

2021-2022 8th Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Integrated Language Arts 8 (Full Year):

In 8th grade ILA, students strengthen knowledge and skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking. Students read, write, and communicate on a daily basis, engage in activities that build on existing comprehension skills through recursive exposure to multiple genres and types of writing. This course focuses on themes related to the challenges and responsibilities associated with rites of passage. Students explore challenges from multiple perspectives, personally, locally, and globally. Students continue to refine their reading comprehension, writing, and communication skills through a variety of real-life learning experiences. Student's speaking, listening, and performance skills are enhanced with opportunities for both formal and informal presentations.

Integrated Language Arts 8 Advanced (Full Year):

ILA Advanced engages students in learning all the essential knowledge and skills of 8th grade ILA while providing greater depth and increased pace. Independent reading is structured to support students' interaction with a text through the application of close reading analysis, leading to an ability to independently analyze any new text.

GT Integrated Language Arts 8 Advanced (Full Year):

Students must be currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program.

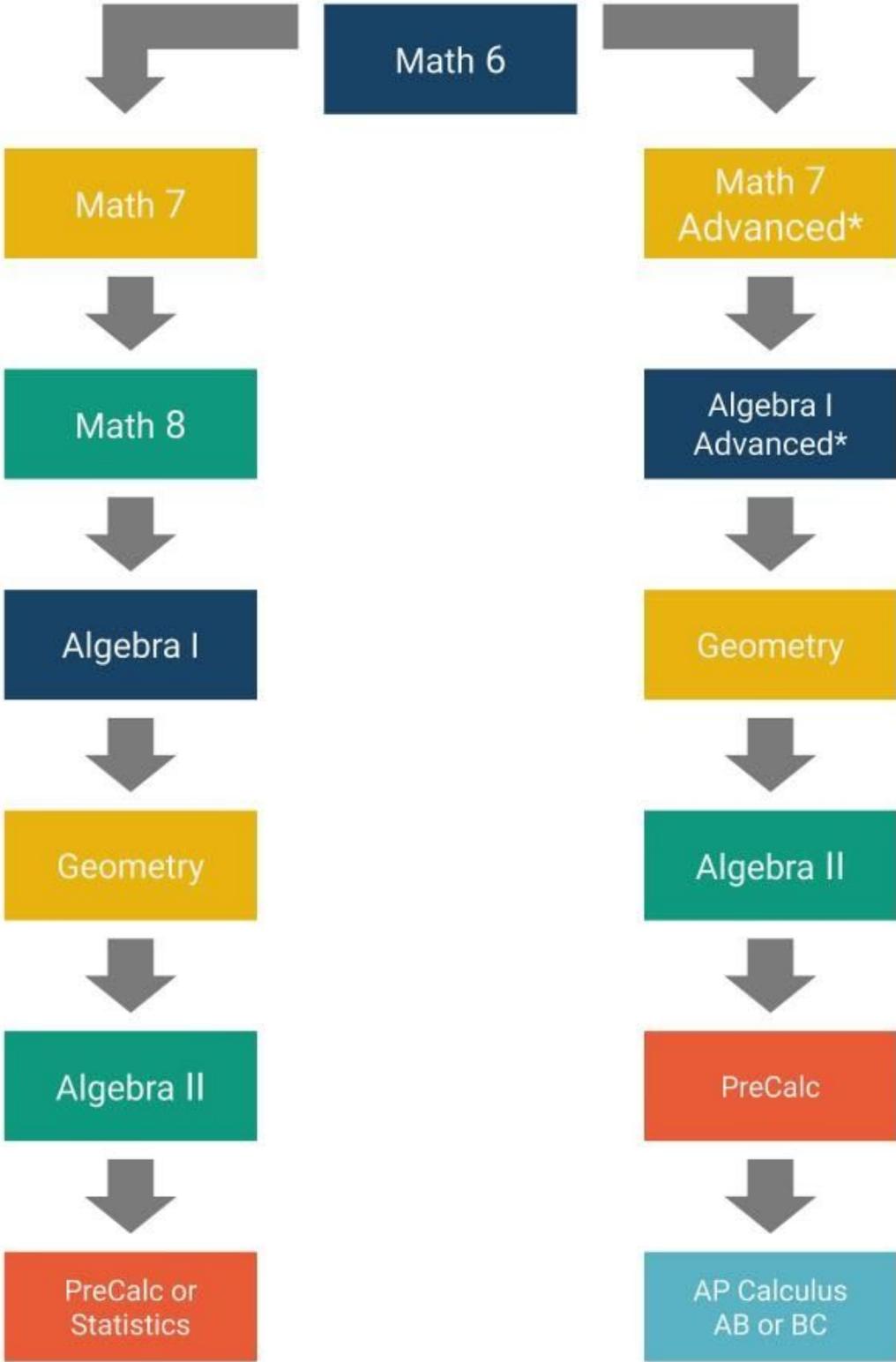
Students will be guided through a challenging course that will allow for their analysis of a variety of literature genres. Students will be required to read and analyze both classic and contemporary novels as well as non-fiction selections, participate in thematic units, conduct in-depth research, complete individual and group projects, and write extensively throughout the year. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

