

Willow Springs Middle School
Academic Planning Guide
2024-2025



Lovejoy Independent School District
259 Country Club Road, Allen, TX 75002
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

This document provides the detailed Academic Planning Guide for Willow Springs Middle School. It includes middle school course descriptions that allow students and parents to make informed decisions about course selections.

As you use this guide to plan your child's courses at Willow Springs Middle School, please consider the following:

Middle school is a time for the exploration of interests, discovery of talents, and development of skills. Students are encouraged to sample a wide variety of course offerings and to participate in multiple extracurricular activities. Students who have had a diverse middle school experience are often more equipped to define their goals in high school.

Middle school academic programming is structured to provide developmentally sound courses that will support the learning required in high school. The best predictor for success in college is the completion of a rigorous secondary school curriculum.

In the spring semester of each year, Lovejoy ISD students who will be enrolled in grades 7 and 8 will receive information on multi-year plans designed to plot the necessary coursework that will meet graduation requirements, fulfill individual student goals, and provide for a successful transition to the post high school years.

I look forward to working in close partnership with you throughout your child's middle school years. Please know that I am committed to establishing a learning community where we promote the development of body, mind, and character for each student.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Eldredge
Principal



Lovejoy Independent School District Graduate Profile

Major precepts pursued by each graduating Lovejoy High School senior

Intellectually Equipped

The Lovejoy graduate has faced a challenging curriculum that has prepared him or her for a successful college experience. The courses taken at Lovejoy matched the student's strengths and interests, as well as challenged his/her mind, imagination, feelings and social consciousness. The Lovejoy graduate is able to think critically and can express ideas clearly through oral and written expression. He or she has developed an academic skill set that allows for mastery of highly rigorous coursework. The graduate has learned to discern quality work from mediocre efforts and has chosen to pursue excellence by relying on self-discipline, initiative, creativity and integrity.

Open to the Challenges of Learning

The Lovejoy graduate has a diverse background of formational experiences that have given him/her opportunities to learn and grow. The graduating senior has learned to be reflective and self-evaluative. Having experienced Lovejoy High School as a safe haven for the mistakes and false starts inherent in learning, the graduate understands that risk-taking and resiliency are necessary for growth. He or she values being viewed as an adult and feels prepared to manage more complex responsibilities. The Lovejoy graduate accepts the challenges of lifelong learning.

Well-Rounded

The Lovejoy graduate has had a variety of experiences beyond the classroom. Opportunities to excel in art and music, on the stage and on the athletic fields have led the graduate to view aesthetic and physical development as essential to an education. The graduate has participated in extracurricular activities that promote teamwork, leadership, responsibility, humility and physical and emotional fitness. In competitive arenas, the graduate has learned the value of fair play and respect for teammates and adversaries alike.

Engaged in a Healthy Lifestyle

The Lovejoy graduate has demonstrated the self-discipline to pursue physical, cognitive and emotional health. She or he has developed the desire to engage in a healthy lifestyle, including a life-long commitment to physical activity. The Lovejoy student understands the physiological effects of lifestyle – including nutrition, exercise, and high-risk behaviors – on long-term health. He or she has developed the habits and self-discipline to achieve life-long wellness.

Fair and Respectful of Others

The Lovejoy graduate has had the opportunity to interact with students, teachers, administrators and parents in a variety of settings. He or she has chosen to act in accordance with the principle - treat others as he or she would want to be treated. These experiences have led the student to go outside himself or herself to find happiness and joy in the love, friendship, and companionship of others.

Works for Justice in the Community

The Lovejoy graduate has experienced the satisfaction of giving and service. She/He has learned through service projects to comprehend the abstract ideas of justice and community. The student has begun to appreciate the need to couple ethical thinking with ethical action. Ultimately, the Lovejoy graduate has learned to respond in love and service to those in need and now strives to move beyond self-interest in relationships with others.

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Nondiscrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Lovejoy School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of the Lovejoy School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Lovejoy ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact Kevin Parker (kevin_parker@lovejoyisd.net) at 259 Country Club Road, Allen, Texas, 75002 469-742-8000.

Planning Your Middle School Program and Beyond



Lovejoy ISD offers a wide array of programs that are designed to meet the academic needs and interest of middle school students and to prepare them for high school course selections and requirements. It is recommended that students and parents think in terms of a **six-year plan** that includes not only middle school considerations, but possible high school choices as well.

Academic Considerations

Levels of Academic Instruction

Lovejoy believes that every student should have the opportunity to achieve his/her highest potential. To meet the individual academic needs of each student, Willow Springs provides different levels of instruction for the core academic areas of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.

- **Academic Courses**
These courses offer instruction that covers the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Instruction is aligned to the rigor of the grade-level standards.
- **Advanced** (Preparation for Advanced Placement)
Advanced courses are core academic courses that are aligned with the Advanced Placement courses offered at the high school level. Advanced courses are designed to challenge motivated students to understand academically rigorous material and are open to all students willing to accept that challenge. Both Academic and Advanced courses teach the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students that select Advanced are expected to maintain an 80 average in the course. Typically, successful advanced students are self-motivated, maintain A's and high B's in all subject areas, master all TEKS objectives, and are successful in simultaneously managing multiple tasks.
- **Gifted and Talented (G/T)**
Gifted and Talented (G/T) courses are designed to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the gifted learner. G/T courses teach the same content as the Advanced courses, with depth and complexity. G/T core courses are enriched by a thematic leadership study at each grade level. Click [here](#) for more information about the [Lovejoy ISD G/T Program](#).

Special Services

Individualized instruction is always available for those students who need additional support to ensure their success.

