

Student ID#: _____

Stafford Middle School
6th Grade Registration
2011-2012

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Gender: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent E-mail: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Work Phone #: _____

Elementary Campus: _____

REQUIRED COURSES

Choose 1 from each of the following required areas:

Social Studies

Social Studies 6

Science

Science 6

Computer Literacy/PE (Alternating Days)

Reading

Reading 6

Advisory

English

English 6

Pre AP English 6

Mathematics

Math 6

Pre AP Math 6

ELECTIVE COURSES : Each student will receive one elective course

- Student will be assigned a tutorial/lab period in place of an elective and/or Advisory if he or she was not successful on a TAKS administration and/or academic performance in a core subject.

Mark your first choice with a "1," your second choice with a "2," and your third choice with a "3."

*No previous musical experience is needed to join band or orchestra**All course offerings are subject to change. Funding levels and student interest may affect whether or not an offering is available.

Band (Instrument – per Band Director: _____)

Orchestra (Instrument – per Orchestra Director: _____)

Choir

Art

Theater

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please read and sign the Addendum on the back of this card.



Stafford Middle School
2011- 2012
6th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Required Courses

English (Full Year):

The sixth grade language arts program is designed to help students develop those skills which will enable them to speak, write, read and listen more effectively. This literature-based program will emphasize written communication and grammar.

Reading: (Full Year):

The sixth grade reading course is designed to give students practice in word identification, comprehension and study skills. The use of novels, thematic units and structured free reading, as well as writing, will be an integral part of this course.

Pre-AP English (Full Year):

Pre-AP English provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for rigorous advanced course work in the future. Students will analyze a variety of literary genres, conduct research, and write extensively in this class. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendation.

Gifted and Talented English and Reading (Full Year):

Sixth 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 a large variety of literature. 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.

Mathematics (Full Year):

The sixth grade mathematics program is designed to meet the needs of each child. It consists of a study of the four basic operations with whole numbers, integers, non-negative rational numbers and decimals. The program includes percents, metric measurements, concepts of geometry and pre-algebra. A variety of teaching methods and hands-on materials will be used.

Pre AP Math (Full Year):

Pre AP Math provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for rigorous advanced course work in the future. It consists of a study of the four basic operations with whole numbers, integers, non-negative rational numbers and decimals. The program includes percents, metric measurements, concepts of geometry and pre-algebra. A variety of teaching methods and hands-on materials will be used. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

Science (Full Year):

Sixth grade science encompasses earth, life and physical sciences. Students discover concepts in scientific methods, physics, chemistry, biology, behavior, ecology, geology and astronomy. Students utilize reading, research and experiments as a part of the discovery method in this science program. Textbooks, laboratory materials, videos, filmstrips and the library are sources for this study. Health, safety, personal hygiene, and the dangers of drugs will also be a part of this course.

Social Studies (Full Year):

The sixth grade social studies program encompasses geographical, political, technological, and cultural aspects of nations of the Eastern Hemisphere. The study is explored through a variety of resources presently available such as texts, kits, maps, globes, films, tapes, and guest speakers.

Advisory (Full Year):

The sixth grade advisory period provides students with tools and skills that help them to manage the transition from elementary to middle school. Students are taught organizational and study skills and are also allowed time to work on assignments or to receive tutoring in academic areas.

Physical Education/Computer Literacy:

The Physical Education program provides students with opportunities to develop skill and sportsmanship through a variety of team sports and fitness activities.

Computer Literacy is designed to emphasize keyboarding skills, computer-related terminology, and use of the computer as a tool, while developing knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, databases and graphics.

P.E. will alternate on an A/B Day schedule during the same class period with Computer Literacy for the entire year.

Elective Courses

Sixth grade students will have the choice of one elective for the entire year.

Beginning Band 6th (Full Year):

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion). The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, music reading, and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Students will be placed into appropriate band classes upon taking an instrument test. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. (Instrument arrangements will be made.) No previous musical experience is needed.

Orchestra (Full Year):

The orchestra program in the 6th grade involves instruction in violin, viola, cello or bass. This class is open to any sixth grade student who would like to further his or her musical knowledge and begin instruction on a stringed instrument. These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, all string students will combine to present concerts for the parents and public.

