

Course Descriptions Eighth Grade Required Courses

Please note that students who do not meet the recommended standard for the TAKS Math and/or Reading test(s) will be required to take an accelerated class in place of ONE elective for each portion of the TAKS they did not master.

Integrated Language Arts (ILA) - full year

Instruction in grammar, composition, and spelling in the eighth grade language arts program is intended to help students communicate more accurately and effectively by strengthening both oral and written language skills. Students will use the study of classic and contemporary novels as a springboard for writing. All students will study a variety of research techniques and complete a formal paper. Through the literature based reading program, students will strengthen previously learned skills while coming to appreciate and to recognize a number of types and styles of literature. A variety of authors and genres will be covered throughout the year.

Pre-Advanced Placement Integrated Language Arts (PreAP ILA) – full year

Pre-AP English provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigorous Advanced Placement program. Sophisticated research and writing processes will be introduced and applied extensively throughout the year. Students who elect to take this rigorous course should expect high standards and time demands as set by any higher level course.

Maintenance Criteria (for all grade levels): *A student who earns below a 70% in two consecutive six week grading periods will be placed on academic probation and a committee including the student, parent and teacher will convene to develop a plan for future success. If at the conclusion of the six weeks of probation the student again earns below a 70%, the committee will reconvene to determine if Pre-AP is the appropriate placement.*

GT Language Arts (Reading & English)

****Must qualify for GT program****

Students who are currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program (Quest) will be guided through a challenging course that will expose them to a variety of literature genres. Students will be required to read and analyze both classic and contemporary novels, participate in thematic units, conduct in-depth research, complete individual and group projects, and write extensively throughout the year. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for future advanced classes.

Math 8: Pre-Algebra (full year)

To establish critical thinking skills, application problems are emphasized in each of the following concepts: mathematical operations with rational numbers, algebraic expressions and equations, probability and statistics, and geometric figures and their properties. This challenging class will prepare students for Algebra I.

Pre-AP Algebra I (full year)

***Prerequisites:**

- **Satisfactorily completed Pre-AP Math 7**

Algebra I will include the following concepts: Operations with real numbers and properties of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities in one variable, linear equations and inequalities in two variables, skills associated with polynomials and rational expressions, properties of root and operations with radicals, and quadratic equations. Algebra I credit is given towards graduation requirements, but this class is not included in the overall high school G.P.A. **Students who elect to take this rigorous course should expect high standards and time demands as set by any high school level course.**

***Maintenance Criteria for Pre-AP Algebra I:** A student who earns below a 70% in two consecutive six week grading periods will be placed on academic probation and a committee including the student, parent and teacher will convene to develop a plan for future success. If at the conclusion of the six weeks of probation the student again earns below a 70%, the committee will reconvene to determine if an on-level math class is more appropriate.*

Science 8 (full year)

Eighth grade science builds on the concepts that begin in Science 7. Additional topics such as geology and meteorology are introduced. The interdependence of the sciences is stressed and analyzed throughout the year.

Pre-Advanced Placement Science (full year)

Pre-Advanced Placement Science provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigorous Advanced Placement program. Emphasis will be placed on chemistry, physics and biology. Lab experiments will be taught using an integrated math/science approach. Students who elect to take this rigorous course should expect high standards and time demands as set by any higher-level course.

Maintenance Criteria (for all grade levels): *A student who earns below a 70% in two consecutive six week grading periods will be placed on academic probation and a committee including the student, parent and teacher will convene to develop a plan for future success. If at the conclusion of the six weeks of probation the student again earns below a 70%, the committee will reconvene to determine if Pre-AP is the appropriate placement.*

U.S. History (full year)

This American history course provides meaningful learning experiences, which will promote a better understanding and appreciation of American democracy and the American way of life. The content of this course deals with the United States from its discovery through the Civil War/Reconstruction. This course provides the individual the opportunities to investigate and to inquire, to analyze and to evaluate, to make decisions, to challenge opposing view, and thus prepare the student for the future participation in the American democratic process. Geography will be included, pointing out physical aspects of the U.S. and other countries, thereby enhancing an awareness of the world.

Eighth Grade Electives

Students who do not meet the recommended standard for the TAKS Math and/or Reading test(s) will be required to take an accelerated class in place of ONE elective for each portion of the TAKS they did not master.

Maus M.S. electives are subject to change depending on enrollment and staffing.

*****ALL ELECTIVES ARE FULL YEAR ELECTIVES*****

The expectation is that students remain in the class for the entire year.

Art I

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 (Prerequisite: Art I)

Art II will expand on the principles and elements of art 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. The second semester will include ceramics, printmaking, sculpture and weaving.

Art III (Prerequisite: Art II)

Art III will follow the general outline of Art II except that different projects will be assigned and different artists will be studied. Also, perspective drawing and art criticism will be taught in depth. Higher order thinking skills will be emphasized. Students need to be mature with the ability to work independently.