- **Special Education/504/Dyslexia Support**

Students identified as needing special education, 504, or dyslexia services have access to a variety of special programming, including life skills, resource math and language arts, inclusion support in regular education classes, and dyslexia support, including multi-sensory reading classes. Students are placed in appropriate courses according to their learning needs, as specified by their dyslexia, ARD, LPAC, or 504 committees. Click here for more information about [Lovejoy Special Services](#).

- **English as a Second Language (ESL)**

English as a Second Language (ESL) classes are available at all levels. Students will be individually matched to an appropriate level of instruction.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses:

Middle school students have the opportunity to take introductory Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. Students do receive high school credit for these introductory courses. The introductory course content and workload prepare students to take CTE courses in high school.

No Pass No Play:

Students are required to maintain a 70 average or above in all coursework to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities including sports, fine arts, etc. Please visit with your campus administrator for additional information and guidelines.

Middle School Requirements

Subject Area or Equivalent Programs	7th Grade Required Courses	8th Grade Required Courses
Reading Language Arts	1 year	1 year
Mathematics*	1 year	1 year
Science	1 year	1 year
Social Studies	1 year	1 year
Physical Education	1 year	1 year
Electives	4 semester credits** (some electives are year-long courses and some are semester courses)	4 semester credits** (some electives are year-long courses and some are semester courses)

*Students enrolled in a double-block mathematics course will have one less elective.

**Students are required to participate in one full year of fine arts courses in grade 6, 7 or 8.

Practical Suggestions for Students and Parents

When planning a middle school course of study, keep in mind your student's abilities and interests.

- Participate in school-related activities, school-sponsored clubs, and community service. Being involved in school programs and community service contributes to developing a well-rounded, responsible citizen.
- Students are encouraged to advocate for themselves and communicate with their teachers regarding their grades and academic progress.
- Begin keeping a resume or portfolio of student accomplishments. Portfolios are an excellent way to save a quantity of superior student efforts over a period of years. All records should be updated yearly.
- Integrate technology into studies and life. Post secondary success will require a high level of knowledge and skill in the use of technology.
- Establish good study habits and organizational skills during the middle school years. The use of a planner, calendar or agenda is crucial for keeping up with daily assignments, tests, and long-term projects. Designate a quiet place for your student to study and complete assignments.

Schedule Changes

Master schedule and staffing needs are based on initial student requests for electives. Classes fill up quickly and may not be offered during all class periods. Schedule changes are occasionally necessary. In these cases, please consider the following:

- Please contact the counselor to request a schedule change for academic or program needs. In some cases, requests may require principal approval.
- Athletics and year-long electives require extra time and effort. Please take academic and family obligations into account before making these commitments.
- No drops, adds, or schedule changes will be allowed after the tenth instructional day of the semester. Requests after this time will be considered on an individual basis.

Alternative Methods for Earning High School Credits

High School Courses taken in Middle School

Some LISD middle school courses can count for high school credit. This is noted in the description of the course. Credits for high school courses are awarded in either half- or whole-credit units. Students may earn high school credit for a course only once. All grades earned for high school courses taken in middle school will appear on the high school transcript but will not count in GPA calculation or class rank. Students who transfer into LISD with earned credit for a middle school course in their previous district will receive the same credit in LISD.

Students who earn credit for Algebra I and/or Geometry in middle school should plan to continue with higher-level mathematics courses in grades 9-12. Students must enroll in a math course each year of high school.

Credit by Examination (CBE)

Students may take district-approved examinations for acceleration or credit recovery. Students must complete a Request for CBE signed by their parent/guardian according to the [published district deadlines](#). Requests will be reviewed by counselors. Students may take only one semester CBE per course during each published test date. When credit is granted through examination, scores will appear on the student's transcript but will not be factored into GPA.

- **With Prior Instruction** Students who have received sufficient prior instruction in a subject may earn credit by scoring $\geq 70\%$ on a test covering the appropriate essential knowledge and skills. Credit by

examination may not be used to gain eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities. To register for a credit by examination, see your counselor. Students who are interested in playing college sports should check with the NCAA about the availability of any course credit. (See [The NCAA Eligibility Center](#).)

- **Without Prior Instruction** Students who have not received sufficient prior instruction in a subject may earn credit by scoring $\geq 80\%$ on a test covering the appropriate essential knowledge and skills. LISD shall not charge for an examination for acceleration on the published dates. The student will have a maximum of two attempts.

Graduation and Career Planning

During the spring semester, students in 8th grade will create their four-year graduation plan. In addition, Lovejoy ISD partners with Xello to offer a college and career planning portal to all secondary students. Xello helps students plan coursework to achieve their life goals, including finding colleges and careers based on their knowledge, skills, and areas of interests.

Core Course Descriptions



Reading Language Arts Courses

At Willow Springs Middle School, the reading language arts courses follow the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as outlined by the Texas Education Agency. In middle school, Reading Language Art students are introduced to and learn to effectively use reading, writing, and literary analysis tools through increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and written compositions, preparing for advanced study at the high school level.

Reading Language Arts 7 Advanced (full year)

Course #71000
03200520

Reading Language Arts 7 Advanced prepares students for advanced study in reading and writing. Students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and written compositions. Students will read and think critically using a variety of classic and contemporary selections and informational texts. Students select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes such as to inform, persuade, or entertain. Students will have daily opportunities to listen, speak, read, write, and think. This will include choice in their reading as well as options for authentic writing.

Reading Language Arts 7 Advanced G/T (full year)

Course #71100
03200520

Reading Language Arts 7 Advanced G/T teaches the same content as Reading Language Arts 7 Advanced with added depth and complexity.