Choir (Full Year):

Choir is an elective course in which students learn to sing together as a group. Students work on many musical concepts such as vocal warm-ups, sight-reading, rhythm reading, musical symbols and performance skills. Choir students are expected to perform in several concerts during the school year.

Art (Full Year):

Art 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.

Theater (Full Year):

This course introduces students to the world of theatre through pantomime, play reading and improvisation. The emphasis will be on classroom performance. This will be an enjoyable opportunity for students to develop self-confidence and stage presence.

*All course offerings are subject to change. Funding levels and student interest may affect whether or not an offering is available.

Stafford Middle School
7th Grade Registration
2011-2012

Student ID#: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Gender: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent E-mail: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Work Phone #: _____

REQUIRED COURSES

Choose 1 from each of the following required areas:

Social Studies

Texas History

Science

_____ Science 7
_____ Pre AP Science 7

Reading

Reading 7

English

_____ English 7
_____ Pre AP English 7

Mathematics

_____ Math 7
_____ Pre AP Math 7 (Prerequisite Pre AP Math 6)

* GT Language Arts (Reading and English) – Must be currently identified in FISD’s GT program

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

Choose 1 of the following:

_____ Boys Athletics (Football and/or Basketball)
_____ Girls Athletics (Volleyball and/or Basketball)
_____ PE
_____ Tennis

****If you are only participating in Soccer or Cross Country/Track, you will need to sign up for PE rather than Athletics.**

ELECTIVE COURSES

- Student will be assigned a tutorial/lab period in place of an elective if he or she was not successful on a TAKS administration and/or academic performance in a core subject.

Mark your first choice with a “1” and your second choice with a “2”.

_____ Spanish 1A (1 High School Credit upon completion of Spanish 1A & Spanish 1)
_____ Art I
_____ Theatre Arts I
_____ Choir
_____ Skills for Independent Living
_____ Technical Theater

_____ Robotics
_____ Multimedia I/Video Production I
_____ Orchestra
_____ Advanced Band (Prerequisite beginning band)
_____ Beginning Band (Instrument – per band director)

Write in your third and fourth Alternate Elective Choices from the list above.

Alternate Elective Choices: 3. _____ 4. _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please read and sign the Addendum on the back of this card.

Stafford Middle School

2011-2012

7th Grade

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Required Courses

English (Full Year):

Seventh graders will strengthen their ability to communicate effectively through a program which stresses the importance of written communication. Sentence building, improved word usage and standard grammar skills will be emphasized. Students will learn how to compose several types of essays and apply composition skills to enhance their form and content. Students will explore various forms of literature to gain an understanding of literary elements and an insight into themselves and others. Effective communication is the key to understanding!

Pre-Advanced Placement English (Full Year):

Pre-AP English provides qualified students with a foundation course 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. 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.

Reading: (Full Year):

Seventh grade students will be guided through a program that will integrate reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Applied vocabulary, comprehension strategies and critical thinking skills will be the emphasis of the program. Students will analyze literary genres and be given the opportunity to work on individual and group projects and research.

Gifted and Talented Reading and English (Full Year):

Seventh grade students who are currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program will be guided through a challenging course that will expose them to a large variety of literature. 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.

Mathematics (Full Year):

This course consists of a balanced program of problem-solving strategies and computation skills. It involves intensive study in the four fundamental operations with whole numbers, integers, rational numbers, decimals and percentages. Also included are the basic concepts of geometry and the metric system.

Pre-Advanced Placement Math (Full Year):

Pre Advanced Placement Math 7 will include 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 conversion of U.S. customary and metric systems of measurement. A rigorous problem solving component will be included, and a variety of teaching methods and hands-on materials will be used. This challenging class will help prepare students for Pre AP Algebra I. Students should expect an additional time requirement for this class and be willing to work independently. 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. **Prerequisite is Pre-AP Math 6**

Science (Full Year):

Seventh grade science is a TEKS concept-based program (Texas Essential Knowledge Skills.) Topics include physics, chemistry, space and biology. The interconnection among these sciences and topics will be demonstrated throughout the year. Students also learn and practice scientific measurement, lab skills and scientific record keeping.