Reading Lab (Full Year or A/B Day):

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level reading course and is taken in place of an elective.

Reading Lab is a one or two semester course for those students who struggle with basic reading competencies. Emphasis is placed on using specific reading strategies to increase skills in comprehension, vocabulary development, fluency, and reference usage. Instruction is differentiated and tailored to the individual needs of each student. The model includes experiences in whole and small group instruction, independent reading, and technology-based learning. This course is intended for intervention in reading.

Common Mathematics Pathways



*8th grade standards are distributed between these Advanced courses

Math 8 (Full Year):

Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points of Math 8 representing, applying, and analyzing proportional relationships; using expressions and equations to describe relationships including Pythagorean Theorem; making inferences from data; and financial literacy.

Math 8 Advanced (Full Year):

Math 8 Advanced provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for Algebra I Advanced and other rigorous advanced course work in the future. In addition to the primary focal points of representing, applying, and analyzing proportional relationships; using expressions and equations to describe relationships including Pythagorean Theorem; making inferences from data; and financial literacy, the curriculum will include a rigorous problem solving component. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently.

Algebra I Advanced (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 7 Advanced, Math 8, Math 8 Advanced, or 80% or higher score on 8th Grade Math Exam for Acceleration (EA).

In Algebra I Advanced, students will solidify their understanding of Grade 8 Math standards and expand on concepts covered in on-level High School Algebra I (linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions, polynomials of degree one and two, radical expressions, sequences, and laws of exponents) with an intense focus on high level application, problem solving, and higher order thinking processes. Students will also develop strategies that prepare them for future Advanced Placement math courses.

Please note: This course will require a STAAR End of Course Exam, will count for high school credit, and the grade earned will be applied to high school GPA.

Geometry Advanced (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Algebra I Advanced (credit must be earned before the Geometry course begins)

At the middle school level, Geometry Advanced will be taught in an online, blended format. Geometry Advanced covers the same topics of on-level high school geometry (deductive and inductive reasoning, lines and angles, triangles, parallel lines, quadrilaterals, area, polygons, circles, and geometric solids) with an intense focus on problem solving, formal proof, logic, and application. Students must have a strong background in algebra and be very comfortable solving equations, working with variables, solving systems of equations, and factoring. Geometry Advanced will include deep study of the same topics found in regular Geometry. Students will also develop strategies that prepare them for future Advanced Placement math courses.

Please note: This course will count for high school credit, and the grade earned will be applied to high school GPA.

Math Lab (Full Year):

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level math course and is taken in place of an elective.

Math Lab provides a rich, supportive curriculum to assist students in mastering foundation concepts through problem solving, reinforcement of skills, and the use of small group instruction. This class will provide students with additional support to help ensure success through the use of individualized, targeted instruction and interventions.