Prerequisites: Identified G/T

Reading Language Arts 8 Advanced (full year)

Course #81000
03200530

Reading Language Arts 8 Advanced prepares students for advanced study of literature and writing at the high school level. Student skills focus on continuing to read widely in classic and contemporary selections and informational texts. Students will refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and writing. Students will also produce multi-paragraph compositions with varied sentence structure and have daily opportunities to listen, speak, read, write, and think. This will include choice in their reading as well as options for authentic writing.

Reading Language Arts 8 Advanced G/T (full year)	Course #81100 03200530
Reading Language Arts 8 Advanced G/T teaches the same content as Reading Language Arts 8 Advanced with added depth and complexity.	
<i>Prerequisites: Identified G/T</i>	

Mathematics Courses

At Willow Springs Middle School, the mathematics courses follow the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as outlined by the Texas Education Agency. In middle school mathematics, students learn properties of rational numbers, explore concepts of proportionality, use algebraic thinking, connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, and communicate information about geometric figures and data.

Math 7 Advanced (full year)	Course #72000 03103000
This course is designed to prepare students for Pre-Algebra Advanced in eighth grade. The primary concepts studied are developing fluency with positive and negative rational numbers, understanding and representing proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to describe relationships in a variety of contexts, analyzing and comparing data, understanding geometric concepts, and financial literacy in increasingly complex situations. Problem solving in meaningful contexts, including formal and informal reasoning will underlie all of the concepts studied. Math 7 Advanced is a single-blocked course.	
Math 7 Accelerated Advanced (full year)	Course #72600 03103100
This double-blocked course is designed to prepare students for Algebra I Advanced in eighth grade and future advanced placement coursework. In addition to the study of the seventh grade concepts in increasingly complex situations, the curriculum also includes most of the eighth grade concepts required for Algebra I and includes rigorous problem solving. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently. Students in this course will take the Math 8 STAAR.	
Math 8 Advanced (Pre-Algebra) (full year)	Course #82500 03103100
The primary concepts studied are understanding and representing proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to describe relationships, developing foundations of functions, analyzing and comparing data, understanding geometric concepts including Pythagorean Theorem, and financial literacy. Problem solving in meaningful contexts and formal and informal reasoning will underlie all of the concepts studied. Math 8 Advanced is a single-blocked course.	
Algebra I Advanced (full year)	Course #82000 03100500
Advanced Algebra I builds on the basic mathematical understandings developed in grades K-8, focusing on linear and quadratic functions, and introducing and exploring some nonlinear functions. Students use symbols to study various relationships among quantities, particularly those with a systematic dependence of one quantity on another. Situations are provided in which such functional relationships may be established and equations are written and solved. This course requires a STAAR End of Course Exam. Algebra I Advanced is a single-blocked course. Students successfully completing Algebra I Advanced at middle school will receive one high school mathematics credit. The course grades will not be applied to high school GPA or class rank.	
<i>Prerequisite: Math 7 Accelerated Advanced or Math 8 Pre-Algebra</i>	

Algebra I Advanced G/T (full year)	Course #72100 03100500
<p>Algebra I Advanced G/T teaches the same content as Algebra I Advanced with added depth and complexity. This course requires a STAAR End of Course Exam. Algebra I Advanced G/T is a single-blocked course. Students successfully completing Algebra I Advanced G/T at middle school will receive one high school mathematics credit. The course grades will not be applied to high school GPA or class rank.</p> <p><i>Prerequisite: Math 7 Accelerated Advanced or equivalent course work, Identified G/T</i></p>	
Geometry Advanced G/T (full year)	Course #82100 03100700
<p>Geometry Advanced G/T is the study of two-dimensional and three-dimensional geometric figures. Students will develop spatial reasoning as they apply the properties and relationships of geometric figures to real-world situations. Students will use algebraic skills to solve geometric problems. Primary topics include logic and reasoning, Trigonometry, and the study of planar and solid figures, including multi-step problem solving with a strong emphasis on justifications and proofs. This year-long class will receive one high school mathematics credit. The course grades will not be applied to high school GPA or class rank.</p> <p><i>Prerequisites: Algebra I, Algebra I Advanced, Identified G/T</i></p>	

Science Courses

At Willow Springs Middle School, the science courses follow the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as outlined by the Texas Education Agency. In middle school science, students will engage in science and engineering practices to develop inquiry skills and scientific literacy, explore recurring themes and concepts that transcend disciplinary boundaries (i.e. patterns, scale and proportion, stability and change), and investigate phenomena found in the natural and man-made world.

Science 7 Advanced (full year)	Course #73000 03060700
<p>In Science 7 Advanced, content is organized into strands. The concepts build on prior knowledge, prepare students for the next grade level, and establish a foundation for high school courses. During matter and energy, students will investigate elements and compounds through observations, descriptions of physical properties, and chemical reactions. Newton's laws of motion and thermal energy are the focus of the force, motion, and energy strand. During the earth science strand, students will learn about the geosphere and how it changes over time and the hydrosphere and how humans depend on and affect it. Students will further their understanding of organisms as systems, identify the main functions of the human body, as well understand how traits in populations change through natural and artificial selection, analyze how energy flows through trophic levels and how biodiversity impacts ecosystem's sustainability, and understand how organisms are classified during life science.</p>	
Science 7 Advanced G/T (full year)	Course #73100 03060700
<p>Science 7 Advanced G/T covers the course content of Science 7 Advanced with added depth and complexity.</p> <p><i>Prerequisites: Identified G/T</i></p>	

Science 8 Advanced (full year) **Course #83000**
03060800

In Science 8 Advanced, content is organized into strands. The concepts build on prior knowledge, prepare students for the next grade level, and establish a foundation for high school courses. During matter and energy, students will examine the properties of water, acids, and bases, as well as understanding the basic concept of conservation of mass using chemical equations. Newton's laws of motion and waves are the focus of the force, motion, and energy strand. During the earth science strand, students will learn about the systems that create changes in weather patterns and climate and how climate can be impacted by natural events and human activities. The space science strand focuses on the universe including using data to research scientific theories about the origin of the universe. Students will further their understanding of organisms including how traits are contained in genetic material and these traits influence the success of a species over time. Students will also explore how organisms and their populations respond to environmental changes.

