



TYLER ISD

SUCCESSFUL STUDENT OUTCOMES

**Middle School
Course Guide
2024-2025**

English/Language Arts & Reading:

English Language Arts and Reading

6th Grade

Students will engage in meaningful activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills in five key areas: reading, writing, research, listening and speaking, oral and written conventions

English Language Arts and Reading Honors

6th Grade

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Pre Advanced Placement (PAP) courses at the high school level. Students will engage in reading, writing, and oral language activities at an advanced degree of depth and complexity.

English Language Arts and Reading

7th Grade

Students will engage in meaningful activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills in five key areas: reading, writing, research, listening and speaking, oral and written conventions

English Language Arts and Reading Honors

7th Grade

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Pre Advanced Placement (PAP) courses at the high school level. Students will engage in reading, writing, and oral language activities at an advanced degree of depth and complexity.

English Language Arts and Reading

8th Grade

Students will engage in meaningful activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills in five key areas: reading, writing, research, listening and speaking, oral and written conventions

English Language Arts and Reading Honors

8th Grade

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Pre Advanced Placement (PAP) courses at the high school level. Students will engage in reading, writing, and oral language activities at an advanced degree of depth and complexity.

Mathematics:

Mathematics

6th Grade

This course will develop and extend procedures for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of integers and positive rational numbers. Students will also develop an understanding of and solve ratio and rate problems, create equivalent ratios that describe situations that involve proportionality, solve problems involving proportional relationship, use expressions and equations to represent relationships in a variety of contexts, use mathematical symbols to represent linear relationships and formulas, and understand and use descriptions of center, spread, and shape to summarize and compare data sets. Students will organize and display data to pose and solve problems, develop personal financial literacy, and explore the use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations.

Mathematics Honors

6th Grade

Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

Students will study all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills required for grade 6 and be enrolled in SpringBoard Mathematics Course 1. The additional content will include a deeper understanding of the 6th grade TEKS and will include an exposure to the following 7th grade TEKS: modeling functions in numbers, equations, tables, and graphs; communicating math verbally, with the ability to justify answers and clearly label charts and graphs; and reading and representing data in a variety of forms and using multiple representations to communicate math concepts. The additional content is in preparation for Algebra I (a high school course) in eighth grade.

Mathematics Accelerated (Moore Only)

6th Grade

Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

Students will study all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills required for grade 6 and a portion of grade 7. Students will be enriched with SpringBoard Mathematics Courses 1 and 2. Additional content will include modeling functions in numbers, equations, tables, and graphs; communicating math verbally, with the ability to justify answers and clearly label charts and graphs; reading and representing data in a variety of forms and using multiple representations to communicate math concepts; acquiring an understanding of functions in the context of algebra and graphs writing, solving, and graphing linear equations; recognizing, and verbalizing patterns, and model slope as a rate of change. The additional content is in preparation for Algebra I (a high school course) in 7th grade.

Mathematics**7th Grade**

Students will develop fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers and use the operations to solve problems. Students use reasoning about ratios, rates, proportionality, and percent to solve problems select, justify, and use appropriate symbolic representations to solve problems in varied contexts, including use of geometric formulas for pyramids and circles. Students use representations of center, spread, and shape to compare and form inferences about sets of data, and develop personal financial literacy through the use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations.

Mathematics Honors**7th Grade****Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process**

Students will study all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills required for grade 7 and a portion of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for grade 8. Students will be enriched with SpringBoard Mathematics Courses 2 and 3. The additional content will include acquiring an understanding of functions in the context of algebra and graphs writing, solving, and graphing linear equations, recognizing, and verbalizing patterns, and model slope as a rate of change, communicating problem-solving methods and Investigating concepts presented visually and verbally. This course serves as preparation for Algebra I (a high school course) in eighth grade.

Mathematics**8th Grade**

In this course students will extend their understanding of proportionality to include representations on a coordinate plane and applications, including slopes of lines, contrast proportional relationships with relationships that are not proportional, select and use expressions and equations to represent and solve problems involving rational numbers, use geometric properties, including the Pythagorean Theorem, to solve problems, use representations of association, center, and variation to make inferences from data, and develop personal financial literacy. Students will use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations.