Pre-Advanced Placement Science (Full Year):

Pre-Advanced Placement Science provides qualified students with a foundation course designed to prepare them for the rigorous Advanced Placement program. Emphasis will be placed on chemistry, physics and biology. Lab concepts 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. 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.

Texas History (Full Year):

Texas History is designed to provide an opportunity for students to appreciate and understand the heritage, value and traditions of the state. Emphasis is placed on the various cultural groups which contributed to the state's history. Significant events, historical leaders and places are studied and the state's geography is examined.

Physical Education Courses

Physical Education (Full Year):

The Physical Education program provides students with opportunities to develop skill and sportsmanship through a variety of team and fitness activities.

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 Athletics CAN NOT have reached their 14th birthday prior to September 1st of the current school year.

Tennis

Beginning/Intermediate class (Semester/Full year)

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 towards becoming a competitive player. Beginning tennis is a semester long class. At the end of the first semester the tennis coach will evaluate all the beginning students and choose those that have shown ability and interest in going to intermediate tennis the 2nd semester. All players not chosen for the intermediate class will be placed in a PE class the 2nd 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.

Advanced class (Full Year)

This class will consist of a more diligent, higher skill level workout, focusing on competitive play. The athlete needs to be completely dedicated to a full year of tennis workouts and elevated ambitions. They should also be constantly broadening their skill level not only through school tennis but also outside competitions and lessons. Advanced athletes need to be able to demonstrate a forehand, backhand, volley and a serve or be a very versatile athlete setting themselves apart as far as coordination, anticipation and agility go.

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. Any player not chosen for the advanced class will be placed in beginning tennis.

Elective Courses

Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra (Full Year):

Beginning Orchestra 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 early 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. During the year, the Intermediate Orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and public. The Intermediate Orchestra will 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 (Full Year)

Choir is open to all 7th or 8th grade girls or 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 performance skills. During the year, all choir students will present concerts for the parents and public, as well as perform for

special presentations (Curriculum Night, PTA, etc.). The Choir may perform for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. Students in Choir also have the opportunity to participate in both UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest and the TMEA Region Choir auditions.

Band

Beginning Band (Full Year):

No previous musical experience necessary. Students in Beginning Band meet in like-instrument classes (i.e. clarinet, trumpet, etc.) daily to learn the basic fundamentals of their specific instrument. This course covers assembly and care of instruments, proper playing posture, tone production, music reading, and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Participation in band teaches students how to work together as a team, builds self-confidence, and creates a social outlet to make life-long friendships. Band students are invited to attend several social events throughout the school year. Students will be screened by a director for physical and facial characteristics to place them on the instrument that is best suited for their success. Students are expected to practice regularly and will perform in four required concerts throughout the year. There are only four after school practices the entire school year. Students will also have the option of participating in the personal training program. This program provides one-on-one instruction with a professional musician. Students participating in the personal training program are generally four to six weeks ahead in instruction. Financial assistance is readily available to families in need. Available instruments: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion

Advanced Band (Full Year):

Advanced Band is open to students who have completed one year of Beginner Band. All Advanced Band students meet daily in a full concert band setting. Students will continue building upon the musical fundamentals learned in Beginning Band, as well as increasing their self-confidence, expressing themselves through music, and working together as a team. Students are expected to practice regularly and will have the opportunity to perform in a variety of events throughout the school year including five mandatory concerts. Advanced Band students will meet once a week outside of the school day for their weekly sectional. This time will be scheduled around other school functions. Personal Training is **highly encouraged** for Advanced Band members. This one-on-one instruction is crucial to the development of our young musicians. Students will be invited to several optional social events throughout the school year. Participation in Advanced Band will properly prepare students for high school band. Financial assistance is readily available to families in need.

Please note: A vast majority of our students participate in more than one school sponsored activity successfully. Band directors and coaches work extremely well together to make sure students are successful in both endeavors.