Science 8 Advanced G/T (full year) **Course #83100**
03060800

Science 8 Advanced G/T covers the course content of Science 8 Advanced with added depth and complexity.

Prerequisites: Identified G/T

Social Studies Courses

At Willow Springs Middle School, the social studies courses follow the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as outlined by the Texas Education Agency. In middle school, social studies skills are built upon the foundation of history, government, science, geography, citizenship, technology, economics, culture, and society. Students explore and begin to understand the importance of patriotism, function in a free-enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation.

Texas History 7 Advanced (full year) **Course #74000**
03343000

Students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. The content in Grade 7 builds upon that from Grade 4 but provides more depth and breadth. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students use primary and secondary sources to acquire information about Texas.

Texas History 7 Advanced G/T (full year) **Course #74100**
03343000

Texas History 7 Advanced G/T covers the course content of Texas History 7 Advanced with added depth and complexity.

Prerequisites: Identified G/T

US History 8 Advanced (full year)**Course #84000
03343100**

Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The knowledge and skills of this section comprise the first part of a two-year study of U.S. history. The content in Grade 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation.

US History 8 Advanced G/T (full year)**Course #84100
03343100**

US History 8 Advanced G/T covers the course content of US History 8 Advanced with added depth and complexity.

Prerequisites: Identified G/T



World Language Course

At Willow Springs Middle School, the Spanish I World Language course follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as outlined by the Texas Education Agency. Language skills are built upon the foundation of understanding, speaking, reading and writing.

Spanish I Advanced (full year)	Course #85190 03440100
Spanish I Advanced is a high-school level, first year study of Spanish. The course introduces the Spanish language and the vast, diverse culture of the Spanish-speaking world to students with no previous knowledge of Spanish. Students gain a novice ability to understand, speak, read, and write Spanish through interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication, and gain insight and knowledge of basic linguistic structure. Language imitation, learning, role-playing, and interaction provide a foundation towards future creative production of the Spanish language in authentic settings of guided group cooperative learning. At least 80% of the instruction is presented in Spanish. Students successfully completing Spanish I Advanced at middle school will receive one high school World Language credit. The course grades will not be applied to high school GPA or class rank.	

Fine Arts Courses

Students are required to participate in one full year of fine arts courses in grade 6, 7 or 8. In Lovejoy ISD, the fine arts course requirement can be satisfied by taking choir, band, orchestra, art, or theatre. All courses offered in this section meet the state fine arts requirement.

Choir (full year)

Choir classes teach choral music with both treble voices and tenor/bass voices. Middle school choir placement is assigned by skill-based auditions and gender. Students in choir have performance opportunities including concerts, contests, Pop Groups, All Region Choir, and Solo and Ensemble Festival. The WSMS Choirs perform at school pep rallies, the LHS Homecoming football game, and around the community. Choir students are highly encouraged to study with private instructors for one-on-one weekly instruction.

Cost: Student fee associated with this course.

	7th - 03154231	8th - 03154331
Concert Treble Choir (beginner/intermediate)	Girls Course #75205	Girls Course #85205
Tenor Bass Choir (all levels)	Boys Course #75230	Boys Course #85230
A Cappella Choir (intermediate/advanced)	Girls Course #75210	Girls Course #85210

Band (full year)

Band classes teach music through the use of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments in a full band setting. These instruments include flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone (alto, tenor, bari), trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium, tuba, and percussion). Band placement is assigned through skill based auditions. Students have performance opportunities including band concerts, contests, All-Region Band, Solo and Ensemble Contest, as well as WSMS pep rallies, two WSMS football games and one LHS football game with the LHS Band. Students perform three to four concerts annually and will attend UIL and other contests in the spring. Students will attend one section rehearsal weekly to work with the director, in a small group setting, on instrument specific techniques and skills needed for success in the class. Students are highly encouraged to study with private instructors for one-on-one weekly instruction.

Cost: Student fee associated with this course.

	7th - 03154230	8th - 03154330
Concert Band (Beginner/Intermediate)	Course #75005	Course #85005
Symphonic Band (Intermediate/Advanced)	Course #75000	Course #85000
Symphonic Band Percussion (Intermediate/Advanced)	Course #75007	Course #85007
Wind Ensemble (Advanced)	Course #75010	Course #85010
Wind Ensemble Percussion (Advanced)	Course #75017	Course #85017

Orchestra (full year)

Orchestra classes teach violin, viola, cello and bass. In middle school orchestra, students are placed into classes based on skill level. Students audition for an orchestra. Students have performance opportunities including concerts, contests, All Region Orchestra, and Solo and Ensemble Contest. Students perform four concerts annually and will participate in one contest in the spring. Students will attend one section rehearsal weekly to work with the director, in a small group setting, on instrument specific techniques and skills needed for success in the class. All students must meet UIL guidelines for eligibility. Orchestra students are highly encouraged to study with private instructors for one-on-one weekly instruction.

Cost: Student fee associated with this course.