Mathematics Honors**8th Grade****Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process**

Students will study all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills required for grade 8 and be enriched with SpringBoard Mathematics Course 3. Extend concepts include writing algebraic models from a variety of physical, numeric, and verbal descriptions, solving equations using a variety of methods, justifying answers using precise mathematical language, using technology to solve problems, and reinforcing and extending the vocabulary of probability and statistics.

Pre-AP Algebra I**8th Grade****Prerequisite: Math 8 or its equivalent; approval through District Placement Process**

Students follow the College Board Framework to develop a deep understanding of linear relationships emphasizing patterns of change, multiple representations of functions and equations, modeling real world scenarios with functions, and methods for finding and representing solutions of equations and inequalities as an extension of regular Algebra 1 topics. This course is worth one high school credit and requires the Algebra 1 end-of-course exam.

Pre-AP Geometry with Statistics**8th Grade****Prerequisite: Pre-AP Algebra I & a score of “Met Standard” on Algebra I end-of-course exam**

Students follow the College Board Framework to use the mathematical knowledge and skills they have developed previously to problem solve across the domains of algebra, geometry, and statistics as an extension of regular Geometry topics. This course is worth one high school credit. Students enrolled in this course will take the 8th grade math STAAR exam.

Science:

Science

6th Grade

Grade 6 science is interdisciplinary in nature and will cover topics including matter, energy, force, motion, earth, space and life sciences. Much of the content focus in 6th is on physical science. The student, for at least 40% of instructional time, conducts laboratory and field investigations following safety procedures and environmentally appropriate and ethical practices.

Science Honors

6th Grade

Honors Science emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving and is recommended for students who have demonstrated an interest in science. Grade 6 science is interdisciplinary in nature and will cover topics including matter, energy, force, motion, earth, space and life sciences. Much of the content focus in 6th is on physical science. The student, for at least 40% of instructional time, conducts laboratory and field investigations following safety procedures and environmentally appropriate and ethical practices. Students in Honors Science will extend their knowledge and apply their scientific skills by solving complex problems.

Science

7th Grade

Grade 7 science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. The students apply critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as they engage in their study of physical, earth, and life sciences. The student, for at least 40% of instructional time, conducts laboratory and field investigations following safety procedures and environmentally appropriate and ethical practices.

Science Honors

7th Grade

Science honors for 7th requires students to perform field and laboratory investigations at a more advanced level as they learn Grade 7 science concepts. The content is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. The student, for at least 40% of instructional time, conducts laboratory and field investigations following safety procedures and environmentally appropriate and ethical practices. Students in Honors Science will extend their knowledge and apply their scientific skills by solving complex problems.

Science

8th Grade

Grade 8 science is interdisciplinary in nature and covers aspects for physical, earth, space and life sciences; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. To develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world, students must become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, ways of formulating questions, ways of proposing explanations, and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on evidence derived from their work. The student, for at least 40% of instructional time, conducts laboratory and field investigations following safety procedures and environmentally appropriate and ethical practices.

Science Honors**8th Grade**

Grade 8 science is interdisciplinary in nature and covers aspects for physical, earth, space and life sciences; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. To develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world, students must become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, ways of formulating questions, ways of proposing explanations, and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on evidence derived from their work. The student, for at least 40% of instructional time, conducts laboratory and field investigations following safety procedures and environmentally appropriate and ethical practices. Students in Honors Science will extend their knowledge and apply their scientific skills by solving complex problems.

Social Studies:

Social Studies World Cultures

6th Grade

Students will use critical thinking skills to study people and places of the contemporary world within broad regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and East Asia. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies. Students identify locations and geographic characteristics as well as different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. Students also describe the nature of citizenship in various societies and compare institutions common to all societies such as education and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of selected societies. Students will be expected to read write and discuss analytically to increase their knowledge about the various regions.

Social Studies World Cultures Honors

6th Grade

Students will use critical-thinking skills to study people and places of the contemporary world within broad regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and East Asia. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies. Students identify locations and geographic characteristics as well as different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. Students also describe the nature of citizenship in various societies and compare institutions common to all societies such as education and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of selected societies. Self-motivated students will be expected to read, write, and work more independently and with greater depth and complexity in preparation for pre advanced placement courses in high school.

