

Hillsboro
Junior High



Course
Handbook

2024-2025

The following is a list of course topics that may be offered to both seventh and eighth grade students for the 2024-2025 school year. These courses are subject to board approval and may change due to staffing or other district/building factors.

ENGLISH COURSES

ENGLISH 7

English Language Arts is the study of both written and spoken language, as well as various literature genres. The language component encompasses paragraph structure, writing styles, grammar conventions, and speaking and listening skills. In addition, the course explores the various literature genres through short stories, novels, dramas, poetry, and informational texts.

Required for all 7th grade students.

ENGLISH 8

In this course students will study all aspects of language arts. The focus of this course is to improve essential reading and writing skills. Students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction works, work on discovering their own voice in writing, as well as work on their listening and public speaking skills. **Required for all 8th grade students (unless taking English I.)**

ENGLISH I

This course is designed to give the student advanced standing with high school credit upon entrance to the high school. Students in this course will read and evaluate a variety of genres. Students will continue to define literary terms and analyze their use in literature. Students will employ the writing process to develop paragraphs and essays. Students will decode vocabulary using context clues. Students will evaluate and synthesize informational text. Students will also study the basics of communication. **Course will be pre-selected based on a set of selection criteria and student assessment.**

MATH COURSES

INTRODUCTION TO PRE-ALGEBRA 7

This course is the first half of a program designed to help the student better understand math skills involving applied arithmetic, pre-algebra, and geometry. These concepts are interwoven with an emphasis on how mathematical operations are used throughout life. This course prepares the student to succeed in Intro to Algebra as an 8th grade student. **Course will be pre-selected based on a set of selection criteria and student assessment.**

PRE-ALGEBRA 7

This course is an advanced course designed to help the student better understand math skills involving applied arithmetic, pre-algebra, and geometry. These concepts are covered in great depth with an emphasis on mathematical operations and theory. This course prepares the student to succeed in Algebra as an 8th grade student. **Course will be pre-selected based on selection criteria and student assessment data.**

PRE ALGEBRA 8

Pre-algebra stresses both the structure algebraic concepts and the development of computational problem solving skills. Problem solving techniques are developed for various types of equations, inequalities, and functions. This course prepares the student to succeed in High School Algebra as a 9th grade student. **Course will be pre-selected based on selection criteria and student assessment data.**

ALGEBRA 8

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra 7 or teacher recommendation

This course is designed to give the student advanced standing with high school credit upon entrance to the high school. This course is a rigorous course designed to study the structure of algebraic concepts and the development of computational problem solving skills. Problem solving techniques are developed for various types of equations, inequalities, and functions. This course prepares the student to succeed in Geometry as a 9th grade student. **Course will be pre-selected based on selection criteria and student assessment data.**

SCIENCE COURSES

SCIENCE 7

This course is designed to focus on astronomy, meteorology, and physical science. This course helps students develop a better sense of the universe, the role of Earth's atmosphere, weather and how it's predicted, as well as forces of motion and electricity. **Required for all 7th grade students.**

SCIENCE 8

This course is designed to study a broad range of scientific concepts. Topics including inquiry, chemistry, geology, and biology will be introduced. **Required for all 8th grade students.**

SOCIAL STUDIES COURSES

SOCIAL STUDIES 7

This course is designed to help students gain an appreciation for world cultures and geography. Students will study locations with a geographical lens and deepen geographic skills. They will also study the various aspects of culture including traditions, customs, and other aspects of life. **Required for all 7th grade students.**

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

The course is a comprehensive study of a variety of topics in American History. Some of the things students will be learning will include early Native Americans, Exploration, Colonial America, the American Revolution, U.S. Government, Industrialization, Westward Expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will be exposed to a variety of differentiated learning styles that include general lecture and discussion, cooperative learning activities (working with partners or groups) and other ways of processing lessons in American

History. Understanding the relevance of history, analyzing information, sequencing, categorizing and comparing and contrasting information will be skills students will develop and use during this course. **Required for all 8th grade students.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course provides students grade level appropriate instruction for individual sports, team sports, recreational activities, and fitness. Students are required to dress out every day and classes include both 7th and 8th graders. Students will participate in PE for 3 quarters of the school year to fulfill the 7th and 8th grade PE requirement. Students will participate in Health class for one quarter of the school year to fulfill the Health requirement. **Required course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

HEALTH

The Health curriculum will change every other year. The units of instruction for Year A will be: Mental Health, Emotional Health, Violence Prevention, and Nutrition. The units of instruction for Year B will be: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Sex Education. This course will have both 7th and 8th grade included in the classroom for one quarter of health in the school year. **Required course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING (*year-long class*)

This course is designed for those seeking to become more athletic. Students will spend time in the weight room working on strength training. Time will also be spent improving speed, agility, quickness, acceleration, flexibility, core strength and hip mobility. **8th grade students may take in place of Physical Education.**

EXPLORATORY COURSES

****Exploratory classes are required for 7th grade students. Students take 1 class per quarter.**

CONSUMER SCIENCE EXPLORATORY

This course is one of a series of nine week courses. This course is designed to introduce students to all areas of Consumer Science. These areas include, Basic Food preparation, Introduction to Clothing construction, Child Development, Consumer Economics, Career Exploration, Personal Responsibility, and any other area related to the family.

