: 801551

TEA: 03343100

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None. Please view Honors Courses Considerations before selecting this course.

Course Description: In addition to grade-level expectations described above, the Honors course will emphasize more detail and do deeper analysis of concepts. These courses are designed to prepare students for AP coursework in high school.

Career and Technical Education



Investigating Careers, Grades 6th or 7th

Local: 009565

TEA: 12700400

1 Semester or 2 Semesters

Course Description: The career development process is unique to every person and evolves throughout one's life. Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools to explore areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for a variety of chosen career paths. Districts have the flexibility of offering career exploration knowledge and skills in a variety of instructional arrangements.

General Employability Skills, Grades 7th or 8th

Local: 816101

TEA: N1270153

Credit: 1

Course Description: This course is a one-semester course that provides students with knowledge of the prerequisite skills for general employment as well as the means of obtaining those skills. Employability skills include fundamentals of maintenance of personal appearance and grooming. The course also includes the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that allow employees to get along with their co-workers, make important work-related decisions, and become strong members of the work team. Discovering job possibilities that link skills, abilities, interests, values, needs, and work environment preferences is a part of the process of obtaining employability skills and abilities and is experiential learning that takes place over time. This course is designed to guide students in obtaining the knowledge and the needed employability skills that are transferable among a variety of jobs and careers and are considered essential in any employment situation. Students will learn and apply basic knowledge of what is expected in the workplace. Note: This course is for high school credit.

Fundamentals of Computer Science, Grade 8

Local: 816102

TEA: 03580140

Credit: 1

Course Description: Fundamentals of Computer Science is a one-semester course that is intended as a first course for those students just beginning the study of computer science. Students will learn about the computing tools that are used every day. Students will foster their creativity and innovation through opportunities to design, implement, and present solutions to real-world problems. Students will collaborate and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. Students will learn the problem-solving and reasoning skills that are the foundation of computer science. By using computer science knowledge and skills that support the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results. Students will learn digital citizenship by researching current laws and regulations and by practicing integrity and respect. Students will gain an understanding of the principles of computer science through the study of technology operations and concepts. Note: This course is for high school credit.

Non-CTE Electives

Technology Applications, Grades 6th - 8th

600100

1 Semester or 2 Semesters

Course Description: A course emphasizing knowledge and skills associated with applying technology in real world settings. This course will help prepare students for future technology applications and computer science courses by developing skills in publications, database, multimedia, web, collaborative technologies, and beginning programming languages.

College and Career Readiness, Grades 6th - 8th

12700300

1 Semester or 2 Semesters

Course Description: The career development process is unique to every person and evolves throughout one's life. Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan.

Fine Arts



*Please note that, to ensure adherence to magnet grant expectations and fidelity of instruction, magnet fine arts classes may not be paired with regular fine arts classes in the same class period or section.

Visual Arts

Art Level I, Grades 6th - 8th

Local: 006550

TEA: 03500100

2 Semesters

Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course extends the learning of basic elements of art and principles of design, art history and art appreciation. Students design, develop and create art using a variety of media.

Art Level II, Grades 7th - 8th

Local: 006551

TEA: 03154210

2 Semesters

Prerequisites: Art I

Course Description: This course is sequential and uses second year middle school principles of design, drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and textiles. The course also includes art history and art appreciation. Note: This course is for 7th and 8th grade students taking Art for the second year in middle school.

Art Level III, Grade 8

Local: 006552

TEA: 03154310)

2 Semesters

Prerequisites: Art I and Art II

Course Description: This course extends art concepts learned in Grade 7 and 8 Art 2. A variety of projects and materials reinforce the student's knowledge of the elements of art and principles of design. The program also includes art history and art appreciation.

Art Exploration, Grade 6 (MMS Magnet Students Only)/A2E2 Magnet

Local: 900100

TEA: 03154310

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: (Required for all magnet art students) offered as a year-long class, artists will develop technical foundations for all major art mediums, art history, and art appreciation.

Advanced Art, Grade 7 (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Local: 900101

TEA: 03154310

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Offered as a year-long class and is open to 7th Grade Magnet students. Artists will continue technique development in all major art mediums.