Texas History

7th Grade

Texas History tells the stories of people, events, and institutions from the state's earliest civilizations to modern times. It touches upon and includes all of the social studies disciplines. People's beliefs, the ways they meet their economic needs, form, and the culture they transmit from one generation to another are all a part of Texas history. So, too, is geography, which tells the story of where events took place and the interaction between people and places. The themes of location, region, place, movement, and human environment interaction are woven through the chronological story of all the peoples of Texas. Carefully planned activities and projects help students go beyond the rote learning of events and dates to gain an understanding of how and why events occurred and their historical significance.

7th Grade Texas History Honors**7th Grade**

In Texas History Honors 7, students will be able to identify various aspects of the Lone Star State. The history of Texas will come alive through structured projects that give student hands-on experiences in understanding how people of the past affect the present and future. A major component of this course will be the interaction of students within group settings, and their ability to recognize relationships and draw conclusions among their peers. Whether students are learning how to read or use maps or determining how Texas gained its independence, organization and clarity of ideas will be important to their success. Development of problem-solving skills as well as learning decision making processes will be emphasized.

8th Grade US History**8th Grade**

This course exposes students to materials and information covering prehistoric times through 1877. Several themes such as exploration, colonization, independence, nationalism, expansionism, conflict and resolution and basic human rights are strongly embedded in the program. Many opportunities are provided for integrating technology through research and presentation of projects. Regular classroom work, homework, projects, and tests are used to assess progress on an ongoing basis.

8th Grade US History Honors**8th Grade**

In U.S. History Honors 8, student instruction is accelerated allowing for more in-depth coverage of topics and time for project-based learning. This course exposes students to materials and information covering prehistoric times through 1877. Several themes such as exploration, colonization, independence, nationalism, expansionism, conflict and resolution, and basic human rights are strongly embedded in this program. Many opportunities are provided for integrating technology through research and presentation of projects.

Electives:

Anatomy (Moore Only)

7th Grade

The Anatomy and Physiology course is designed for students to conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students in Anatomy and Physiology will study a variety of topics, including the structure and function of the human body and the interaction of body systems for maintaining homeostasis.

Art

6th-8th Grade

Visual Arts introduces students to art: its histories, criticism, theories, and production. The academic focus is on the elements and principles of design, cultural studies, and art history. The studio focus is expressing feelings and ideas through a variety of visual mediums, processes, problem-solving, and high-level thinking skills relating to art and composing the visual elements.

Art Appreciation

7th-8th Grade

Art Appreciation: incorporates the study of dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts to offer unique experiences and empower students to explore realities, relationships, and ideas.

Astronomy (Moore Only)

8th Grade

In Astronomy, students focus on patterns, processes, and relationships among astronomical objects in our universe. Students acquire basic astronomical knowledge and supporting evidence about sun-Earth-Moon relationships, the solar system, the Milky Way, the size and scale of the universe, and the benefits and limitations of exploration.

Athletics – Boys

7th-8th Grade

Athletics offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which students may participate. The emphasis is on providing a fundamental foundation for the young athlete in order to prepare them for the more demanding high school athletic program. The boys' program offers football, cross-country, basketball, swim, tennis, and track. During the time that a sport is not in season, athletes will participate in a strengthening condition program. Some activities will require tryouts to select team members. *Completion of a medical history, physical exam and parental permission forms are required prior to participation. Students must meet state mandated academic and attendance requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

Athletics - Girls**7th-8th Grade**

Athletics offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which students may participate. The emphasis is on providing a fundamental foundation for the young athlete in order to prepare them for the more demanding high school athletic program. The girls' program offers volleyball, cross-country, basketball, soccer, swim, tennis, and track. During the time that a sport is not in season, athletes will participate in a strengthening condition program. Some activities will require tryouts to select team members. *Completion of a medical history, physical exam and parental permission forms are required prior to participation. Students must meet state mandated academic and attendance requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

AVID**6th Grade**

The sixth grade AVID Elective course is an introduction to the AVID philosophy. Students will develop awareness of the values accompanying academic goals and success. The course will focus on building self-confidence and communication skills in working with peers and adults. Students will be exposed to reading strategies that will assist in vocabulary building and understanding a variety of texts, and will also focus on prewriting techniques, summary writing and structural components of note-taking. The students will increase college and career awareness through guest speaker presentations, field trip opportunities and research.

