

Clark Middle School

4600 Colby Drive
Frisco, Texas 75035



8th Grade Course Guide 2009-2010

8th Grade Counselor: Misty Planey
8th Grade Principal: Amy Reed

Student Registration Guidelines – 8th Grade

GENERAL INFORMATION

TAKS (for all grade levels):

If your child does not meet expectations on any section of TAKS, he or she will be scheduled into the appropriate TAKS preparation class. 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.

Student Success Initiative:

The SSI requires that, beginning in 2007-2008, Grade 8 students must meet the passing standard on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests in reading and mathematics before they can be promoted to Grade 9.

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 will be administered to determine a class schedule that is most appropriate for the student.

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 not be permitted after the first week of school, unless initiated and/or approved by an administrator.

Exceptions to this policy will be students who:

- Are enrolled in a class twice
- Are enrolled in too many or too few classes
- Need to move from Pre-AP to on-level or vice versa

Physical Education: All middle school students must complete 4 semesters of physical education before entering high school.

GPA Notice

The State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education are currently considering changes regarding the calculation for the GPA for the freshman class of 2009 as of print date. These changes have not been finalized. More information will be shared as it becomes available. The proposal includes counting grades from high school courses taken in middle school (Algebra, Health, and Spanish) towards the student's overall High School G.P.A. (Grade Point Average).

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES (Pre-AP)

Overview

The Pre-AP program is designed to empower students with the skills necessary to succeed in the high school Honors/Advanced Placement classes. Pre-AP courses give students the chance to improve their critical thinking skills in a student-oriented learning environment while exposing them to rigorous and advanced curriculum. High expectations for behavior, self-discipline, and academics will be in place for all enrolled students.

Pre-AP Guidelines: (English, Reading and Science):

It is highly recommended that students only enroll in Pre-AP courses if they meet the following specifications:

1. A classroom average of 90 % or higher in the subject area;
2. Score 85% or higher on the TAKS;
3. Score a COGAT score of 110 or higher.

Math Pre-AP Entrance Requirements:

Enrolling in a Pre-AP math class on the 8th grade level requires certain testing and GPA requirements. The requirements for Pre-AP 8th grade math and Pre-AP 8th grade math are outlined below (see “Requirements for Enrolling in Pre-AP Math”). Please note that you must meet ALL these requirements in order to qualify for enrollment in 8th grade Pre-AP.

Maintenance Requirements for Advanced Courses

To remain in these courses, students must maintain certain academic standards:

- Pre-AP, Algebra 1, Spanish IA & IB:
A student who earns a 79 or below in a six week grading period will be placed on academic probation. If a 79 or below is earned for two consecutive six weeks, the student will be placed into the corresponding regular level class. Students enrolled in these courses should expect high standards and an additional time requirement.
- Spanish IA and IB
Spanish I is offered in grades 7 and 8 for high school credit. Successful completion of both years, Spanish IA (8th grade) and Spanish IB (8th grade), with a final grade of 80% or above each year, is required in order to receive the high school credit. Students must have a final grade of 80 or above to enroll in Spanish 1B. To obtain high school credit, students must complete both Spanish 1A and 1B with a final grade of 80 or above. Upon successful completion of both Spanish I A and B, students will receive foreign language credit toward high school graduation, however, this class will not be included in the overall high school G.P.A. 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. A student who earns a 79 or below in a six week grading period will be placed on academic probation. If a 79 or below is earned for two consecutive six weeks, the student will be placed into an alternative elective.

Requirements for Enrolling in Pre-AP Math

CURRENTLY IN REGULAR MATH WANTING ALGEBRA I

If a student is currently in Regular 7th grade math and wishes to enroll in 8th Grade Algebra I:

- 1) **The student must score a 90% on both Part 1 and Part 2 of the Texas Tech 8th Grade Math Credit by Examination.** This exam is given in the spring, and the student's parent must notify the counselor that the student wishes to take this test during spring registration so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
- 2) **The student must score at least 85% or higher on the 7th grade TAKS test.** This is not based on the scale score, yet the actual percentage of problems answered correctly.
- 3) **The student must have an average of 70% or higher on all benchmark tests from the 7th grade year.**
- 4) **The student must score an 85% or higher on the IAAT (Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test).** This test will be administered during the spring semester to all students that have signed up for Algebra I during registration.
- 5) **The student must finish the year with an average of 92% or higher in the 7th grade math class.**

CURRENTLY IN PRE-AP MATH WANTING ALGEBRA

If a student is currently in Pre-AP 7th grade math and wishes to enroll in 8th Grade Algebra I:

The student must meet 2 out of 3 of the following standards:

- **The student must score at least 85% or higher on the 7th grade TAKS test.** This is not based on the scale score, yet the actual percentage of problems answered correctly.
- **The student must finish the year with an average of 88% or higher in the 7th grade Pre-AP math class.**
- **The student must score an 85% or higher on the IAAT (Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test).** This test will be administered during the spring semester to all 7th grade Pre-AP math students.

CURRENTLY IN PRE-AP MATH WANTING GEOMETRY

If a student is currently in Pre-AP 7th grade math and wishes to enroll in Geometry for the 8th grade year:

The student must score a 90% on both Part 1 and Part 2 of the Texas Tech Algebra I Math Credit by Examination Exam. This exam is given in the spring, and the student's parent must notify the counselor that the student wishes to take this test during spring registration so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If a student is currently in Algebra I (as a 7th grader), the student will be able to enroll for Geometry in the 8th grade year as long as credit is received for Algebra I.

