

8th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Required Courses

English (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.

Pre Advanced Placement English (Full Year):

Pre AP English provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigorous Advanced Placement program. Emphasis will be on literary analysis of classic and contemporary selections. Sophisticated research and writing processes will be introduced and applied extensively throughout the year. Students should expect an additional time requirement for this class and be willing to work independently.

Literature: (Full Year):

Through this literature based reading program, students will strengthen previously learned skills while coming to appreciate and recognize a number of types and styles of literature. A variety of authors and genres will be covered during the year.

Gifted and Talented Literature and English (Full Year):

Eighth grade 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 various literary 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 (Full Year):

Introduction to Algebra will involve study in the following concepts: the number system and its development, geometric figures and their properties, math operations on whole numbers, fractions and mixed numbers, Algebraic expressions, probability and statistics and the conversion of US customary and metric systems of measurement. This challenging class will prepare students for Algebra I.

Pre Advanced Placement Algebra I (Full Year):

Pre AP Algebra I expands on the concepts covered in regular Algebra I with an intense focus on high level application and problem solving situations that require a solid foundation of skills associated with the following content areas: operations and properties of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities in one variable, linear equations and inequalities in two variables, polynomial and rational expressions, properties of roots, operations with radicals, and quadratic equations. Students who elect to take this high school level course designed to prepare students for an advanced math program should expect high standards and an additional time requirement.

Prerequisite: Pre AP Math 7

Science (Full Year):

Eighth grade science builds on the concepts that began in seventh grade science. 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 AP Science provides qualified students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigorous Advanced Placement program. Emphasis will be placed on chemistry, physics, and biology. Lab experiences will be taught, using an integrated math/science approach. Students should expect an additional time requirement for this class and be willing to work independently.

US History (Full Year):

This American history course provides meaningful learning experiences that 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 origin through the Civil War/Reconstruction period. This course provides students the opportunity to investigate, inquire, analyze, and evaluate. It also allows them to make decisions and to challenge opposing views, thus preparing them for future participation in the American democratic process. Geography will be included, pointing out physical aspects of the US and other countries, thereby enhancing an awareness of the world.

Elective Courses**Physical Education/Athletics:****Athletics (Full Year):**

UIL Athletic Competition and Off-Season Conditioning are the focus of our Athletics program. Participation sports for boys include Football, Basketball and Track; participation sports for girls are Volleyball, Basketball and Track. Students are required to maintain passing grades and above average behavior to participate in these programs. Additionally, in order to meet UIL age requirements, students in 8th grade Athletics CANNOT have reached their 15th birthday prior to September 1st of the current school year.

Tennis:

The Tennis program is designed to help students acquire and improve the skills needed for competitive tennis.

Tennis (or Beginning Tennis – First Semester): will give students a chance to rotate in smaller groups into and out of a tennis class from PE throughout the first semester to focus on the basics and begin to build a foundation of fundamental skills. Our goal is to create an atmosphere of enthusiasm and interest for the sport for those who desire to make a serious effort to be a part of an athletic tennis program, and potentially work toward becoming a competitive player. Beginning Tennis is a semester long class. At the end of the first semester, the tennis coach will evaluate all of the Beginning Tennis students and choose those that have shown ability and interest to move to Intermediate Tennis the second semester. All players not chosen for the Intermediate class will be placed in a PE class the second semester. This system will allow the tennis coach to spend time with the Intermediate group and also allow the other students to go back to PE and work on their basic athletic skills.

Intermediate Tennis (Second Semester): will consist of athletes who have demonstrated the skill level of a potential Intermediate player in the beginning basics during the first semester. These students will advance to the Intermediate class for the second semester based on the coach's evaluations during the first semester Beginning Tennis class.

Advanced Tennis (Full Year): will consist of a more diligent, high-skill level workout, focusing on competitive play. The athlete needs to be completely dedicated to a full year of tennis workouts. The student should also be constantly broadening his or her skill level, not only through school tennis, but also through outside competitions and lessons. Advanced athletes need to be able to demonstrate a forehand, backhand, volley, and serve, or be a very versatile athlete, setting him or herself apart as far as coordination, anticipation, and agility. The advanced players are chosen by the tennis coach the previous spring during a tryout. The basic guide in choosing these advanced players is experience level.

Strength and Conditioning Class for P.E. Credit (Full Year):

In Strength and Conditioning, 8th grade students will learn the basic lifts to promote muscle growth and tone, and will participate in agility drills to increase coordination, and conditioning activities that help maintain one's overall health.

Art:**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):

Students must have completed Art I. Art II will expand on the principles and elements of Art I, 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): TEACHER APPROVAL REQUIRED:

Teacher approval is required for students to take Art III. 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.

Theatre:**Theatre Arts I (Full Year):**

Theatre Arts I is designed for any student who is interested in an introduction to performance and the theatre. The student is introduced to acting through exercises in body and voice control, concentration, and relaxation. The student will work on improvisation skills, both individually and in groups. The primary objective is to develop the student's creativity and ability for self-expression.