AVID**7th Grade**

The seventh grade AVID Elective course builds upon the components of the AVID philosophy. Students will refine short- and long-term goals, and as a result, begin to understand the value in taking charge of their actions. Students will start working on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills, as well as formal and informal speech. Students will complete self-evaluations and peer evaluations, related to reading, writing, organization, and speaking. In broadening their writing practice, students will begin considering audience, purpose, and form in their writing. Students will take an active role in their learning, understanding the roles of all members in assignments and collaborative lessons. They will expand their knowledge bases of note-taking, in relation to studying and test preparation. Students will be exposed to different field trips, guest speakers and research, to increase their knowledge of college and career options.

AVID**8th Grade**

The eighth grade AVID Elective course is the year of preparation for high school. The students will regularly exhibit and utilize the skills and strategies learned in the sixth and seventh grade AVID courses. Students will refine previous goals, focusing on their transition to high school as part of a college preparatory path. Their writing will focus on completing all steps of the writing process and varying style, word choice, vocabulary, structure, and voice. Major writing assignments include persuasive, expository, descriptive, and timed writing. Students will transition from active learners to leaders. Other areas of focus include increasing the use of technology and building upon their test preparation and test-taking knowledge. They will broaden their experiences with analyzing text and utilizing appropriate reading strategies in various settings. Students will become more involved in the presentations of guest speakers and field trips, particularly as they relate to preparation and prior knowledge. Students will also participate in college preparatory testing and build connections with the high school they will attend.

Band - Beginning**6th-7th Grade**

Students will be introduced to instrumental music through the selection of a band instrument. Students will learn to read music and basic music theory, including scale studies. Students will learn the elements of tone production, balance, and blend. Students will perform concerts and learn proper concert etiquette.

Band**6th-8th Grade****Prerequisites: Beginning Band**

A student will be placed in a band class with students who have comparable skills. Auditions are required for placement in the more advanced band classes. The overall goals of the band program are to teach students: (1) respect for each other as well as adults, (2) responsibility through a positive work ethic, and (3) a love and respect for music through learning how to play band instruments and working together.

*All students must meet University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines and participate in required band competitions and concerts with after school practices providing a portion of the students' grades for the six weeks average. Students must audition with the Band department.

Career and College Explorations**1 Semester Course****8th Grade**

Career and College Explorations allows students to identify strengths and interests that align to college and career goals and to investigate different endorsements and pathways necessary for high school graduation.

Choir**6th-8th Grade**

A student will be placed in a choir class with students who have comparable skills. Auditions are required for placement in the more advanced choir classes. Beginning choir students will be placed in a beginner class. The Junior High Choir Program focuses on sight-reading knowledge and building vocal skills and technique. Students may select choir and audition to participate in a variety of choirs. All students must meet UIL (University Interscholastic League) guidelines and participate in All- Region competitions as well as Solo & Ensemble Contests outside of the school day. Students must audition with the Choir teacher.

Digital Arts**6th-8th Grade**

Digital/Visual Arts introduces students to art: its histories, criticism, theories, and production. The academic focus is on the elements and principles of design, cultural studies, and art history. The studio focus is expressing feelings and ideas through technology.

Environmental Science (Moore Only)**8th Grade**

In Environmental Systems, students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. Students study a variety of topics that include: biotic and abiotic factors in habitats, ecosystems and biomes, interrelationships among resources and an environmental system, sources and flow of energy through an environmental system, relationship between carrying capacity and changes in populations and ecosystems, and changes in environments.

Exercise Science (Moore Only)**7th-8th Grade**

Students in this course will understand diet and exercise, as well as techniques to help patients recover from injury, illness, and disease. They will also learn about introductory health science topics such as employability skills, lifespan development, and ethical and legal standards.

Forensics (Moore Only)**7th Grade**

Forensic Science is a course that introduces students to the application of science to connect a violation of law to a specific criminal, criminal act, or behavior and victim.

Integrated Physics and Chemistry (Moore Only)**8th Grade**

In Integrated Physics and Chemistry, students conduct laboratory and field investigations, use engineering practices, use scientific practices during investigation, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and scientific problem solving. This course integrates the disciplines of physics and chemistry in the following topics: force, motion, energy, and matter.