Master Class Art, Grade 8 (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Local: 900103

TEA: 03154310

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Offered as a year-long class and is open to 8th Grade Magnet students. This Art studio technique class allows advanced students to work independently on visual arts projects under the guidance of the teacher and visiting professional artisans.

Graphic Design, Grades 7th – 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Local: 900105

TEA: 03154210

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: An introduction to visual principles as the basis of graphic design communication and elements and issues of visual language. Covers the manipulation of graphic form to convey meaning, strategies for idea generation and development of unique concepts, and the designer's role as visual storyteller.

Band

Beginning Band, Grade 6 (Brass, Percussion, Woodwinds)

Local: 006640

TEA: 03154130

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Beginning band courses are offered as year-long classes, musicians will develop the foundational skills required to matriculate through a middle school band program. These classes emphasize tone production, instrument technique, music theory, and ensemble playing. Available courses include Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Double Reeds, French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion. Any one of these courses fulfills prerequisites for participation in advanced ensembles.

Symphonic Band, Honor Band, Grades 7th - 8th

Local: 006650

TEA: 03154130

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Audition, band director approval, and successful competition of beginning band

Course Description: The Honor Band and Symphonic Band are auditioned performing groups that are open normally to 7th and 8th grade students who have successfully completed at least one year of band with a grade average of 70 or higher for the year. Students continue to develop ear training and listening skills, music reading, individual and ensemble playing skills and musicianship. Performance participation is required in order to be a member of these groups. Some practice outside of the school day is required. During the course of the year, all students will participate in the following types of performances: Pep rallies, football games, formal evening concerts, UIL band contest, music festivals, TMEA Region band auditions, and other community performances.

Instrumental Enrichment Lab, Grades 7th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2

Magnet

Local: 900318

TEA: 80900XXX

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Magnet band students will have the exclusive opportunity to participate in this ensemble. Focus will be on the development of solo/ensemble repertoire and the continued development of instrument technique with advanced studies in music theory and ensemble technique. Repertoire will consist of solo and ensemble literature, various etudes and non-traditional wind band literature including pop and jazz selections.

Choir

Beginning Choir, Grade 6

Local: 900310

TEA: 03154134

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Beginning Choir is open to all students interested in learning to sing in a musical ensemble. No prior vocal musical training is necessary. Students will develop choral reading techniques, ear training, vocal production, solfege and basic theory. Special attention will be devoted to students with changing voices. During the course of the year students will participate in the following types of performances: seasonal concerts, solo and ensemble, festival performances, and school/community events. Beginning choir placement will be gender based (boys in one choir, girls in a separate choir).

JV Choir, Grades 7th - 8th (Girls only)

Local: 006620

TEA: 03154231

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Audition, choir director approval, and successful competition of beginning choir

Course Description: Students will continue to develop ear training and listening skills, individual and ensemble singing skills, vocal production, music reading, solfege, and musicianship. They will study the historical and cultural significance of works performed. During the year, all students will participate in the following types of performances, pep rallies, formal evening concerts, UIL choir concert and sight-reading contest, music festivals, TMEA Region Choir auditions, solo and ensemble and other community performances. Choirs at the 7th and 8th grade level participate in several events in which eligibility is required.

Varsity Choir, Grades 7th - 8th (Girls only)

Local: 006630

TEA: 03154331

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Audition, choir director approval, and successful competition of beginning choir

Course Description: In this more advanced course, students further extend their ear training/listening skills, individual and ensemble singing skills, vocal production, solfege, music reading, showmanship, and musicianship. They will study the historical and cultural significance of works performed and will do qualitative analysis of choral literature. During the course of the year, all students might participate in the following types of performances, Pep rallies, formal evening concerts, UIL choir concert and sight-reading contest, music festivals, TMEA Region Choir auditions, solo and ensemble contest, and other community performances. Choirs at the 7th and 8th grade level participate in several events in which eligibility is required.