Science 8 (Full Year):

Science 8 is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on Earth and space science. Argument Driven Inquiry labs will be integrated into the course work. The strands for Grade 8 include:

- A. Scientific investigation and reasoning- allows students to develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with models of scientific inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world.
- B. Matter and energy- students recognize that matter is composed of atoms and examine information on the Periodic Table to recognize that elements are grouped into families.
- C. Force, motion, and energy- students experiment with the relationship between forces and motion through the study of Newton's three laws and learn how these forces relate to geologic processes and astronomical phenomena.
- D. Earth and space- students identify the role of natural events in altering Earth systems, interpret land and erosional features, learn that stars and galaxies are part of the universe, use data to research scientific theories of the origin of the universe and learn how interactions in solar, weather, and ocean systems create changes in weather patterns and climate.

Science 8 Advanced (Full Year):

8 Science Advanced provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigor and depth of the Advanced Placement program. In addition to the strand foci outlined in on level courses, advanced are differentiated through a combination of the following:

- the depth of content presentation
- greater student responsibility for his/her learning
- slightly faster pacing
- greater complexity of thought
- development of higher-level cognitive understanding, as demonstrated through discussion and essay writing

Science 8 Advanced curriculum also includes a wide variety of content-focused laboratory investigations. Argument Driven Inquiry labs will be integrated into the course work. Students will also participate in the Science Innovators Conference, completing a presentation or project.

US History 8 (Full Year):

Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The content in US History 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content

focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material. The students will use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as the complete text of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court, biographies, autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, diaries, poetry, songs, and artworks.

Elective Courses

Physical Education Courses

Physical Education 8 (Full Year)

Students enrolled in this course will understand, in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students will continue to acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundations for enjoyment and continued social development through physical activity. Instruction is directed more toward encouraging the incorporation of physical activity into a daily routine and less toward fundamental skill development. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports and aerobic sports.

Strength and Conditioning (Girls and Boys) (Full Year)

Students enrolled in this course will learn the importance of resistance training and conditioning without extracurricular competition. This class is offered in place of PE or Athletics.

Athletics Courses

UIL Middle School Competitive Sports Information

Frisco ISD offers the following competitive sports to middle school students:

Football	Girls' Volleyball	Basketball
Cross Country	Track	Soccer
Tennis		

Athletic Class Period (Full Year):

UIL competition and off-season conditioning are the focus of our athletic programs. To be enrolled in the athletic class period boys must participate in either football or basketball and girls must participate in either volleyball or basketball. Participation in Cross Country, Track and Soccer will occur exclusively before or after

the regular school day. Students are required to maintain passing grades and outstanding behavior to participate in the athletic programs.

In order to meet the UIL age requirements for 7th grade athletics a student cannot have reached their 14th birthday on or prior to September 1st of the current school year. In order to meet the UIL age requirement for 8th grade athletics a student cannot have reached their 15th birthday on or prior to September 1st of the current school year.

Tennis (Full Year*):

The middle school tennis class will develop players that are proficient in executing proper stroke techniques. Proper stroke techniques will be reinforced through instruction and participation in various drills. In addition, the middle school tennis players will be instructed on the rules and procedures needed to successfully participate in matches independently. Students involved in middle school tennis will be encouraged to play additional sets/matches outside of the school day.

*Students may not attend tennis every day due to class size. They may rotate into PE for part of the time.

Athletics - Tennis (Full Year):

Pending Coach Approval

UIL competition and off-season conditioning are the focus of our athletic programs. To be enrolled in the athletic tennis class period, students must be selected for the middle school tennis team through a tryout process. Middle school tennis athletes will compete against other Frisco ISD middle school tennis teams. Students participating as a member of the middle school tennis team must abide by UIL rules and meet all UIL requirements.

Band Offerings

Beginning Band (Full Year):

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.) The course covers care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm, pitch, and tone production. Students will be placed into appropriate band classes upon taking an instrument assessment. Prior to enrollment, a “try the instrument night” is scheduled to allow the student to have a “hands on” trial time. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. (Instrument arrangements will be facilitated by program directors.)