MUSIC EXPLORATORY

This course is one of a series of nine week courses. This course is designed to study all aspects of music appreciation. This includes, but is not limited to, Music Theory, Music in the Media, Music Careers, and Composition. There is no singing performance required, however, there are assignments and written work.

GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY (GTT) EXPLORATORY

This course is one of a series of nine week courses. Students will discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy. Students will also learn about the different types of sketching and 3D computer drafting.

CAREERS EXPLORATORY

Careers is one of a series of nine week courses. Students will learn about the skills, both academic and technical, that they will need in order to secure a future career. They will become aware of varying occupations and explore careers that may interest them. Topics that may be covered include career aptitude assessment, resume building, filling out job applications, interviewing techniques and practice, and guidance on professional dress and appearance.

ELECTIVE COURSES

STEM CLASS (*semester class*)

This course covers the automation and robotics unit from the Project Lead the Way technology and engineering program. Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms. **Elective course available for 8th grade students only.**

THE APP CLASS (*semester class*)

In this course, students discover the principles of the fast-growing field of computer science by focusing on creativity and an iterative design process as they create their own basic apps using MIT App Inventor. They venture into text programming through Python and, in the final problem, develop an app to crowdsource and analyze data on a topic of their interest. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

DRAWING (*semester class*)

Students will experience several media, but not limited to pen and ink, charcoal, colored pencil, wood-burning, chalk, and oil pastel. Students will have a better understanding of one point and two point perspective as well as perspective in the round. Students will also learn how to use value and contrast to enhance their composition using several techniques such as cross-hatching, pointillism, and regular value. Students will acquire knowledge in proportions when dealing with foreground, middle ground, and background. Students will have a clear understanding of right brain drawing techniques. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

DRAWING II (*semester class*)

Drawing II will build upon Drawing I and will push the creative and technical components used such as line, form, space, composition, value, color, time, and design. Students will

widen their understanding of different mediums and how these mediums can be used in their own personal works. Each student will learn to be more expressive with the aid of one on one direction, class critiques and individualized class projects. **Elective course for 8th grade students who have successfully completed Drawing I.**

PAINTING (*semester class*)

In this course the student will learn to paint using techniques and materials that could include: acrylics, oils, pastels, and watercolors. Emphasis is placed on developing color schemes and the compositional skills necessary for effective personal expression. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

PRINTMAKING (*semester class*)

Students will use various materials and stamping techniques in order to create a work of art. A variety of materials such as linoleum, plexiglass, wood, foam, clay, yarn, hot wax and stencils may be used in the process. Special emphasis is placed on manipulation of materials, creativity, and problem solving skills. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

3D DESIGN (*semester class*)

A study of art in the third dimension offers the student a selection from the following approaches: carving, modeling, and assemblage. A variety of materials such as clay, stone, paper, wax, fabric, and metals are used. Special emphasis is placed on manipulation of materials and problem solving skills. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

ADVANCED ART (*year-long class*)

This course is a year-long course designed to study various concepts of art. The course is for students who demonstrate the desire and ability to achieve the highest potential in learning the arts. The students will experience a variety of media, tools, and techniques. This class is responsible for painting a mural on the Junior High walls. **Teacher recommendation and portfolio review required. Available to 8th grade students only.**

CONSUMER SCIENCE 8 (*semester class*)

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed the requirements of the seventh grade consumer science course. This course involves advanced cooking techniques, safety and sanitation of the kitchen, and detailed hand/ sewing machine construction of an apron. **Elective course for any 8th grade students or 7th grade students who have completed Consumer Science Expl.**

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (*semester class*)

This course is designed as a basic introduction to computers. Students will spend the first half of class learning to key by touch. The second half of the class will focus on formatting reports, letters, and other documents using Google Docs. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

TASTE OF CULTURE (*semester class*)

This course offers students the opportunity to explore a variety of cultures as well as cook foods based in a particular culture. Students will also experience other craft making

experiences. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

THEATRE (*semester class*)

This course is an introduction to the theatre arts, which would include a basic overview of the different aspects and terminology of theatre. Students will read and analyze various types of dramas. Students will also be expected to collaborate and perform different types of dramatic pieces. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

PAGE TO SCREEN WORKSHOP (*semester class*)

Embark on a unique literary and cinematic journey by taking Page to Screen Workshop. In this elective course, students will dive into the fascinating realm of storytelling through the fusion of literature and film. Through the exploration of short stories, picture books, and novels, participants will unravel the magic behind transforming words on a page into captivating visual narratives on the big screen. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

CREATIVE WRITING (*semester class*)

This course is crafted to inspire and nurture the creative spirit within each student, providing them with the tools and techniques to express themselves through various forms of writing. Throughout the semester, students will embark on a captivating journey through the realms of poetry, short stories, personal narratives, and imaginative writing. The course is structured to foster a supportive and collaborative environment, encouraging students to share their unique voices and perspectives with their peers. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