Tenor/Bass Chorus, Grades 7th - 8th (Boys Only)

Local: 900311

TEA: 03154134

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Audition, choir director approval, and successful competition of beginning choir

Course Description: Students will continue to develop ear training and listening skills, individual and ensemble singing skills, vocal production, music reading, solfege, and musicianship. They will study the historical and cultural significance of works performed. During the year, all students will participate in the following types of performances, pep rallies, formal evening concerts, UIL choir concert and sight-reading contest, music festivals, TMEA Region Choir auditions, solo and ensemble and other community performances. Choirs at the 7th and 8th grade level participate in several events in which eligibility is required.

Varsity Mixed Choir, Grades 7th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Local: 900214

TEA: 03154334

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Audition, choir director approval, and successful competition of beginning choir

Course Description: Magnet vocal students that have successfully completed the Beginner Chorus requirement will have an opportunity to audition for this elite ensemble. This UIL competitive ensemble will explore a variety of repertoire – jazz, musical theater, classical, foreign language pieces, pop, and show choir repertoire. Multiple performance opportunities will be available and are requirements for participation.

McCowan Fine Arts Academy Electives/A2E2 Magnet

Dance (McCowan Middle School Only)/A2E2 Magnet

Dance 1, Grades 6th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Local: 500210

TEA: 03154120

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students become acquainted with basic technique in ballet, modern, and jazz and anatomical awareness that is pervasive throughout their lives. For ballet, students will focus on building the strength, flexibility, and control needed to execute ballet moves. Each class will emphasize barre exercises and may also include a combination of center floor work and across-the-floor combinations. This class does not include a year-end performance. Jazz class will focus on learning proper dance technique such as isolation of the body, improving performance quality, and developing complex rhythms and patterns. Students will be exposed to various styles of jazz such as Broadway, Street and Contemporary to help develop a well-rounded dancer. Class curriculum is based on ballet technique layered with traditional jazz movement. It includes a proper warm-up, stretches, isolation, across-the-floor progressions, and combinations.

Dance 2, Grades 7th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Local: 500211

TEA: 03154320

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Continuation of skills introduced in Dance 1 - Students become acquainted with basic technique in ballet, modern, and jazz, as well as anatomical awareness that is pervasive throughout their lives. For ballet, students will focus on building the strength, flexibility and control needed to execute ballet moves. Each class will emphasize barre exercises and may also include a combination of center floor work and across the-floor combinations. This class does not include a year-end performance. Jazz class will focus on learning proper dance technique such as isolation of the body, improving performance quality and developing complex rhythms and patterns. Students will be exposed to various styles of jazz such as Broadway, Street and Contemporary to help develop a well-rounded dancer. Class curriculum is based on ballet technique layered with traditional jazz movement and includes a proper warm-up, stretches, isolation, across-the-floor progressions, and combinations. Dance 1 is a prerequisite.

Dance 3, Grade 8 (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Local: 500212

TEA: 03154320

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Continuation of skills introduced in Dance 1 and Dance 2 - Students will become acquainted with basic technique in ballet, modern, and jazz, as well as anatomical awareness that is pervasive throughout their lives. For ballet, students will focus on building the strength, flexibility and control needed to execute ballet moves. Each class will emphasize barre exercises and may also include a combination of center floor work and across-the-floor combinations. This class does not include a year-end performance. Jazz class will focus on learning proper dance technique such as isolation of the body, improving performance quality and developing complex rhythms and patterns. Students will be exposed to various styles of jazz such as Broadway, Street and Contemporary to help develop a well-rounded dancer. Class curriculum is based on ballet technique layered with traditional jazz movement and includes a proper warm-up, stretches, isolation, across-the-floor progressions, and combinations. Dance 2 is a prerequisite.

Dance Company, Grades 7th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Local: 900211

TEA: 03154320

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The dancers who complete the audition will be members of the McCowan Elite Dance Company and will represent the school at local events and productions. Dancers will be exposed to a wide variety of additional styles and introduced to local artists that study and teach these dance techniques on a regular basis including jazz, ballet, modern, hip-hop, contemporary, and ethnic dance style (African, Irish, Hawaiian, Middle Eastern Belly Dancing, etc.). Students learn and perform selected choreography. They will participate in UIL and dance competitions. Audition or teacher approval is required.