Concert Band II (Full Year):

Concert Band II is an extension of beginning band with an emphasis on fundamentals of instrumental instruction. The course also covers care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music, and awareness of rhythm, pitch, and tone production. Weekly sectionals are employed to strengthen instrument skills. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Concert Band I (Full Year):

Concert Band I is designed to meet the needs of the intermediate band student. The course covers care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm, pitch, and tone production.

Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Symphonic Band (Full Year):

Symphonic Band is designed to meet the needs of the advanced band student. The course covers care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Choir Offerings

Beginning Choir (Full Year)

Male and female singers will build upon music fundamentals learned in elementary school. They will learn to further develop healthy vocal technique appropriate for different styles of music. Music reading skills and confidence in performance will be developed. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year.

7/8 Choir (Treble Choir, Tenor/Bass Choir, and/or Mixed Choir):

Male and female singers will continue to develop and master vocal technique and sight reading skills learned in previous years. Students will learn to perform more advanced music. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year, and may have the opportunity to participate in UIL or other music competitions.

Orchestra Offerings

Beginning Orchestra (Full Year):

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of string instruments. The course covers care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm, pitch, and tone production. Students will be placed in classes according to instrumentation (i.e. violins/violas or cellos/basses). Prior to enrollment, a "try the instrument night" is scheduled to allow the student to have a "hands on" trial time. (It is strongly recommended that parents meet with the director *prior* to purchasing an instrument.)

Intermediate Orchestra (II) (Full Year):

Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) is open to all students who would like to further their musical knowledge and continue instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. This orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills in an ensemble setting. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be

required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Symphonic Orchestra (III) (Full Year):

Symphonic Orchestra (III) is designed to meet the needs of advanced middle school string students. This orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills in an advanced ensemble setting. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. Placement in this class is by audition.

Theater Offerings

Theater Arts I (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Theater Arts I is designed to introduce the student to the many performing and technical aspects of theater. Students will learn basic acting techniques, (stage movement, developing voice, memorizing lines, etc.), Improvisation, mime techniques, character development, basic scene study, (group and individual), script analysis and performance critiquing. In small ensembles, duets and individually, students will prepare and perform scenes in class demonstrating these skills.

Theater Arts II (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts (Grade 6) or Theater Arts I

Theater Arts II builds upon the skills learned in Theater Arts I. Students will continue to strengthen their acting skills in a variety of theatrical experiences, including reading and writing plays, as well as memorized and improvisational performances. In small ensembles, duets and individually, students will prepare and perform scenes in class demonstrating these skills.

Theatre III (Grade 8) (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts II

Theatre Arts III builds upon the skills learned in Theatre Arts I and Theatre Arts II. Students will continue to strengthen their acting skills in a variety of theatrical experiences, including reading and writing plays and scenes, as well as memorized and improvisational performances. In small ensembles, duets and individually, students will prepare and perform scenes in class demonstrating these skills.

Theater Production (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts (Grade 6) or Theater I and AUDITION required

Students are required to audition and get parental consent to participate in this class as it requires a commitment different from the other theater classes. Unlike the other classes, this class requires rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours. These performances include the UIL One-Act Play Competition. Building on the skills taught in Theater I, the students will further their dramatic technique through play productions implementing the roles of actor, director and technician. This comprehensive theater study will encourage artistic discipline, sensory awareness and theater appreciation.

Technical Theater (Full Year):

Students will learn the basics of technical theater including the techniques to manage and implement lights, sound, props, costumes, and scenic elements in a production. They will learn the fundamentals of drawing and designing all the technical aspects for shows through individual and group projects in the classroom as well as on the stage. Students will also have hands-on experiences in set, prop and costume construction (you will create things for a production), as well as make-up/hair design application for characters (both regular and special effects). This class allows you to expand your creativity, build teamwork skills, and develop a greater appreciation of drama behind the curtain. (No previous theater class required.)

Art Offerings

Art I (Full Year):

Art I will emphasize drawing techniques and design principles while studying the elements of art and various artists. Students will also work with clay, paper collage and various painting media.