Theatre Arts II (Full Year):

Theatre Arts I is a prerequisite for Theatre Arts II. Theatre Arts II builds upon the skills learned in Theatre Arts I. Students will continue to strengthen their dramatic skills in a variety of theatrical experiences, including reading and writing plays, as well as memorized and improvisational performance. Production values will be emphasized, including ensemble, technical design and rehearsal. Students will be required to attend at least one play at Scoggins, attend a live performance at a venue of their choice outside of school, and read one play outside of class over the course of the year in order to complete performance evaluations.

Theatre Arts III (Full Year): APPLICATION/INTERVIEW REQUIRED:

An application and interview are required for students to enroll in Theatre Arts III. This class builds upon the skills learned in previous theatrical experience. Higher order thinking skills will be emphasized, and technical theatre will be involved. Students need to be mature, with the ability to work independently. Theatre III students will be expected to participate in all productions at Scoggins over the course of the year. They will also be required to see one live play and read one play outside of class each semester in order to complete performance evaluations. This course is repeatable for Fine Arts credit.

Technical Theatre (Full Year): TEACHER APPROVAL REQUIRED IN 10-11:

Teacher approval is required for students to enroll in Technical Theatre for the 2010-11 school year; starting in the 2011-12 school year, Theatre I will be a prerequisite for this course. This class is designed for the theatre student who is interested in learning what happens behind the scenes in theatre. Studies will include design, painting, building, dramatic elements, makeup, costumes, lighting, sound, stage management, direction, and publicity. All students will work in all backstage areas. This course can be taken concurrently with Theatre Arts II or III for Fine Arts credit

Band:**Beginning Band (Full Year):**

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion). The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, music reading, and an awareness of rhythm and pitch. Students will be placed into appropriate band classes upon taking an instrument test.

Concert Band (Full Year):

This course is an extension of Beginning Band. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, music reading, and an awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

Symphonic Band (Full Year):

Symphonic Band is designed to meet the needs of the advanced band student. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, music reading, and an awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

Jazz Band (Full Year): AUDITION REQUIRED:

Jazz Band is designed as an enrichment of the Symphonic and Concert Band curriculum. Students will study and participate in the uniquely American art of jazz and improvisation, while extending their technical proficiency and musical maturity on their instrument. From early blues and New Orleans jazz to swing, bebop, and avant-garde, students will study jazz styles, standards, theory, and performers, as well as the political and cultural climate surrounding and influencing the various genres of jazz. In this sense, Jazz Band is truly a laboratory course in which students actively participate in the course material. **Jazz Band is open to 7th and 8th grade saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and percussion students currently enrolled in Symphonic or Concert Band, and is open to 8th grade students outside the band program for guitar, string bass (double bass or electric), and piano by audition only. Students in Symphonic or Concert Band who wish to audition on guitar, bass, or piano may do so as well.**

Orchestra:**Beginning Orchestra (I) (Full Year):**

Beginning Strings is open to all 6th, 7th, or 8th grade students who would like to further their musical knowledge or begin instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. No prior experience is necessary. (*Students with prior string experience read NOTE below.*) These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, all string students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. The students will also perform at one music contest. 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. The director is always available to answer questions on instrument selection, instrument sizing, rentals, reconditioning of previously owned family instruments, instrument purchase, and scholarship opportunities. (It is strongly recommended that parents meet with the director *prior* to purchasing an instrument.)

NOTE: Students with previous string experience or those students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano, band instrument) *may* elect to study privately during the summer and audition in August for placement in Concert Orchestra (Level II) or Symphonic Orchestra (Level III).

Intermediate Orchestra (II) (Full Year):

Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) is open to all students (primarily 7th grade 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. Intermediate Orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and the public, as well as perform as a non-varsity orchestra for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest.

NOTE: Students *may* be placed in this orchestra according to ability or scheduling conflicts rather than grade level.

Symphonic Orchestra (III) (Full Year):

Symphonic Orchestra (III) is an **auditioned** ensemble of serious middle school string students (mostly 8th grade students who study privately) who understand and are able to demonstrate correct bowing, hand positions, intonation, scales, shifting, and sight-reading skills. Symphonic Orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills using a repertoire ranging from the classics to Broadway. The Symphonic Orchestra will perform as a varsity orchestra for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. During the year, the orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and public.

NOTE: Students *may* be placed in this orchestra according to ability or scheduling conflicts rather than grade level.

Choir:**Boys' Choir (Full Year):**

Boys' Choir is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys who would like to further their musical knowledge and sing in a performing ensemble. ***No prior singing experience is required.*** Classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing good vocal technique, reading musical notation, and acquiring and improving performance skills. During the year, all choir students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. The Boys' Choir may go to competitions such as Solo and Ensemble, Sandy Lake, and Spring UIL Contest.