	7th -03154232	8th - 03154332
Concert Orchestra (Intermediate)	Course #75110	Course #85110
Philharmonic Orchestra (Intermediate/Advanced)	Course #75130	Course #85130
Chamber Orchestra (Advanced)	Course #75120	Course #85120

Middle School Art I (full year)	7th Course #75300 03154210	8th Course #85300 03154310
<p>Students will use a variety of materials to translate the world around them through the elements and principles of art. Students investigate their personal voice as we move through materials in both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional forms, looking to historical and contemporary art for inspiration. The focus of this course is exploration of media and self, requiring artists to begin to think about who they are through meaningful art making. Process and practice are an integral part of this course. Students will learn to make informed decisions through reflection and class critiques. Explorations include use of spray paint, plaster, drawing materials, and collage, among many others! Artists will grow their knowledge of materials through the course of the year and gain the informed knowledge required for Middle School Art II.</p> <p><i>Cost: Student fee associated with this course.</i></p>		
Middle School Art II (full year)		8th Course #85310 03154310
<p>Students will use the technical knowledge and media experience gained in Art I to make more informed decisions about their work. This course is centered around the idea of developing each artist's unique style and voice through informed decision making about materials, surfaces, and subject. Students will develop a stronger sense of self through their work as we experiment with the relationship between surfaces and materials. This course challenges the distinction between 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional work as students transition between a variety of forms of making from drawing to ceramics. Students will experiment with ceramics, comic arts, a variety of painting and drawing materials, and larger scale work.</p> <p><i>Cost: Student fee associated with this course.</i></p>		
Middle School Theatre I (full year)	7th Course# 75430 03154240	8th Course #85430 03154240
<p>Middle School Theater I opens the world of theatre and technical theatre to middle school students. Students gain an overview knowledge of theatre as an art form and will develop a wide range of skills which will transfer into any career.</p>		
Middle School Theatre II (full year)		8th Course #85435 03154340
<p>Middle School Theatre II is a continuation of Middle School Theatre I. Students will continue previously learned skills and deepen their understanding of acting by studying specific genres and techniques.</p> <p><i>Prerequisite: Middle School Theatre I</i></p>		
Middle School Theatre Production (full year)	7th Course #75405 03154240	8th Course #85405 03154240
<p>Students in this class are the actors and technical crew for the WSMS One Act Play competition. In the fall, students are expected to attend and participate in the Texas Jr Thespian Society Conference. Students perform a choice monologue or scene in front of a panel of judges. During the One Act Play contest season, students are required to attend all performances and a handful of after school rehearsals. Auditions will take place in the spring of the previous school year. Self-discipline, a strong work ethic, and commitment to group efforts are critical for a student's success in this class.</p>		

Introduction to Technical Theatre (full year)	7th Course #75421 03154140	8th Course #85421 03154240
Introduction to Technical Theatre is for students who prefer to be “behind the scenes” of a production. Students in this class will gain a basic knowledge of all things tech. This is a project based class in which students will work independently and in groups to create all aspects of tech from design to execution. Students who wish to get a real-world, hands-on experience of a play are highly encouraged to be part of a Crew for the WSMS Theatre Fall or Spring Production.		

Physical Education Courses

All students are required to complete 2 semesters of Physical Education (or an approved Off-Campus PE substitute) prior to the end of the 8th grade. A student may take advantage of a full year of PE in 7th grade, which allows for more possible electives as an 8th grade student, or a student may choose to take a semester of PE during both the 7th and 8th grade.

Each student identified by the Texas Education Agency will participate in an annual physical fitness assessment. The Physical Fitness Assessment instrument contains criterion-referenced standards specific to a student's age and gender based on the physical fitness level required for good health. Good health components will include an aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and a flexibility assessment.

Physical Education	7th Course #76000 03823000	8th Course #86000 03823000
Physical Education focuses on cardiovascular fitness, as well as strength and agility training. Students will also participate in a variety of team and individual sports. Students learn the importance of living a healthy lifestyle through physical activity. In addition, they learn how it can benefit their learning in the classroom and their physical well-being as they grow older.		
Cheerleading	7th Course #76100 03823000	8th Course #86100 03823000
Cheerleading tryouts are open to all 7th and 8th-grade students. Tryouts are held in the spring to place students on a skill level team. Based on their tryout score, students will be placed on White (A team), Red (B team), or Silver (C team). Students who are unable to participate in cheer tryouts will be placed on the Silver team. Daily class activities include conditioning exercises, tumbling, stunting, dance and sideline technique drills. All cheerleaders earn PE credit for participation. <i>Cost: Student fee associated with this course.</i>		
Foundations of Dance I	7th Course #76130 03154220	8th Course #86130 03154220
Foundations of Dance I focuses on a wide variety of experiences that will prepare students for the many dance opportunities available to them in Lovejoy ISD. This is not a dance team, or a class that requires students to have any prior knowledge of the subject. However, those who have studied dance are always welcome and will be in an environment where they can grow. Students study different genres of dance, fitness, and choreography, and have a number of different style performance opportunities to help gain an appreciation for the art form as a whole. <i>Cost: Student fee associated with this course.</i>		

Foundations of Dance II**8th Course #86135
03154320**

Foundations of Dance II builds on what students have learned in Foundations of Dance I. The level of skills increases, and more performance opportunities are available. Students continue to focus on different genres of dance, fitness, and choreography with the intention to continue to grow as dancers and discover their strengths.

Cost: Student fee associated with this course.

Prerequisite: Foundations of Dance I

Color Guard**7th Course #76150
03154230****8th Course #86150
03154330**

As a performing member of the Willow Springs Middle School Color Guard, members will develop skills in creating, performing, and evaluating choreographed performances as an independent ensemble. Emphasis is placed on dance, equipment manipulation, precision and the relationship between music and dance. No previous experience required for this course - all levels welcome!