Art II (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Art I

Art II will expand on the principles and elements, while spending more time on art history and techniques of drawing and painting. The focus for the first semester will be two-dimensional work and design; second semester will include ceramics, printmaking, sculpture and weaving.

Art III (Full Year): *Prerequisite: Art I and Art II*

Art III is a continuation of the principles and elements taught in Art I and Art II with an emphasis on expanding and deepening the student understanding of various artistic techniques. Art III will offer students an opportunity to focus on specific media, techniques, and projects which will draw on their unique interests, creativity, and skillsets as they grow in their artistic process. Because this course is similar to a studio art course, both Art I and Art II are pre-requisites and enrollment in Art III shall be open to students meeting the Art I and Art II pre-requisite and is subject to availability.

World Language Offerings

High School Spanish I (Full Year)

Spanish I - (1 credit) Prerequisite: none

Spanish I focuses on developing students' ability to communicate using the Spanish language. The course is primarily taught in Spanish in order to improve comprehension skills. Students are also expected to participate fully in Spanish and use as little English as possible. As novice language learners, students will communicate using words, phrases, and simple sentences. Throughout the year students will participate in conversations on a variety of familiar topics such as their interests, family, school, and community. Assessments are aimed at determining students' ability to communicate with the language and are focused on listening, speaking, reading, and writing. High school credit (1.0) and high school GPA points will be awarded.

High School Spanish II (Full Year)

Spanish II - (1 credit) Prerequisite: Spanish I

Spanish 2 continues to develop students' ability to communicate using the Spanish language. The course is primarily taught in Spanish to help students continue to improve their listening and reading skills. Students are expected to communicate fully in Spanish as well. Their communication will still consist mainly of familiar words, phrases and simple sentences. Students will be able to express their thoughts and opinions on a variety of topics. Assessments continue to focus on the communicative skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. High school credit (1.0) and high school GPA points will be awarded.

Technology Offerings

Computer Science (Full Year)

Computer science (CS) enables students to become proficient technology users, digital creators, problem solvers, and innovators. In this introductory course, students will learn the foundational concepts and skills of computer science and understand what it means to be "creators" rather than mere consumers of technology. Students will expand beyond block coding to begin exploring scripting languages such as JavaScript and/or Python. This course is designed to be fun, engaging, relevant, collaborative, and creative.

Digital Communications (Full Year)

Effective digital communication is the ability to create persuasive communications using different forms of media. In this course students will focus on creating and distributing valuable, relevant and consistent content to a clearly defined audience, utilizing different online platforms.

Students are motivated and engaged when they can customize their experiences and express themselves through choice. Students will personalize their learning by choosing a variety of digital communication applications to tell a story, while demonstrating their understanding of maintaining a positive digital footprint.

Students will learn storyboarding, scriptwriting, interviewing and writing techniques. Using media production equipment, and various software applications, students will demonstrate their understanding of producing quality projects.

Digital Communications II

Prerequisite Digital Communications/Application required

Students will use various kinds of digital technology/narrative techniques to tell compelling, emotionally-engaging, creative stories. Using basic skills learned in the introductory Digital Communications course, students will focus on creating and distributing valuable, relevant, and consistent content related to their campus, district, community and beyond.

In addition to using higher level technical skills, students will understand the importance of "soft skills" related to their present reality and their future careers; flexibility, growth mindset, team player attitude, work ethic, empathy, and curiosity.

Students will have the opportunity to create digital and written communication resources, including campus broadcasts, podcasts, blogs, short stories, social media posts and digital newspapers.

Digital Graphics and Animation (Full Year)

This STEAM course combines art and technology. Students will learn basic animation and design techniques and terminology. Students will create an original character, design comic strips, study the principles and history of animation, and draw daily in a sketchbook. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of animation by using various 2D and 3D software applications.

Engineering Design & Innovation (Full Year)

Students are challenged and supported in developing their ability to grow as future ready learners with the opportunity to learn engineering design and problem-solving concepts necessary to cultivate skills into solutions that improve lives. Various fields of engineering, as well as the interrelationships with science, technology, and mathematics (STEM) concepts will be introduced.