NOTE: 7th and 8th grade students with previous choir experience, or those students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano, band instrument, etc.), may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in August for placement in A Cappella Choir.

Girls' Choir (Full Year):

Girls' Choir is open to all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls who would like to further their musical knowledge and sing in a performing ensemble. ***No prior singing experience is required.*** Classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing good vocal technique, reading musical notation, and acquiring and improving performance skills. During the year, all choir students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. The Girls' Choir may also go to competitions such as Solo and Ensemble, Sandy Lake, and Spring UIL Contest.

NOTE: 7th and 8th grade students with previous choir experience, or those students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano, band instrument, etc.), may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in August for placement in A Cappella Choir.

A Cappella Choir (Full Year): AUDITION REQUIRED:

A Cappella Choir is an **auditioned choir, open to 7th and 8th grade students** who seriously want to further their musical knowledge and performing skills in middle school. Classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing good vocal technique, reading musical notation, and acquiring and improving sight-reading and performance skills. Students will have the opportunity to audition for All-Region Choir in the Fall, and for Solo and Ensemble Competition in the Spring. A Cappella Choir will perform as a varsity choir for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. During the year, all choir students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public.

Spanish 1B (Full Year):

Students must have successfully completed Spanish 1A in 7th grade to enroll in Spanish 1B. Student success in core classes is essential to the acquisition of a foreign language. Spanish 1B 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. This course has a challenging curriculum, requiring an extra time commitment from students, as well as the ability to work independently. Following the successful completion of two years of instruction, Spanish I credit is given toward high school graduation requirements.

Technology:**Multimedia I (First Semester) and Video Production I (Second Semester):**

This course will introduce students to the basics of video production and multimedia. This course is recommended for students who would like a general overview of both multimedia and video production.

Multimedia II (First Semester) and Video Production II (Second Semester):

Students will utilize basic video editing concepts learned in Video Production I and Multimedia I. Students will learn higher level video editing with Final Cut Express. Projects will include music videos, documentaries, silent films, morphing, and flashbacks. Projects will be integrated with Multimedia applications to encompass all aspects of still and video photography editing. Higher level movie editing techniques and multimedia curriculum will be used. Students will enhance their skills with the Mac & PC computer and video equipment; broaden their understanding of camera presence, and participate in script writing.

Robotics (Full Year):

Students will learn to design, build, program and run NXT robotic brick using LEGO Mindstorms Kits for Schools. Students will download programs created in an exciting program developed by Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy. Students will make their "robot" perform, successfully solving assigned, specific tasks.

Broadcast (Full Year): APPLICATION REQUIRED:

Students must apply for admission to this course. Successful completion of Video Production I and Multimedia I are prerequisites for Broadcast. Using the software applications Adobe Photoshop Elements and Final Cut Express, students will learn how to integrate digital graphics with video segments to create their projects. Students will be responsible for producing the Scoggins TV broadcast, as well as completing independent projects. Higher level movie editing techniques and multimedia curriculum will be used. Students will enhance their skills with the Mac computer and video equipment, and broaden their understanding of good journalism techniques such as interviewing, camera presence, and script writing.

Digital Graphics and Animation (Full Year):

Animation is a course designed for students to investigate and increase their understanding of 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. **Prerequisite: In order to sign up for Animation, a student must have taken either a semester of Video Production or a semester of Multimedia in the previous school year.**

Career Investigations (Full Year):

Not sure what you want to do after high school or college? Career Investigations will help develop personalized game plans for each student's future education and career paths. This class will be highly interactive, technology-rich, and hands-on. Students will create exciting web-based projects, including a variety of real world application assignments, and have fun participating in Q&A with inspirational guest speakers. This course will also focus on realistic expectations, productive habits, and the importance of preparation for success. They will be able to clearly identify their individual strengths, personality types, and goals. Students will compare different careers and identify ways to incorporate their interests and strengths into a job they will love for a lifetime.

Skills for Independent Living (Full Year):

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.

Health Education (Full Year):

Health Education stresses concepts and skills that foster individual personal health and safety, as well as introducing health-related concepts and skills that invoke interaction between individuals and affect the well-being of people collectively. Following successful completion of this course, high school credit will be awarded.

Yearbook (Full Year): APPLICATION REQUIRED:

Students must apply for admission to this course. Students enrolling in Yearbook should exhibit a high degree of responsibility, tenacity and maturity. As a part of the curriculum, students will be required to attend and cover events before and after school. A strong English and/or Art background will be helpful, as this course involves production of the Scoggins Middle School yearbook. This course teaches basic journalism and printing terms, layout designs, and copy preparation.

Teen Leadership:

This course offers a leadership development curriculum designed to provide young people with essential life skills. It is a dynamic experience that 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, affirmation skills, personal responsibility actions, and conflict resolution skills.

Student Aide (Full Year): APPLICATION REQUIRED:

Students will be assigned to assist in the Main Office, Counselors' Office, Library, or Band (for Band students only). An application process will be used in the selection of all student aides.