Choreography/ Production, Grades 6th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Local: 900212

TEA: 03154320

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Covers in-depth practical approaches to dance composition for students. Dancers will be introduced to the choreographic process. They will produce solo and group work. Student choreography will be presented at the end of the year dance production. The second portion of the course is Production. It provides practical experience in producing formal and informal dance concerts. Introduces basic familiarity with production and promotional responsibilities, backstage and front-of-house duties, and procedures. Practical production activities and projects within a designated area of dance design, stage technology, and stage management.

Orchestra (McCowan Middle School Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Beginner Orchestra, Grade 6 (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900113

TEA: 03154132

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Beginning orchestra is offered as year-long class, musicians will develop the foundational skills required to matriculate through a middle school orchestra program. This class emphasizes instrument technique, music theory, and ensemble playing.

Intermediate Orchestra, Grades 7th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900XXX

TEA: 03154232

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Beginning orchestra

Course Description: The intermediate orchestra is a performing group that is open normally to 7th and 8th grade students that have successfully completed at least one year of orchestra with a grade average of 70 or higher for the year. Students continue to develop ear training and listening skills, music reading, individual and ensemble playing skills as well as musicianship. Performance participation is required to be a member of these groups. Some practice outside of the school day is required. During the year, all students will participate in the following types of performances, formal evening concerts, UIL orchestra contest, music festivals, TMEA Region band auditions and other community performances.

Advanced Orchestra, Grades 7th - 8th 8 (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900XXX

TEA: 03154332

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra, Intermediate Orchestra

Course Description: The advanced orchestra is a performing group that is open normally to 7th and 8th grade students that have successfully completed at least one year of orchestra with a grade average of 70 or higher for the year. Students continue to develop ear training and listening skills, music reading, individual and ensemble playing skills as well as musicianship. Performance participation is required in order to be a member of these groups. Some practice outside of the school day is required. During the course of the year, all students will participate in the following types of performances, formal evening concerts, UIL orchestra contest, music festivals, TMEA Region band auditions and other community performances.

Theatre Arts (McCowan Middle School Only)/A2E2 Magnet

Beginner Theater, Grade 6 (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900410

TEA: 03154140

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: (Required for all magnet theater students) offered as a year-long class, exploration of foundations of theater, stage performance, technical theater studies, and theater history.

Advanced Theater, Grade 7 (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900412

TEA: 80900XXX

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Beginning Theater

Course Description: Offered as a year-long class, 7th Grade students continue studies in on stage theater (acting, directing, character development).

Technical Theater, Grades 7th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900411

TEA: 80900XXX

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Offered as a year-long class, 7th Grade students continue studies in off stage theater production (lighting, set design, costuming, sound design)

Master Class Theater, Grade 8 (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900414

TEA: 80900XXX

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Advanced Theater

Course Description: Offered as a year-long class, Advanced and Technical Theater students will continue to develop theater skills specific to their area of focus (Stage, Technical) and will work collaboratively to produce a student driven production in the Spring semester, one on one/small group instruction with professional actors and theater technicians throughout the year.

Musical Theater, Grades 6th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900413

TEA: 03154240)

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students in this course will learn proper vocal technique for speaking and singing, music reading skills, musicianship skills, choreographic principles, dance terminology, stage terminology, acting principles, and the cultural and historical context of musical theater. Students will participate in character acting, scene and costume design, script writing and song composing, group and individual singing, and evaluating and analyzing music and drama.

Fine Arts- Miscellaneous/Specialty (McCowan Middle School Only) /A2E2 Magnet

Music Theory, Grades 6th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900511

TEA: 03155400

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Fine Arts Magnet music students will engage in the study of the theoretical elements of music including sound and pitch, rhythm, melody, harmony, and notation.

Piano, Grades 6th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900118

TEA: 03164131

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Fine Arts Magnet music students will learn the introductory concepts and fundamentals needed to perform on the piano including hand position, key recognition, finger patterns, and accompaniment.