Honors Advanced Band (Full Year):

Honors Advanced Band is open to students who have completed one year of Beginning Band, and have been selected through a special audition process. Honors Advanced Band students meet daily in a full concert band setting. Students will continue building fundamental musical skills as well as increasing their self-confidence, expressing themselves through music, and working together as a unit. Students are expected to practice regularly and will have the opportunity to perform in a variety of events throughout the school year including five (5) mandatory concerts. Honors Advanced Band students will meet once a week outside of the school day for their weekly sectional. This time will be scheduled around other school functions. Personal Training is **highly encouraged** for Honors Advanced Band members due to the challenging level of music performed. This one-on-one instruction is crucial to the development of our young musicians. Students will be invited to several optional social events throughout the school year. Participation in Honors Advanced Band will properly prepare students for high school band. Financial assistance is readily available to families in need.

Please note: A vast majority of our students participate in both events successfully. Band directors and coaches work extremely well together to make sure students are successful at both endeavors.

Theatre Arts I (Full Year):

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

Technical Theatre (Full Year):

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: set design, painting, building, dramatic elements, makeup, costumes, lighting, sound, stage management, direction, and publicity. All students will work in all backstage areas.

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.

Spanish 1A (Full Year):

Student success in core classes is essential to the acquisition of a foreign language. Spanish 1A begins the development of the basic language skills: listening, reading, writing through the use of oral drills, vocabulary building, simple composition, reading assignments, dialogue and creative writing. The course also stresses cultural awareness/understanding of the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on the United States. This course has a challenging curriculum requiring extra time commitment from students as well as the ability to work independently. Successful completion of both years, Spanish IA (7th grade) and Spanish I (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 I, 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 I in middle school. 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 Spanish I is the appropriate placement.

Multimedia I (One Semester) and Video Production I (One Semester):

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 the 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 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. The Video Production & Multimedia I class is open to 7th and 8th graders who have not previously taken the course. Students will need to complete Video Production/Multimedia I in order to enroll into Video Production/Multimedia II the following year.

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 specific tasks, successfully assigned.

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.

**Beginning with the class of 2017 high school courses taken in middle school will count in a student's high school GPA.

***All course offerings are subject to change. Funding levels and student interest may affect whether or not an offering is available.

Stafford Middle School
8th Grade Registration
2011-2012

Student ID#: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Gender: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent E-mail: _____ Home Phone #: _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Work Phone #: _____

REQUIRED COURSES

Choose 1 from each of the following required areas:

Social Studies

U.S. History

Science

Science 8
 Pre AP Science 8

Reading

Literature 8

English

English 8
 Pre AP English 8

Mathematics

Math 8
 Pre AP Math 8
 Pre AP Algebra I – (Specific Requirements- See Course Descriptions Packet)

*GT Language Arts (Reading and English) – Must be currently identified in FISD's GT program

ELECTIVE COURSES

- Student will be assigned a tutorial/lab period in place of an elective if he or she was not successful on a TAKS administration and/or academic performance in a core subject.

Mark your first choice with a "1," your second choice with a "2," and your third choice with a "3."

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spanish 1 (Prerequisite Spanish 1A-1 High School Credit upon completion) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yearbook (Application Required) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art I | <input type="checkbox"/> Multimedia I/Video Production I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art II (Prerequisite Art I) | <input type="checkbox"/> Skills for Independent Living |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts I | <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast (By teacher approval only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Theatre Arts II (Prerequisite Th. Arts I) | <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Graphics and Animation (Prerequisite MMI or VPI) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Technical Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> Robotics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Investigations/Teen Leadership | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Education (½ High School Credit) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra | <input type="checkbox"/> Boys Athletics (Football and/or Basketball) ** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Band (Prerequisite Beginning Band) | <input type="checkbox"/> Girls Athletics (Volleyball and/or Basketball) ** |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choir | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis (Based on Tryout results) |

Student Aide (**By application only**) Circle one: **Library** **Office** **Learning Lab** **Band**

**If you are only participating in Soccer or Cross Country/Track, you will need to choose an elective other than Athletics.

Write in your fourth and fifth Alternate Elective Choices from the list above.

Alternate Elective Choices: 4. _____ 5. _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please read and sign the Addendum on the back of this card.