Students will understand the engineering design process by working on a design team to develop a product or system in various fields of engineering. Using multiple software applications, students will prepare and present unit assignments (which include real-world builds, computer graphics, modeling, and presentations).

Other Elective Options

Skills for Independent Living I (Full Year):

Skills for Independent Living is a hands on course that allows students to gain knowledge in practical skills that are used in everyday life. Students will be given opportunities to improve communication skills, promote positive self-development, as well as explore areas such as family relationships, child care practices, meal planning and preparation, clothing care and construction, and planning for the future.

Skills for Independent Living II (Full Year):

Skills for Independent Living II provides students who have already taken Skills for Independent Living I more in-depth opportunities in the areas of culinary arts, and clothing construction. Emphasis is placed on topics such as planning and executing nutritious meals, knife safety and skills, as well as textile selection, pattern education and garment construction. Other content areas included but aren't limited to interior and fashion design.

Yearbook (Full Year)

Application Required

This course is designed to give students the experience of digitally preparing a school yearbook for production. They will be involved in all aspects of the preparation such as planning, investigation, research, and layout. They will also be involved in aspects such as advertising, sales, and distribution. The emphasis will be on student-oriented activities and encourages a hands-on approach in those individual and cooperative activities. The layout will be done completely on the computer using Jostens online yearbook creation software. Photographs will be taken using digital cameras. Students' initiative, creativity, organizational skills, and ability to work in groups will be encouraged and challenged.

Student Aide (Full Year):

Application Required

Office aides are responsible for completing office tasks that are assigned to them. Some of these assignments could include delivering items to students/teachers, filing, stuffing envelopes, giving new students tours, making copies, sorting mail and other assigned tasks from the front office staff.

Library Aide (Full Year):

Application Required

The duties for a Library Aide include a wide variety of tasks that help us maintain and run the library. Tasks include checking books in and out, shelving books and materials, straightening bookshelves, unpacking and processing new books, watering plants, cleaning AV equipment, moving furniture, running errands, laminating materials, designing bulletin boards and special displays, and assisting with special library events like the book fair or author visits.

Health and LeadWorthy I (Full Year Course Paired together as 1):**Health - (One Semester)**

Prerequisite: None

Health Education allows students to develop skills that will make them health literate adults to promote individual, family, and community health. Students gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge and behaviors they use to safeguard their health. Included in the health course is parenting and paternity awareness (p.a.p.a.), which addresses the rights, responsibilities, and realities of parenting. High school credit (.5) and high school GPA points will be awarded.

LeadWorthy I - (One Semester)

Prerequisite: None

This is a one semester, Texas Education Agency approved, state elective. LeadWorthy provides a leadership development curriculum designed to provide young people with essential life skills. It is a dynamic experience, which empowers teens to be the leaders of tomorrow through highly interactive activities conducted by a specially trained teacher. The class activities revolve around lessons in: goal setting, developing relationships, public speaking, positive self-concept, principle-centered decision-making, creative problem-solving, listening and affirming skills, actions of personal responsibility and conflict resolution skills.

AVID 8th Grade (ADVANCEMENT VIA INDIVIDUAL DETERMINATION)

Available only at Hunt and Staley Middle School

Prerequisite: AVID 7th Grade or Application process

This course prepares students in the academic middle for college eligibility and success. Students receive instruction in writing, inquiry, collaboration and reading strategies in addition to note-taking and organizational skills that are necessary for academic success. AVID students must enroll in at least one Advanced course in

addition to the AVID elective class. Tutors are provided during the AVID class to support student success in all courses. Students will have the opportunity to enroll in a RAIL Health course to work through and gain high school credit for Health.

Off Campus PE

Off Campus PE (OCPE) is a program designed to accommodate secondary students who are making a serious effort to develop higher level skills exceeding that which is offered by our school district. Students train at an approved facility, must apply and pay a fee for this program.

<http://www.friscoisd.org/departments/off-campus-physical-education/>