Photography, Grades 7th - 8th (MMS Magnet Students Only)

Local: 900610

TEA: 80900XXX

1 Semester

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course combines practical instruction, field trips, group discussions, and individual reviews intended to foster a critical awareness of how images in our culture are produced and constructed. Student-initiated term projects are at the core of this exploration of the relationship of image to language and issues of interpretation and personal history. This course also offers practical instruction in basic black and white techniques, digital imaging, and fundamentals of camera operation, lighting, film exposure, development, and printing. This course provides opportunities for continued exploration of photography.

Physical Education



Each student receiving a Physical Education Credit must complete the FITNESS GRAM®, a State Mandated, yearly fitness assessment. All information regarding this assessment is available on www.fitnessgram.net. All students must choose and complete four (4) semesters of the following physical education courses:

Physical Education, Grades 6th - 8th (Boys)

Local: 013660/013760/013860

TEA: 03823000

2 Semesters

Course Description: Students will develop fitness knowledge and motor skills in a physically active environment which may include fitness concepts and a variety of individual sport, recreational or team sport models. Students will learn about health-related decision-making skills that promote healthy lifestyle choices and improve the student's quality of life. Students are required to purchase a P.E. t-shirt and shorts identified by the campus P.E. Department.

Physical Education, Grades 6th - 8th (Girls)

Local: 013670/013770/013870

TEA: 03823000

2 Semesters

Course Description: Students will develop fitness knowledge and motor skills in a physically active environment which may include fitness concepts and a variety of individual sport, recreational or team sport models. Students will learn about health-related decision-making skills that promote healthy lifestyle choices and improve the student's quality of life. Students are required to purchase a P.E. t-shirt and shorts identified by the campus P.E. Department.

Pre –Middle School Athletics, Grade 6 (Boys)

Local: 613570

TEA: 02530003

2 Semesters

Prerequisites: Annual Physical Exam and Baseline Concussion Test

Course Description: Pre-Athletics is a Physical Education course designed to prepare 6th grade students for the DeSoto ISD Middle School Competitive Athletic Program in the 7th grade. Students choosing to enroll in Pre-Athletics should anticipate daily workouts during the class period that are significantly more physical and mentally demanding than what they may experience in a regular P.E. class. Students will also receive an introduction to the expectations and regulations of the University Interscholastic League (UIL). Students will focus on athletic conditioning, strength, and agility, as well as wellness and nutrition. The Pre-Athletic class will also focus on sports in-season at the time; ex: Volleyball, Football, Basketball, Track and Tennis. students will learn skills, drills, and rules for those sports as well.

Pre –Middle School Athletics, Grade 6 (Girls)

Local: 613580

TEA: 02530003

2 Semesters

Prerequisites: Annual Physical Exam and Baseline Concussion Test

Course Description: Pre-Athletics is a Physical Education course designed to prepare 6th grade students for the DeSoto ISD Middle School Competitive Athletic Program in the 7th grade. Students choosing to enroll in Pre-Athletics should anticipate daily workouts during the class period that are significantly more physical and mentally demanding than what they may experience in a regular P.E. class. Students will also receive an introduction to the expectations and regulations of the University Interscholastic League (UIL). Students will focus on athletic conditioning, strength, and agility, as well as wellness and nutrition. The Pre-Athletic class will also focus on sports in-season at the time; ex: Volleyball, Football, Basketball, Track and Tennis. Students will learn skills, drills, and rules for those sports as well.

Middle School Athletics, Grades 7th - 8th (Boys)

Local: 713570/813570

TEA: 0382300

2 Semesters

Prerequisites: Meet UIL age restrictions, annual physical exam, baseline concussion test, and the DeSoto athletic department forms. Students may be required to try out for participation in athletic classes. Participants must comply with the UIL No Pass/No Play Legislation. There is an activity fee associated with this course. Transportation by the parent will be required to accommodate before or after school hours for practice time.

Course Description: Middle School Athletics is a Competitive Based Course. Participants will develop fundamental skills as well as learn strategies, rules and procedures used for each sport activity. Team sports offered include Cross Country, Football, Basketball, Soccer and Track and Field.