Cost: Student fee associated with this course.

Off-Campus PE (full year)

Students who are serious athletes outside the school setting may earn Off-Campus PE (OCPE) credits. OCPE is offered to students participating in a sport not offered at Lovejoy ISD / WSMS. OCPE is a cooperative agreement between Lovejoy ISD, the student, and a student-selected, approved off-campus agency. Students earn one semester of PE credit for each semester of OCPE. State criteria allow for two levels of OCPE participation. OCPE participation must be approved with the principal. For more information, please visit the [Athletics website](#).

Level I (Olympic). Athletes participate in a minimum of 15 hours/week of highly intense, professional supervised athletic training. The facility, instructors, and activities must be approved and of exceptional quality. Level I OCPE athletes may be dismissed from school for one hour each day; however, they may not miss any class other than Physical Education.

7th Off Campus PE Level I Course #76020 84200XPE

8th Off Campus PE Level I Course #86020 84200XPE

Level II. Athletes attend private or commercially-sponsored physical activities for a minimum of 5 hours/week. The facility, instructors, and activities must be approved and of high quality. Level II OCPE students may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.

7th Off Campus PE Level II Course #76050 84200OPE

8th Off Campus PE Level II Course #86050 02530003

Athletics

Athletics gives students the opportunity to participate in organized, competitive, team sports. Students enroll in Athletics, then select at least one UIL-sanctioned sport each year. These selections may be changed with a coach's approval during the transition periods between Fall, Winter, Spring and Late Spring seasons. Athletes who try out but do not make the team must play another sport or enroll in Strength and Conditioning.

Below is a graphic illustrating the month in which the sport is scheduled and when off-season is held.

Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
off-season			Basketball				off-season		
Cross Country					off-season				
Football				off-season					
off-season							Soccer		
Tennis									
off-season							Track and Field		
	Volleyball		off-season						
off-season			Wrestling				off-season		

Basketball (winter)

All basketball players will learn the fundamentals and team strategies of basketball. Athletes attend practices and games during the competitive season, including some winter tournaments on Fridays and Saturdays. Students in this course can participate in another sport or enroll in Strength and Conditioning when basketball is not in-season.

Tryouts: October

Fall

Boys Basketball 7 Course #76204 03823000
Boys Basketball 8 Course #86204 03823000
Girls Basketball 7 Course #76304 03823000
Girls Basketball 8 Course #86304 03823000

Spring

Boys Basketball 7 Course #76204 03823000
Boys Basketball 8 Course #86204 03823000
Girls Basketball 7 Course #76304 03823000
Girls Basketball 8 Course #86304 03823000

Cross Country (fall)

All cross country team runners will learn the fundamentals, techniques, and team strategies of cross country. Athletes will participate in workouts comprising many miles of running to establish a proper base for long-distance running, in addition to attending workouts and meets during the competitive season, including those before and after school and on weekends.

Tryouts: not required

Fall

Boys Cross Country 7 Course #76301 03823000
Boys Cross Country 8 Course #86301 03823000
Girls Cross Country 7 Course #76313 03823000
Girls Cross Country 8 Course #86313 03823000

Football (fall)

All football players will learn and practice the fundamentals, techniques, and the team strategies of football. Athletes will attend games and practices during the football season, including before and after school practices and weekend games.

Tryouts: not required

Fall

Football 7 Course #76202 03823000

Football 8 Course #86202 03823000

Soccer (winter)

All soccer players will learn the fundamentals, techniques, and team strategies of soccer. Athletes will attend practices and games during the competitive season, including those before and after school and on weekends. Some Saturday practices may be required.

Tryouts: March

Fall

Boys Soccer 7 Course #76206 03823000

Boys Soccer 8 Course #86206 03823000

Girls Soccer 7 Course #76306 03823000

Girls Soccer 8 Course #86306 03823000

Spring

Boys Soccer 7 Course #76206 03823000

Boys Soccer 8 Course #86206 03823000

Girls Soccer 7 Course #76306 03823000

Girls Soccer 8 Course #86306 03823000

Tennis (year-round)

All tennis players will learn the fundamentals and techniques of competitive tennis and participate on the Lovejoy tennis teams. Athletes attend practices and matches during the competitive season, including those before and after school and on weekends.

Tryouts: September

Fall

Boys Tennis 7 Course #76212 03823000

Boys Tennis 8 Course #86212 03823000

Girls Tennis 7 Course #76312 03823000

Girls Tennis 8 Course #86312 03823000

Spring

Boys Tennis 7 Course #76212 03823000

Boys Tennis 8 Course #86212 03823000

Girls Tennis 7 Course #76312 03823000

Girls Tennis 8 Course #86312 03823000

Track and Field (spring)

All track athletes will learn the fundamentals, techniques, and team strategies of track and field, including running, jumping and other track-related techniques. Athletes attend practices and meets during the track season, including those before and after school and on weekends.

Tryouts: February

Spring

Boys Track and Field 7 Course #76211 03823000

Boys Track and Field 8 Course #86211 03823000

Girls Track and Field 7 Course #76311 03823000

Girls Track and Field 8 Course #86311 03823000

Volleyball (fall)

All volleyball players will learn the fundamentals, techniques, and team strategies of volleyball. Athletes attend practices and games during the volleyball season, including before and after school practices and volleyball tournaments on some Fridays and Saturdays.

Tryouts: August

Fall

Volleyball 7 Course #76302 03823000

Volleyball 8 Course #86302 03823000

Wrestling (winter)

All wrestlers will learn the fundamentals and team strategies of competitive wrestling. Athletes attend practices and meets during the competitive season, including any that may be held during the winter break. Practices are held before school.