MEDICAL DETECTIVES (*semester class*)

This course explores the biomedical sciences through hands-on projects and labs that require students to solve a variety of medical mysteries. Students investigate medical careers, vital signs, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, as well as human body systems such as the nervous system. Dissections and DNA crime scene analysis put the students in the place of real life medical detectives. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

MILITARY APPRECIATION

In this course students will learn an appreciation of our United States Military. There will be an emphasis on POW and MIA soldiers and families. Students will widen their understanding and develop empathy for the individuals who have served and sacrificed for our country. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

CO-ED OUTDOOR EDUCATION (*semester class*)

This course offers an opportunity to learn and practice outdoor skills. Students with a love of the outdoors will enjoy learning about Wildlife Conservation, Forest Safety, Knot Tying, Animal Track Identification, Furbearer Management (Trapping), Hunting Safety, Campfire Building, Survival, Angling, Tree Identification, and Bird Watching. All students will have the opportunity to receive their full hunting safety certification through this course. Instructional time for this course will be about sixty percent in the classroom and forty percent outdoors. Students will spend classroom time learning about the activities that they will

practice outside. Students interested in this course need to be in average to good physical condition and be willing to go outside and get their hands dirty. **Elective course for 8th grade students.**

SCHOOL OF ROCK (*semester class*)

This is a semester-long course designed to study all aspects of the Rock N' Roll genre. Throughout the semester, students will study the history of rock by decade, as well as explore its various sub-genres. Students will have the opportunity to form small rock "bands," where they will learn basic skills on the electric guitar, electric bass, and drums. Students will also develop band names, marketing strategies, and plan tours to promote their "band." Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students. **Elective course for 7th and 8th grade students.**

STUDENT COUNCIL

This fun, interactive course will allow students many opportunities to be involved in school activities. Students will work on a variety of community and school service projects. This course will allow students to learn leadership skills, provide community service, and demonstrate teamwork. This course requires attendance at-school and after-school events. **Offered to 7th and 8th Grade students during LAB. Must be a good school citizen and complete the required questionnaire and interview to be considered for selection. Student's grade average must be a C or higher with no behavior write-ups.**

7TH GRADE MIXED CHOIR (*year-long class*)

This course is for any 7th grader who loves to sing. There is not an audition for this class but students are eligible to audition for Honor Choir and/or Hawkapella in the fall. Students in this course start learning music in 2-3 part harmony and basic theory as well as sight reading. Performances will include the Cardinals game, 2-3 concerts and 2-3 contests during the school year. **Elective course for 7th graders.**

8TH GRADE MIXED CHOIR (*year-long class*)

This course is for any 8th grader who loves to sing. There is not an audition for this class but students are eligible to audition for Honor Choir and/or Hawkapella in the fall. Students in this course learn music in 3-4 part harmony as well as slightly more advanced theory and sight reading. Performances will include the Cardinals game, 2-3 concerts, and 2-3 contests during the school year. This includes Music in the Parks, where students go to Six Flags as a reward at the end of the school year. **Elective course for 8th graders.**

7th GRADE CONCERT BAND (*year-long class*)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6th grade band

This is a full year course designed to build on the instrumental foundations established during sixth grade band. Students will gain an expanded range on their instruments as well as achieving proficiency in more advanced musical concepts. Students in this ensemble are eligible for participation in the Jefferson County Middle School Honor Band. Attendance is required at two to three performances throughout the school year. Grading is based on in-class playing tests, participation, preparedness and performance attendance.

8th GRADE CONCERT BAND (*year-long class*)

Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6th and 7th grade band

This is a full year course designed to “bridge the gap” between the junior high band student and high school band. Students will continue to advance conceptually and will gain a firm understanding of music fundamentals necessary for a successful transition to high school band. Students in this ensemble are eligible to audition for East Central District Junior High Honor Band. Attendance is required at four to five performances throughout the school year, including one performance opportunity outside the Hillsboro District. Grading is based on in-class playing tests, participation, preparedness and performance attendance.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE (*year-long class*)

Prerequisite: 6th grade band

Co requisite: 7th or 8th grade concert band, audition only

Jazz Ensemble is an auditioned group consisting of both seventh and eighth grade band students. This ensemble rehearses in the junior high band room during the school day. As members of this group, students will solidify their understanding of basic jazz concepts in addition to achieving proficiency of solo improvisation. Students participating in Jazz Ensemble must be enrolled in Concert Band for their respective grade level. Auditions will be held in April for placement in the following year’s ensemble. Members of Jazz Ensemble are eligible to audition for East Central All-District Jazz Band in November of each school year. Attendance is required at four to five performances throughout the school year including jazz festivals, school concerts and community events. Grading is based on in-class playing tests, participation, preparedness and performance attendance.

TEACHER/OFFICE AIDE (*semester or year-long class*)

This course is designed to give students, with satisfactory academic performance, an opportunity to assist teachers in their Junior High classrooms. **This course is limited in size so placement will be made by selection and teacher recommendation. Student’s grade average must be a B or higher with no behavior write-ups and have good attendance.**