Band

Band is designed to meet the needs of the developing band student. The course covers selection and 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. ***Advanced classes are also available for students who have completed at least a year of instruction and are ready to expand their knowledge of band. Students will be placed into the appropriate band class based on ability level determined by the band instructor.***

All students will be placed into the appropriate band class based on ability level determined by the band instructor.

Orchestra

The orchestra program provides instruction in violin, cello and bass. This class is open to any student who would like to further their musical knowledge and to begin instruction on a stringed instrument. These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, the string students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the public. Instrument arrangements will be made upon instrument selection. ***Advanced classes are also available for students who have completed at least one year of instruction and are ready to expand their orchestral knowledge. Students will be placed into the appropriate orchestra class based on ability level determined by the orchestra instructor.***

Theatre Arts I

Theatre Arts I is designed to introduce the student to the many performing and technical aspects of theatre. Acting is introduced through individual and group exercises in improvisational and memorized performances. Basic theatrical knowledge, play reading, and playwriting are emphasized. The primary objective is to develop the student's creativity and self-expression.

Theatre Arts II (Prerequisite: Theatre Arts I)

Theatre Arts II builds upon the skills learned in Theatre 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 performance.

Advanced Theatre Studies (Prerequisite: Theatre Arts I and Theatre Arts II OR Drama teacher approval-Ms. Dalfonzo)

This full-year course is designed for the theatre student who wishes to continue in the theatre program to its highest level throughout 7th and 8th grade. Advanced acting and theatre production will be studied.

Beginning Technical Theatre

This class is designed for the theatre student who is interested in learning the backstage part of theatre. Studies will include all behind the scenes areas of theatre. This will include: design, painting, building, dramatic elements, makeup, costumes, lighting, sound, stage management, direction, and publicity. All students will work in all backstage areas.

Choir

This course is designed to extend the fundamentals of beginning choir courses and to concentrate more heavily on the artistic and expressive qualities of choral singing. Students will perform at least four concerts during the school year. At least one year of choral singing experience is helpful but not required.

Skills for Independent Living (replacing Skills for Living I)

This laboratory course will enable students to investigate concepts and career areas in clusters such as: early childhood development, family and consumer sciences, hospitality, business, culinary arts, personal finances, and human services.

Skills for Living II (8th Grade only) **(Prerequisite: Skills for Living I)**

For those students successfully completing Skills for Living I, this course provides an in-depth and advanced look into the challenges of living and working in a diverse society. Emphasis is placed on working to enhance career and personal effectiveness, promoting family strength and well-being, and pursuing career options.

Teen Leadership

Teen Leadership is a program in which students develop leadership, personal, and business skills. They learn to develop a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and learn to understand the concept of personal responsibility. Students will develop skills in public speaking and communication and an understanding of personal image. They will also develop an understanding of the effects of peer pressure and will develop skills to counteract those effects. Finally, they will develop an understanding of the need for vision in goal setting, both personally and professionally.

Career Investigations

Achieving proficiency in decision making and problem solving is an essential skill for career planning and lifelong learning. Students use self-knowledge, educational, and career information to set and achieve realistic career and educational goals.

Robotics

Students will learn to design, build, program and run a robotic brick using LEGO Mindstorms Kits for Schools. Students will download programs created in an exciting program developed by either Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy or NASA scientists. Students will learn basic programming concepts and apply them in successfully solving assigned, specific activities for their robots.

Video Production I & Multimedia I Combo

An introduction to movie making using iMovie software, Video Production I is designed for students to investigate and increase their understanding of producing a broadcast video. Using hands-on problem solving, the students will produce special edition videos over various topics according to specific campus needs, as well as acquire “in front of camera” broadcasting experience. Students will learn the following: successful operation of video equipment; computer video editing software; lighting techniques; interviewing, writing, and reporting skills. Multimedia I is an introduction to the state-of-the-art clay animation curriculum that allows you to create computer-animated projects. Students will also use

Photoshop Elements to create and manipulate digital graphics. PowerPoint and Photoshop Elements will be integrated to produce advanced animation techniques. Video Production & Multimedia I are open to 7th and 8th grade students who have not previously taken the course.

Video Production II & Multimedia II Combo (8th Graders only) **(Prereq: Video Production I /Multimedia I Combo)**

A continuation of Video Production I, Video Production II is designed to enhance the students editing ability by exposing them to the Final Cut Pro software. Students will also tape outside assignments to prepare for the weekly broadcasts. Students will also be introduced to the multimedia component of this class throughout the semester. Students will use Photoshop Elements photo editing software to create and manipulate digital graphics. Their graphics will then be integrated with PowerPoint to produce advanced animation techniques within their video production projects. VR Worx software will also be utilized to create virtual reality tours of various locations and further enhance their multimedia experience. **Students must have completed Video Production I in order to be eligible to register for this class.**

Digital Graphics & Animation (8th grade only)

This is a course designed for students to investigate and increase their understanding of creating digital graphics and animation. Using Animation Master, a state-of-the-art modeling, animation and rendering software, students will learn basic animation and design techniques and terminology.