Tryouts: not required

Fall

Boys Wrestling 7 Course #76207 03823000

Boys Wrestling 8 Course #86207 03823000

Girls Wrestling 7 Course #76307 03823000

Girls Wrestling 8 Course #86307 03823000

Spring

Boys Wrestling 7 Course #76207 03823000

Boys Wrestling 8 Course #86207 03823000

Girls Wrestling 7 Course #76307 03823000

Girls Wrestling 8 Course #86307 03823000

Strength and Conditioning

**7th Course #76400
03823000**

**8th Course #86400
03823000**

Strength and Conditioning maintains an athlete's aerobic/anaerobic strength when his/her sport is out of season. Workouts consist of running, agility, plyometrics, and weight training.

Tryouts: not required

Fall or Spring

Boys Strength and Conditioning 7 Course #76400 03823000

Boys Strength and Conditioning 8 Course #86400 03823000

Girls Strength and Conditioning 7 Course #76320 03823000

Girls Strength and Conditioning 8 Course #86320 03823000

English Electives

The following courses cover state standards for English but earn an elective credit.

Media I (full year)

**7th Course #77108
8500MD1**

**8th Course #87108
8500MD1**

This course focuses on the basic principles and history of journalism, including writing, editing, ethics, First Amendment, government structure, advertising, podcasting, and radio. It also includes an introduction to audio and video production. Supplies specific to this course may be required.

Media II (full year)	8th Course #87110 85000MD2
<p>This course involves students in a project-based class and will produce WSMS TV News. Class time is very rigorous and fast paced like a real newsroom. Students will be required to produce various news stories about our school and be able to work before and after school to complete work. Students will need to provide professional dress attire on days of recording WSMS TV News.</p> <p><i>Prerequisite: Media I</i></p>	
Introduction to Photojournalism (full year)	7th Course #77107 85000JOU 8th Course #87107 85000JOU
<p>In this course students will learn and apply proper camera care and mechanical usage of the camera, photography basics, basic photo editing, and basic journalism writing skills. In addition, students will create digital layout designs for various yearbook media content, and contribute photographs to the school yearbook and newspaper.</p>	
Yearbook (full year)	7th Course #77200 84000YBK 8th Course #87200 84000YBK
<p>This class produces the Willow Springs Middle School yearbook, The Rosette. Students learn to take quality pictures, design and organize yearbook layouts, sales techniques, and team organization and cooperation strategies to create a quality yearbook product for the community.</p>	
Creative Writing (full year)	7th Course #78000 82910CRW 8th Course #88000 83000CRW
<p>Students will learn the introductory basics for writing poetry, short stories, narratives, plays, and scripts. Techniques will include directed reading of current models in addition to practice using literary devices, figurative language, and developing voice and style. Students will perfect their critical reading skills through reading, discussion, and writing assignments, and will learn the conventions of critique and collaboration in a workshop setting. While in this workshop setting, students will discover their own writing style while crafting their own original texts. Students will build a portfolio of work throughout the course with the goal of publishing an original work at the end.</p>	

STEM Electives

The STEM engineering electives explore the design, development, and use of engines, machines, and structures. Students will learn how to apply science, mathematical methods, and empirical evidence to the innovation, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of different manufacturing systems.

The STEM programming development course explores the occupations and education opportunities associated with researching, designing, developing, and testing operating systems-level software and general computer applications. This course may also include exploration into creating, modifying, and testing the codes, forms, and script that allow computer applications to run.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the only pre-engineering/engineering technology program of its kind in the U.S. It is affiliated with such groups as NASA, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, American Society of Electrical Engineers, American Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and others. PLTW aims to prepare an increasing and more diverse group of students to be successful in engineering and engineering technology programs. PLTW students have access to a variety of recognition opportunities including scholarships, preferred admission at colleges and universities, internships, industry connections, and other avenues to highlight their achievements.

Introduction to Aerospace and Aviation (full year)**8th Course #83870
N1304672**

The Introduction to Aerospace and Aviation course will provide the foundation for advanced exploration in the areas of professional pilot, aerospace engineering, and unmanned aircraft systems. Students will learn about the history of aviation, from Leonardo da Vinci's ideas about flight to the Wright brothers and the space race. Along the way students will learn about the innovations and technological developments that have made today's aviation and aerospace industries possible. The course includes engineering practices, the design process, aircraft structure, space vehicles past and present, and a look toward future space exploration. Students successfully completing Introduction to Aerospace and Aviation at middle school will receive one high school elective credit. It is the foundational course to the Pilots and Aviation Operations Program of Study offered at Lovejoy High School. Course grades will not be applied to high school GPA or class rank.

Note: This course earns one high school elective credit.

Cost: Student fee associated with this course.

Prerequisites: None

Design and Modeling (PLTW) (full year)**7th Course #79521
N1303756**

In this Project Lead the Way (PLTW) course, Design and Modeling, students practice the engineering design process, applying math, science and engineering concepts to hands-on projects. They work individually and in teams to design solutions to a variety of real problems using 3D modeling software. Students develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives.

Prerequisites: None

Science of Technology and Health (PLTW) (full year)**8th Course #89522
N1303757**

In the first semester of this Project Lead the Way (PLTW) course, students learn how Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. In this unit, students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nanomaterials.

In the second semester of this Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Gateway course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

Note: This course is open to grade 8 students only.