Middle School Athletics, Grades 7th - 8th (Girls)

Local: 713580/813580

TEA; 0382300

2 Semesters

Prerequisites: Meet UIL age restrictions, annual physical exam, baseline concussion test, and DeSoto athletic department forms. Students may be required to try out for participation in athletic classes. Participants must comply with the UIL No Pass/No Play Legislation. There is an activity fee associated with this course. Transportation by the parent will be required to accommodate before or after school hours for practice time.

Course Description: Middle School Athletics is a Competitive Based Course. Participants will develop fundamental skills as well as learn strategies, rules and procedures used for each sport activity. Team sports offered include Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer and Track and Field.

Off-Campus Physical Education, Grades 7th - 8th

Local: 816104

TEA: 03823000

2 Semesters

Course Description: Recommendation from the Special Education/PE Departments of DeSoto ISD may approve an off-campus private or commercially sponsored physical education program that provides special and/or accelerated activities that are not offered by the District's physical education program. Students must receive prior approval from the Athletic Director and/or the Chief Academic Officer, and the program must address the state TEKS. Students must meet the District's deadline for submission of the request which is the second Monday in May for fall semester approval and the second Monday in November for spring semester approval. For more information contact the counselor or the District's Coordinator of Physical Education.

Partner PE, Grades 7th - 8th

Local: 14069

TEA: PE000052

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Recommendation from Special Education/PE Departments

Course Description: Inclusionary PE program featuring supervised peer tutors working with students with disabilities in meeting the requirements of a regular physical education class. The program encourages physical activity, increase in knowledge of health and physical fitness strategies, and assists in the acquisition of individual lifetime recreation activities and/or skills associated with team sports.

Health Education, Grade 6

Local: 600250

TEA: 0381300

1 Semester

Course Description: In health education, students acquire the health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults. The health education course promotes wellness and health literacy, encouraging positive behavior to ensure a lifetime of health. Ten life skills are incorporated into the course objectives of all topics. Those life skills include making great decisions, using refusal skills, assessing your health, effectively setting goals, being a wise consumer, practicing wellness, coping, and using community resources.

Beginning Tennis, Grades 6th - 8th

Local: 013570

TEA: 0382300

2 Semesters

Course Description: An introductory course teaching the fundamental skills of tennis. Basic strokes, the forehand and the backhand drives, the flat serve, volley, lob, and smash, history, rules, scoring, and court etiquette. Basic singles and doubles court play and game strategies. In addition, warm-up and cool-down procedures, as well as conditioning and nutrition for sport participation will be covered.

Tennis Competition, Grades 7th - 8th

Local: 013571

TEA: 0382300

2 Semesters

Course Description: This course is designed for students who have previous tennis experience. Students are expected to know serve and groundstroke technique and understand scoring and game management fundamentals. Emphasis in instruction will be to develop techniques and to explore other skills necessary to play competitively. Singles and doubles strategies will be covered in this course.

JROTC



JROTC, Grades 7th

Local: 715560

TEA: 03823000

2 Semesters

The Military Science (JROTC) program prepares students for leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as Americans. The mission of JROTC is to motivate young people to be better citizens. The program promotes graduation from high school, and provides instructional opportunities which benefit the student, community, and nation.

JROTC, Grades 8th

Local: 811560

TEA: 03823000

2 Semesters

The Military Science (JROTC) program prepares students for leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities, and privileges as Americans. The mission of JROTC is to motivate young people to be better citizens. The program promotes graduation from high school, and provides instructional opportunities which benefit the student, community, and nation.



Special Education

Students experiencing challenges in school may be referred for services in special education. Before a student can receive special education and/or related services for the first time, an initial evaluation must be conducted. Decisions regarding the provision of special education services are made by an Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee. If a student is determined to be eligible for services in accordance with the Texas Education Agency guidelines, an individualized education plan is developed. Instruction that is designed to meet a student's unique educational needs may be provided in a variety of settings. Instructional settings may include (a) general education classroom with accommodations, (b) general education classroom with support, (c) resource classroom, (d) self-contained classroom, or (e) a separate campus. Related services necessary for the student to benefit from special education may also be provided.