Broadcast (8th grade only)

(Application Required-from Mr. Granado, Prerequisite: VP I)

Producing, Directing, Acting, Writing and working a video camera...if those sound exciting to you and you want to be part of the News Crew for next year, this is the course for you! Students will create videos, compose scripts, report and present a weekly news show for Roach MS and the Frisco community. Broadcast includes delivering announcements for the school over the PA system daily.

Yearbook (8th Grade Only)

(Application Required—from Ms. DeCarlo)

Students will use Adobe PageMaker 7.0 software to design an all-digital, state-of-the-art yearbook for the 2010-2011 yearbook. Combining journalism techniques, digital photography and Macintosh computers, students will learn a skill they can use in their high school years.

Photography (Application Required-from Ms. Watkins, Prerequisite: Art I)

This course is designed for the fine art student who has a desire for learning the fundamentals of photography. The student should be artistically inclined, have an ambition and thirst for learning, be a self-motivated person, and wish to take photography or photo journalism at the high school level. The course will offer higher-level projects while using digital photography materials. The course is designed to cater to those who have exceptional talent and a strong desire for art and photography. This course differs from other art classes in a way that

students will be learning art through the eye of a camera by means of photography. Students will develop essential art skills and valuable photography strategies that will expand into real-life applications. Any 7th and 8th grader who has taken Art I will have the opportunity to take photography. An application process will be used to determine which students will be taking photography.

Journalism / School Newspaper (8th Grade Only) **(Application Required—from Ms. Devlin)**

Journalism is a class for students that love to write and are interested in exploring journalism. Students enrolled in journalism write in a variety of forms for a variety of audiences and purposes. Students are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions on a regular basis, carefully examining their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English. Students will learn journalistic traditions, research self-selected topics, and write journalistic texts. Students will create the school newspaper to be published each six weeks.

Spanish IB 8th Grade Only

(Prerequisite: Must have successfully completed Spanish IA in 7th grade)

Spanish IB continues with the development of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing through the use of oral drills, vocabulary building, simple composition and reading assignments, dialogue, and creative writing. The course also stresses cultural awareness and understanding of the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on the United States. **Following the successful completion of two years of instruction, Spanish I credit is awarded.**

Spanish I is offered in grades 7 and 8 for high school credit. Successful completion of both years, Spanish IA (7th grade) and Spanish IB (8th grade), with a final grade of 70% or above each year, is required in order to receive the high school credit. Upon successful completion of both Spanish IA and IB, students will receive foreign language credit toward high school graduation. Students who elect to take this high school level course designed to provide a solid foundation for success in Spanish II should expect high standards and an additional time requirement. Students may not retake Spanish I in high school if they receive credit for Spanish IA and IB in middle school.

Health (Full year course awards .5 High School Credit)

Health Education stresses concepts and skills that foster individual personal health and safety, health-related concepts and skills that invoke interactions between individuals and health-related concepts and skills that affect the well-being of people collectively. Students will also be provided with instruction that is specific to the guidelines

Athletics

Athletics involves UIL athletic competition and off-season conditioning. Students are required to maintain passing grades and above average behavior to participate in athletic programs. All sports have mandatory practice before or after school and night games during the week. It is an expectation that representing the school on a team will supersede participating in non-school athletic games and events.

Students who do not make a competitive team will remain in athletics and participate in off-season. The off-season program consists of daily running and weight training.

A Physical Exam is required before beginning Athletics. Physical forms, as well as additional athletic policy handouts, are available in the front office.

Sports Offered:

Boys sports include: Football, Basketball, Track

Girls sports include: Volleyball, Basketball, Track

(Soccer, cross-country and track are offered before or after school and students do NOT need to be enrolled in Athletics to be involved in these sports. However, a physical is required to participate)

8th graders should have participated in athletics 7th grade year. If not, they will need a recommendation from the athletic coordinator to be in athletics 8th grade.

Rams Strength & Conditioning – Girls & Boys Classes

The Rams Strength and Conditioning class will allow the 7th and 8th grade boys and girls, who choose not to be in PE and choose not to be in Athletics, a class in which they can enjoy the benefits of resistance training and conditioning without extracurricular competition.

Advanced Tennis (coach must approve placement)

An active participation course designed to help students work toward a higher competitive level. This offering cannot be taken in conjunction with another athletic course. Students are required to maintain passing grades and above average behavior to participate in Tennis. Advanced tennis skills are required for this course, and they work at a more competitive level.

Physical Education (P.E.)

The physical education program provides students with opportunities to develop skills and sportsmanship through a variety of team sport skills, and lifetime wellness activities.

Office Aide (8th Grade Only)

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 student tours, making copies, sorting mail, and other assigned tasks from front office staff.

Library Aide (8th Grade Only)

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.

****COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE ELECTIVE AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR OMISSION DUE TO AN INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF STUDENT REQUESTS, LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO TEACH THE CLASS, OR FUNDING. THE STUDENT WILL BE PLACED IN THE NEXT ELECTIVE CHOICE ON THE SCHEDULE CARD FILLED OUT BY THE STUDENT AND PARENT.**