Stafford Middle School

2011-2012

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 qualified 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. 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 week probation the student again earns below a 70%, the committee will reconvene to determine if Pre-AP is the appropriate placement.

Literature: (Full Year):

Through this literature based reading program, students will strengthen previously learned skills while coming to appreciate and recognize various 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 Math (Full Year):

Pre AP Math provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for PreAP Algebra I and other rigorous advanced course work in the future. It consists of an in-depth study of 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. A rigorous problem solving component will be included and a variety of teaching methods and hands-on materials will be used. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently. 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 week probation the student again earns below a 70%, the committee will reconvene to determine if Pre AP Math 8 is the appropriate placement.

Pre-AP 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 which 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. 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 week probation the student again earns below a 70%, the committee will reconvene to determine if Pre AP Algebra I is the appropriate placement. **Pre –AP Math 8 is a prerequisite for Pre-AP Algebra I.**

Science (Full Year):

Eighth grade science builds on the concepts that begin 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. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation. 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 week probation the student again earns below a 70%, the committee will reconvene to determine if Pre AP is the appropriate placement.

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. This course provides students the opportunity to investigate and to inquire, to analyze and to evaluate, to make decisions and to challenge opposing views, and thus prepares the student 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

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 athletics CANNOT have reached their 15th birthday prior to September 1st of the current school year.

Tennis

Beginning/Intermediate class (Semester/Full year)

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 towards becoming a competitive player. Beginning tennis is a semester long class. At the end of the first semester the tennis coach will evaluate all the beginning students and choose those that have shown ability and interest in going to intermediate tennis the 2nd semester. All players not chosen for the intermediate class will be placed in a PE class the 2nd 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.

Advanced class (Full Year)

This class will consist of a more diligent, higher skill level workout, focusing on competitive play. The athlete needs to be completely dedicated to a full year of tennis workouts and elevated ambitions. They should also be constantly broadening their skill level not only through school tennis but also outside competitions and lessons. Advanced athletes need to be able to demonstrate a forehand, backhand, volley and a serve or be a very versatile athlete setting themselves 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. Any player not chosen for the advanced class will be placed in beginning/intermediate tennis.

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):

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 I is a prerequisite for Art II**

Theater

Theatre Arts I (Full Year):

Theatre Arts I is designed for any student who is interested in an introduction to acting and the theatre. The course is designed to introduce the student to acting through exercises in body control, concentration and relaxation. The student will work on improvisational 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 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. **Theatre Arts I is a prerequisite for Theatre Arts II**

Technical Theatre (Full Year):

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: set design, painting, building, dramatic elements, makeup, costumes, lighting, sound, stage management, direction, and publicity. All students will work in all backstage areas.

Band

Advanced Band (Full Year):

Advanced Band is open to students who have completed one year of Beginner Band. All Advanced Band students meet daily in a full concert band setting. Students will continue building upon the musical fundamentals learned in Beginning Band, as well as increasing their self-confidence, expressing themselves through music, and working together as a team. Students are expected to practice regularly and will have the opportunity to perform in a variety of events throughout the school year including five mandatory concerts. Advanced Band students will meet once a week outside of the school day for their weekly sectional. This time will be scheduled around other school functions. Personal Training is **highly encouraged** for Advanced Band members. This one-on-one instruction is crucial to the development of our young musicians. Students will be invited to several optional social events throughout the school year. Participation in Advanced Band will properly prepare students for high school band. Financial assistance is readily available to families in need.

Please note: A vast majority of our students participate in several different school activities successfully. Band directors and coaches work extremely well together to make sure students are successful in both endeavors.

Honors Advanced Band (Full Year):

Honors Advanced Band is open to students who have completed one year of Beginning Band, and have been selected through a special audition process. Honors Advanced Band students meet daily in a full concert band setting. Students will continue building fundamental musical skills as well as increasing their self-confidence, expressing themselves through music, and working together as a unit. Students are expected to practice regularly and will have the opportunity to perform in a variety of events throughout the school year including five mandatory concerts. Honors Advanced Band students will meet once a week outside of the school day for their weekly sectional. This time will be scheduled around other school functions. Personal Training is **highly encouraged** for Honors Advanced Band members due to the challenging level of music performed. This one-on-one instruction is crucial to the development of our young musicians. Students will be invited to several optional social events throughout the school year. Participation in Honors Advanced Band will properly prepare students for high school band. Financial assistance is readily available to families in need.