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Eighth Grade Core 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. Summer reading is required. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation. Please be sure to read the Pre-AP Guidelines found at the back of this catalog.**

Reading (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. **Only those students who have been identified as G/T by FISSD will be permitted to enroll in this class.**

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.

Algebra I (Full Year)

Algebra I will include the following concepts: operations with real numbers and properties of real numbers, linear equations and inequalities with one variable, linear equations and inequalities with two variables, skills associated with polynomials and rational expressions, properties of roots and operations with radicals and quadratic equations. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance and standardized test scores. Please be sure

to read the qualification and maintenance requirements for this course above. Students will **not** be enrolled in this course unless they meet **all requirements**. Upon successful completion of the class, students will receive one of the four math credits required for high school graduation, but this class is not included in the overall high school G.P.A. 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. Students may **not** retake Algebra I for credit at the high school level.

Geometry (Full Year)

Pre-requisite: Algebra I

Geometry will include the following skills: deductive reasoning, lines and angles, basic postulates and theorems, congruent triangles, inequalities, parallel lines, quadrilaterals, area, polygons, circles and geometric solids. 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. Geometry credit is given towards graduation requirements, but this class is not included in the overall high school G.P.A. Even though students receive a math credit for this course, they will still be **required** to take **three** full year math courses during their 9th through 12th grade years.

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. Students should expect an additional time requirement for this class and be willing to work independently. Student admission will be based on previous academic performance, standardized test scores and teacher recommendation. **Please be sure to read the Pre-AP Guidelines found above.**

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.

Eighth Grade Elective Courses

Art III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 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.

Broadcast

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Video Production I and Multimedia I

In this course, students will use the software applications Adobe Photoshop Elements and Final Cut Express Software to learn how to integrate digital graphics with video segments to create their projects. Students will be responsible for producing bi-weekly KUGR broadcasts that will be shown to the campus and to the community via cable Channel 76. Higher level movie editing techniques and multimedia will enhance the student's skills with the Mac computer and video equipment and understanding of good journalism techniques, such as interviewing, camera presence, and script writing. **Please note that students cannot enroll in both Broadcast and Video Production II / Multimedia II electives.**

Digital Graphics and Animation

This is a course designed for students to investigate and increase their understanding of creating digital graphics and animation. Students will learn the art of animation from the history to its current uses. Sketching, creating storylines, and making models of self-created characters will be incorporated into the basic understanding of animation. Using Animation Master, a state-of-the-art modeling, animation, and rendering software, students will learn basic animation and design techniques and terminology.

Health

Health Education stresses concepts and skills that foster individual personal health and safety, health-related concepts and skills that invoke interaction between individuals and health-related concepts and skills that affect the well-being of people collectively.

Following successful completion of this course, high school credit will be given; however the grade earned will not be included in the overall high school G.P.A.

Keyboarding / Technology Applications 8

- Keyboarding (One Semester)

Students will learn the “touch keyboarding skill” and the proper formatting of documents for personal and business use. There will be opportunities for students to apply their keyboarding skills in “real life” situations. Students will be helped to achieve their potential in speed and accuracy. While not a mandatory requirement for advanced computer and business classes, keyboarding provides essential skills for success in these areas. **Following successful completion of this course, high school credit will be given as a one-semester elective,**

however the grade earned will not be included in the overall high school G.P.A.

- Technology Applications 8 (One Semester)

By using technology as a tool that supports the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create a solution, and evaluate the results. Students communicate information in different formats and to diverse audiences. A variety of technologies will be used with emphasis on the Microsoft Office Suite software. Students will analyze and evaluate the results.

Spanish 1B

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish 1A

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. Successful completion of two years of instruction with a final grade of 80% or above for each year, is required in order to receive high school credit, however, this class will not be 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. *Please be sure to read the maintenance requirements for this course above.**

Teen Leadership

This class consists of learning how to develop relationships, self-reflection, conflict resolution, understanding and presenting a positive image, taking responsibility, interacting with others and various aspects of leadership. The course is conducted using small group activities, speeches, letter/paper writing and other exercises.

Theatre Arts III

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Theatre Arts II

The focus of this advanced theatre class is on theatre production and performance. Students will be expected to be responsible and mature, as they will work independently on many assignments.

Video Production II and Multimedia II

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Video Production I and Multimedia I

- Video Production II (One Semester)
This course is a continuation of Video Production I, designed to enhance the student's editing ability by exposing them to Final Cut Express software. Students will have the opportunity to videotape outside assignments during this class.
- Multimedia II (One Semester)
This course is a continuation of Multimedia I. Adobe Photoshop Elements is used to produce projects such as Movie Posters, Panoramas, Caricatures, and Soda Pop

Art. Presentations will be done using PowerPoint where the advanced techniques of hyperlinks and graphs will be used.

Please note that students cannot enroll in both Broadcast and Video Production II / Multimedia II electives.

Yearbook 8

Enrollment for Yearbook is by application. Teacher/Sponsor must give approval before choosing this elective.

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 the basic journalism and printing terms, layout designs, copy preparation, and digital photography. Students will learn state of the art graphic software while using InDesign software on Macintosh computers to produce the yearbook.