Journalism**7th-8th Grade**

Students that enroll in this class will learn important journalism skills in the areas of news writing, editing, photography, layout / design and other elements of production.

Media Studies for Advocacy (Birdwell Only)

7th-8th Grade

An academic Spanish Language Arts elective, in which students use podcasting, vlogging, public speaking and other journalistic skills to identify and offer solutions to community problems.

Orchestra – Beginning

6th-7th Grade

Students will be introduced to instrumental music through the selection of an orchestra instrument. Students will learn to read music and basic music theory, including scale studies. Students will learn the elements of tone production, balance, and blend. Students will perform concerts and learn proper concert etiquette.

Orchestra

6th-8th Grade

Prerequisites: Beginning Orchestra

A student will be placed in an orchestra class with students who have comparable skills. Auditions are required for placement in the more advanced orchestra classes. The overall goals of the orchestra program are to teach students: (1) respect for each other as well as adults, (2) responsibility through a positive work ethic, and (3) a love and respect for music through learning how to play orchestra instruments and working together. *All students must meet University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines and participate in required orchestra competitions and concerts with after school practices providing a portion of the students' grades for the six weeks average. Students must audition with the Orchestra department.

PE Dance

6th-8th Grade

In PE Dance students will learn fundamental skills in these dance techniques: ballet, modern, jazz, tap, folk, character, hip hop, and World Dance.

Physical Education

6th-8th Grade

PE includes a combination of activities designed for improving physical fitness and body strength. It also introduces a variety of team sports, individual sports, and activities. Basic skills, rules and team strategies will be taught. Students are required to actively participate each day in building team play with friendly competitions.

Professional Communications

1 Semester Course

8th Grade

Professional Communications blends written, oral, and graphic communication in a career-based environment. Careers in the global economy require individuals to be creative and have a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong and solid academic foundation, and a proficiency in professional oral and written communication. Within this context, students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research. **Successful completion will result in .5 high school credits.**

Robotics (Three Lakes Only)**8th Grade**

In Robotics, students will transfer academic skills to component designs in a project-based environment through implementation of the design process. Students will build prototypes or use simulation software to test their designs. Additionally, students will explore career opportunities, employer expectations, and educational needs in the robotic and automation industry.

Spanish I ADV**8th Grade****Suggested Prerequisites: Commended Performance on reading STAAR and high English performance**

This is Level I of high school Spanish offering the student the opportunity for acquisition of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The primary objective of the level one course is to develop audio-lingual skills and to obtain a mastery of simple basic communicative structures. The students will develop a cultural appreciation of the Hispanic World and recognize the interdependence of languages. Successful completion will result in 1.0 high school credit.

STEM (Moore & Three Lakes Only)**6th-8th Grade**

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education is a method of hands-on teaching and learning where students learn to apply academic content by creatively solving real-world problems with innovative design-based thinking to prepare students for future career opportunities.

Technology Applications**7th-8th Grade**

Technology applications incorporates the study of digital tools, devices, communication, and programming to empower students to apply current and emerging technologies in their careers, their education, and beyond.

Teen Leadership**7th-8th Grade**

In Teen Leadership students learn leadership, professional, and business skills. They gain an appreciation for the importance of having a vision when setting personal and professional goals

Theatre Arts I (Beginning)**6th-8th Grade**

Students will be introduced to Theatre Arts through character development, physical awareness, safe use of voice, script interpretation, and emotional expression. Concepts introduced include pantomime, improvisation, voice and physical expression, staging, character analysis and performance, audience etiquette, peer evaluation, and self-reflection. This is a collaborative, creative, and “on your feet” opportunity in learning how to control the mind, body, and voice in performance situations.

Theatre Arts II and III**7th-8th Grade****Prerequisites: Beginning Theatre Arts**

Advanced Theatre requires teacher approval. Students will build on the work introduced in Theatre I. Additionally, students will use sensory and emotional recall in their improvisational and prepared performances, understand and use dramatic structure, character analysis, playwriting, and will perform in a play for an audience.

Web Applications**7th-8th Grade**

The Web Development program of study explores the occupations and educational opportunities associated with designing, creating, and modifying websites.