Please note: A vast majority of our students participate in several different school activities successfully. Band directors and coaches work extremely well together to make sure students are successful at both endeavors.

Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra (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 early 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 & 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 (Full Year)

Choir is open to all 7th or 8th grade girls and 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 performance skills. During the year, all choir students will present concerts for the parents and public, as well as perform for special presentations (Curriculum night, PTA, etc.). The Choir may perform for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. Students in Choir also have the opportunity to participate in both UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest and the TMEA Region Choir auditions.

Spanish 1 (Full Year)*:

Students must have successfully completed Spanish 1A in 7th grade to enroll in Spanish 1. Student success in core classes is essential to the acquisition of a foreign language. Spanish 1 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 extra time commitment from students as well as the ability to work independently. Successful completion of both years, Spanish 1A (7th grade) and Spanish 1(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 1A and Spanish 1, 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 1A and Spanish1 in middle school. 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 Spanish I is the appropriate placement.

Multimedia I (One Semester) and Video Production I (One Semester):

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 the 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 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 graders who have not previously taken the course.

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 assigned tasks.

Broadcast (Full Year): APPLICATION REQUIRED

Students must apply for admission to this course. 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 Stafford-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; they will also enhance their understanding of good journalism techniques such as interviewing, camera presence, and script writing. **Video Production/Multimedia I are prerequisites for Broadcast**

Digital Graphics and Animation (Full Year):

Animation 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. **Video Production/Multimedia I are prerequisites for Animation**

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.

Career Investigations (One Semester) and Teen Leadership (One Semester)

Career Investigations: This course will focus on achieving proficiency in decision making and problem solving as 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.

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, skills in affirmation, actions of personal responsibility and conflict resolution.

Health Education (Full Year)*:

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

Yearbook (Full Year): APPLICATION REQUIRED

Students must apply for admission to this course. Students enrolling in Journalism 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 school yearbook. This course teaches basic journalism and printing terms, layout designs and copy preparation.

Student Aide (Full Year): APPLICATION REQUIRED

Students will be assigned to assist in the Main office, Counselors' office, Library, Band or in Learning Lab. An application process will be used in the selection of the students.

*Beginning with the class of 2017 high school courses taken in middle school will count in a student's high school GPA.

**All course offerings are subject to change. Funding levels and student interest may affect whether or not an offering is available.

Student Registration Information

By signing below, you (the parent or guardian) understand and acknowledge the following statements:

1. **Labs (for all grade levels):** If your child does not meet expectations on any section of District or State Assessments, he or she will be scheduled into an appropriate lab class. In addition, according to district guidelines, students who narrowly met the passing standard on district benchmarks or state assessments may also be included in a pull-out tutorial program. According to state law, we are required to provide your child with intense accelerated instruction to promote future academic success. This class(es) will take the place of one or more electives.
2. **New Students:** Students transferring from another Texas school must provide TAKS results from the most recent administration. If TAKS results are not available immediately, or if a student does not have TAKS results, a released TAKS test may be administered to determine the class schedule that is most appropriate for the student.

Pre-AP, Algebra I* and Spanish* Expectations: 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, Algebra I and/or Spanish I is the appropriate placement. ** Beginning with the class of 2017 high school courses taken in middle school will count in a student's high school GPA.

3. **Schedule Changes:** Schedule changes are subject to availability in the class requested. Students need to choose classes carefully and understand the schedule change policy. Schedule changes will be allowed the first week of each semester. After that time students will need to stay in their elective choice.

Exceptions to this policy will be students who:

- a. are enrolled in a class twice
- b. are enrolled in too many or too few classes
- c. need to move from Pre-AP to on-level or vice versa

4. All course offerings are subject to change. Funding levels and student interest may affect whether or not an offering is available.

Parent Signature

Date