Prerequisites: None

Principles of Applied Engineering (Robotics) (full year)**8th Course #83910
13036200**

Principles of Applied Engineering is a foundation course of the high school engineering pathway. This survey course exposes students to some of the major concepts that they will encounter in a postsecondary engineering course of study. Through problems that engage and challenge, students explore a broad range of engineering topics including mechanisms, the strength of materials and structures, automation, and kinematics. The course applies and concurrently develops secondary level knowledge and skills in mathematics, science, and technology. Students study the engineering design process, applying math, science, and engineering standards to identify and design solutions to a variety of real problems. They work both individually and in collaborative teams to identify, research, test, refine, develop and communicate design solutions using industry practices, standards, and tools. Students progress from structured activities to complex projects requiring detailed planning, documentation, and communication. The rigorous pace of the course requires students to develop an engineering mindset and be able to often work independently on group tasks that benefit the entire group. Students apply industry accepted technical communication skills in visual representation as well as professional and industry specific documentation processes. Students successfully completing Principles of Applied Engineering at middle school will receive one high school elective credit. It is the foundational course to the Programs of Study in the Engineering and Manufacturing offered at Lovejoy High School. Course grades will not be applied to high school GPA or class rank. The course grades will not be applied to high school GPA or class rank.

Note: This course earns one high school elective credit and fulfills the high school Technology Applications requirement.

Cost: Student fee associated with this course.

Prerequisites: None

Fundamentals of Computer Science (full year)**8th Course #89101
03580140**

Fundamentals of Computer Science enables students to become proficient technology users, digital creators, problem solvers, and innovators. Students will learn the foundational concepts and skills of computer science and understand what it means to be “creators” rather than mere consumers of technology. Students will expand beyond block coding to begin exploring scripting languages such as JavaScript and/or Python. This course is designed to be fun, engaging, relevant, collaborative, and creative. Students successfully completing Fundamentals of Computer Science at middle school will receive one high school elective credit. This course is the foundational course for the Programming and Software Development Program of Study offered at Lovejoy High School. The course grades will not be applied to high school GPA or class rank.

Note: This course earns one high school elective credit and fulfills the high school Technology Applications requirement.

Prerequisite: Recommended Algebra I or concurrent enrollment.

Digital Media Electives

Digital Media elective courses give students an opportunity to analyze and assess current and emerging technologies, while designing and creating multimedia projects and resolving problems.

Graphic Art and Design I (full year)	7th Course #79600 82990GAD	8th Course #89600 83800GAD
<p>Graphic Art and Design I introduces students to art elements through a variety of current graphic programs in Adobe Suites. Students will have the opportunity to apply information about line, shape, value, color, texture, size and space into creating logos, business graphics, animation pieces, photo manipulations, illustrations and other designs. Students will explore graphic art career choices. Projects will be more advanced and students will be given more opportunities to demonstrate their understanding of the element of design along with principles of design such as, balance, unity, rhythm, emphasis and contrast. Projects will be compiled into a final website portfolio created by the student.</p>		
Principles of Art, Audio/Video, Technology and Communications (full year)		8th Course #16420 13008200
<p>Principles of Art, Audio/Video, Technology, and Communications is a laboratory-based course designed to give students an introductory experience working with multimedia technology. Students will develop decision-making skills, use creative thinking, and obtain hands-on experience working with a variety of multimedia tools to create interactive multimedia presentations, graphics, photography, animation, movies, sound and web pages. Students successfully completing Principles of Art, Audio/Video, Technology and Communications at middle school will receive one high school elective credit. This course is the foundational course for the Graphic Design and Digital Communications Programs of Study offered at Lovejoy High School. The course grades will not be applied to high school GPA or class rank.</p> <p><i>Note: This course earns one high school elective credit and fulfills the high school Technology Applications requirement.</i></p> <p><i>Prerequisites: Graphic Art and Design I</i></p>		

Other Electives

The following courses earn an elective credit.

Career and College Exploration (full year)	7th Course #79524 12700110
<p>The career development process is unique to every person and evolves throughout one's life. In this course, students use decision-making and problem-solving skills for individual career and academic planning. Students explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigating and developing a college and career readiness plan. Students explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students use this information to explore a variety of career paths, especially those in demand, and begin mapping their anticipated secondary coursework and potential postsecondary experiences that are in alignment with their goals. The goal of this course is to help students build career awareness and engage in deep exploration and study of the Texas CTE career clusters to create a foundation for success in high school, possible post secondary studies, and careers. Students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment.</p> <p><i>Note: Career and College Exploration is a required 7th grade course.</i></p>	

Gardening (full year) **8th Course #83223**
83700GAR

Inquiry-oriented and hands-on investigations in a Living Laboratory, the school garden, will encourage students to ask questions and explore multiple solutions for the needs of a garden throughout the seasons. Learners will assist in the planting, cultivation and harvesting of crops, while practicing sustainable living concepts such as composting. Students also have a chance to observe similarities and differences in the needs of various living things, and differences between living and nonliving things. Students will maintain a journal to record observations, collect data, and keep records and drawings of the garden.

Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) (full year) **8th Course #87300**
84500PAL

Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) students are selected and trained to serve as peer helpers and student ambassadors with students on our campus. The students coordinate philanthropic, community-based activities and help promote a positive campus climate. The selection process occurs in the spring.

Cost: Student fee associated with this course.

Independent Studies (full year) **7th Course #70041** **8th Course #80041**
82990ISL **83800LS1**

This course, based on the Middle School Texas Performance Standards Project for gifted and talented students, offers a non-traditional learning experience to those students who have the ability to create innovative products or performances. Students will develop a product proposal, compile a portfolio, conduct in-depth research, and make prepared presentations about their research, product(s), or performance(s). Under the supervision of the Independent Studies teacher, students will work to create related product(s) with real-world application(s) and tangible documentation. Students will be provided with opportunities to share their presentations and receive evaluative feedback multiple times in a variety of venues with authentic audiences. Independent Studies may be taken for one semester or for a full academic year, depending on the focus of the proposal.