Independent Living Skills I

Local: 10081

TEA: 8500047

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Scholar receiving services in Applied Academics & Placement by the ARD Committee

Course Description: The Independent Living Skills I class are designed to assist in navigating daily tasks and overcoming hurdles. The class is designed to help scholars meet individualized goals in learning the skills that lead to a more independent life. Scholars will learn skills focused on the areas of Money Management, Understanding Your Disability, Riding the Bus, Living Well with a Disability, Independent Cooking, Self-Advocacy, Positive Attitude and Overcoming Barriers, Employment Skills Classes (Employee Readiness and Retention), and Basic Grammar.

Independent Living Skills II

Local: 10082

TEA: 85000048

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Independent Living Skills I, Scholar receiving services in a self-contained setting & Placement by the ARD Committee

Course Description: The Independent Living Skills II class is to help prepare students to be successful members of society. Scholars will learn basic skills such as: self-discovery, family basics, finances, career planning, cooking, and much more through learning opportunities in the classroom and the community. Students will learn to discover more about themselves, learn how to set goals for themselves, build their character, grow healthy relationships, learn the basics of childcare, make community connections, gain knowledge of personal finance and money management, explore potential career options, develop a résumé, experience applying and interviewing for a job and learn the basics of cooking.

Independent Living Skills III

Local: 10083

TEA: 85000049

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Independent Living Skills II, Scholar receiving services in a self-contained setting & Placement by the ARD Committee

Course Description: Transition planning in Texas should begin when you are 14 years old or even 13 depending on the annual ARD date. Transition planning includes your goals for working, learning, and living once you leave high school. The process is based on the scholar's strengths, preferences, and interests. All students (and families) should plan for life after high school. You should also consider what supports and accommodations you might need at your job, school, home, or community. This course provides the scholars an opportunity to explore various careers, living arrangements, and post-secondary opportunities. In additions, scholars will begin exploring their CTE course selections by researching those available to them to select a program aligned to their transition plan and selected CTE pathway. Career Planning (Working): What jobs or careers interest you? What knowledge, skills and experience do you need to obtain a job in your chosen field? There are many people who can help you gain work experience, training, or other assistance along the way. Education Planning (Learning): What training or education do you need after high school? Consider where you want to go to school, how to pay for it, and what courses you should take before leaving high school. Independent Living (Living): Where do you want to live after high school? Will you be in a college dorm, apartment, or at home? What type of assistance will you need? Managing money, navigating transportation, cooking, and home repairs are all skills you may need.

Personal Social Skills I

Local: 10240

TEA: 85000046

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Placement by the ARD Committee

Course Description: Social Skills is a course that relies heavily on improving student reflection, self-awareness, group interactions, the importance of being a life-long learner and contributing to your community by focusing on caring about others and improving communication. The DeSoto ISD BIC/BASE/STRIVES Social Skills Program will be used to help scholars learn self-control, interaction skills, and other personal/social skills necessary for success in school and community life. This course could also be applicable for any scholar that receives Special Education services per ARD Committee decision.

Personal Social Skills II

Local: 10241

TEA: 85000XXX

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Placement by the ARD Committee

Course Description: Social Skills is a course that relies heavily on improving student reflection, self-awareness, group interactions, the importance of being a life-long learner and contributing to your community by focusing on caring about others and improving communication. The DeSoto ISD BIC/BASE/STRIVES Social Skills Program will be used to help scholars learn self-control, interaction skills, and other personal/social skills necessary for success in school and community life. This course could also be applicable for any scholar that receives Special Education services per ARD Committee decision.

Personal Social Skills III

Local: 10242

TEA: 85000XXX

2 Semesters

Prerequisite: Placement by the ARD Committee

Course Description: Social Skills is a course that relies heavily on improving student reflection, self-awareness, group interactions, the importance of being a life-long learner and contributing to your community by focusing on caring about others and improving communication. The DeSoto ISD BIC/BASE/STRIVES Social Skills Program will be used to help scholars learn self-control, interaction skills, and other personal/social skills necessary for success in school and community life. This course could also be applicable for any scholar that receives Special Education services per ARD Committee decision.