

8th GRADE
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2009-2010

52003 Year PRE-ALGEBRA - Pre-algebra is a bridge between arithmetic and algebra. Students will study number systems and number theory and select appropriate methods for numerical computation including paper and pencil methods, estimation, and calculators. They will be introduced to the language of algebra and they will use technology and manipulatives to explore abstract algebra concepts informally. Students will develop problem-solving for modeling real-world problem situations.

52543 Year ALGEBRA A – Students will develop fluency with basic rational number relationships and operations to support the development of abstract thought. Linear relationships will be introduced and applied. This class covers some of the basic Algebra concepts at a slower pace. Students will be expected to take Algebra 1 the following year.

52503 Year ALGEBRA 1 – Must pass pre-algebra with a C+ average or higher. Algebra extends students' problem-solving strategies and their abilities to model real-world problems algebraically, numerically, and graphically. Students study the properties of the real number system and use these properties to solve linear equations and inequalities. While students gain ability with manipulating algebraic expression and equations, emphasis is on conceptual understanding of algebra as a means of problem-solving. Technology and manipulatives are used to explore these ideas.

53003 Year GEOMETRY - Students investigate geometric concepts using technology, manipulatives, and hands-on explorations. The major postulates and theorems of Euclidean geometry form the basis of this course. Students will move between synthetic, coordinate, and transformational systems for representing geometric ideas and will use right triangle trigonometry to model problems from the real world. (Both inductive and deductive reasoning are emphasized.)

40803 Year ENGLISH 8 - This course continues developing language skills including reading, writing, and oral work, with a major emphasis on grammar review taught through the writing process. These skills include a review of punctuation and capitalization skills, a unit on composition and usage, a unit on sentence structure and applications of grammar to more effective speaking and writing. The department offers units in such areas as: short stories, library skills, study skills, and a novel unit.

61203 Year U.S. HISTORY 8 - This United States History course is designed to emphasize historic events from the age of exploration to reconstruction and the western movements. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, the age of exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, national period, constitutional issues, Civil War, reconstruction, and the western movement. The emphasis of this course is on the 18th and 19th centuries. There will be a continued effort to review and develop content, process, and thinking skills introduced in previous grades.

32403 Year INTEGRATED SCIENCE 8 - Eighth Grade Integrated Science focuses on the theme of Change. Topics from physical, earth, and life science are integrated to illustrate the concept of change in nature. Students will study chemical and physical changes; changes in force, motion, and energy, and changes in the earth's crust and climate. Hands-on, inquiry-based instruction is used to help students value science as a process for obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence. Class fee \$5.00 per semester.

76550 (Male) & 76500 (Female) Sem. P.E. HEALTHY LIFESTYLES 8 - This course is a sequence of experiences in physical activities during team sports which challenge all ability levels. It focuses on social interaction, cognitive learning, locomotive movement, fitness and skill development. Class fee \$2.50

81410 Sem. KEYBOARD 1 (Type) - In this keyboarding course the student will master touch operation on a computer keyboard. Correct techniques including fingering, key strokes, posture, and the development of speed and accuracy will be stressed. The student will learn to format simple reports, personal and business letters, and tables. The acquisition of business communication skills will be integrated throughout the course. Keyboarding will **NOT** be available to 9th graders or at the high school. This class is a prerequisite for computer technology and other high school classes. Class fee \$6.00.

11000 Sem. ART FOUNDATIONS 1 – The student learns the basic elements and principles of art through drawing and painting. This class is a pre-requisite for all art classes. There is a class fee of \$5.00 for materials.

11140 Sem. ART 2-D Emphasis – (Pre-req. Art Foundations 1) – This course is designed to provide an enhanced experience with the artistic issues of Foundations 1 through traditional, two-dimensional art media. There is a continuing emphasis on studio production as the application of the elements and principles of art are used to assist the student in expressing him/herself through the creation of works of art. The four main areas of work will be done in drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and painting. Class fee \$6.00.

11160 Sem. ART 3-D Emphasis – (Pre-req. Art Foundations 1) – The student is introduced to ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting and print making. Students will review principles and elements and relate them to 3-D sculpture. Class fee \$6.00. Materials for projects in addition to the class fee will be \$20, payable at the beginning of the semester.

11100 Sem. CERAMICS 1– (Pre-req. Art Foundation 1) – The student receives instruction in ceramics and designing in ceramic clays. Preparation of clay bodies, use of tools and equipment, firing and construction methods, and an introduction to wheel throwing are included. Class Fee \$10.00 plus project fee.

16000 Sem. GENERAL MUSIC – This class studies the appreciation of music, note reading, music writing and listening and use of instruments. Some singing is included.

17300 Year BELL CHOIR –(Pre-req. 3 yrs. of piano/teacher approval) – Students have an opportunity to experience music through the medium of hand bells. Three or four octaves of English Hand Bells are used with 12-16 students playing chords simultaneously depending on the notes written that coordinate with their bells.

17470 Sem. GUITAR 1 – BEGINNING – acoustic or classical guitar only - The purposes of this class are to develop basic guitar skills, good musicianship, appropriate behaviors for group and solo work, and performance. Students learn several songs, chord patterns, rhythms, note reading, tuning, and other musical skills. They practice at home and are tested on their progress. Also, they participate in concerts, recitals, and other performances.

17220 Sem. SAB CHOIR (Mixed voices) – Students receive experience in rehearsal and performance of suitable music for SAB voices. They will perform a wide range of significant choral literature of all periods, madrigal and smaller musical forms. Two performances a semester will be emphasized. Performance outfit will be Sunday best. Fund raising can be participated in, not required.

18203 Year AUDITION CHOIR (Mixed voices) - Students will be admitted only after a vocal listening. Excellence in all musical skills and vocal production is stressed in this chorus. Performances, festivals and concerts will be emphasized. This choir is a select mixed group (boys/girls) performing a wide range of significant choral literature of all periods, language, and styles. (Performance outfit will be required. Cost of outfit reduced due to fund raising efforts.)

18213 Year CHAMBER CHOIR (Girls' voices) - Students will be admitted only after a vocal listening. This choir is a select girls= concert choir performing a wide range of significant choral literature of all periods, madrigal and smaller musical forms. Performances, festivals, and concerts will be emphasized. (Performance outfit will be required. Cost reduced due to fund raising efforts.)

16423 Year PERCUSSION – This group requires at least three years piano instruction, or at least one year of previous experience in school Band or Orchestra. This class will have percussionists of different skill levels. The class will teach students all basic band percussion instruments, with special emphasis on Snare drum, and Mallet percussion. The class will NOT address the DRUMSET!

18403 Year CONCERT BAND – This course continues the experience from Beginning Band. This group will play in at least three concerts, and one music festival. The group will meet as Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion. At least **one** year of experience on a band instrument is necessary.

18413 Year SYMPHONIC BAND – Audition only group. Must have teacher approval to register - This Band continues the experience of the Concert Band. This group will play in at least four performances a year, including a music festival. The course concentrates on quality band literature that will challenge all students.

16603 Year ORCHESTRA-BEGINNING – This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play orchestral string instruments. Class expectations: 1) Seventy-five minutes of practice per week outside of class required. 2) Student must rent a stringed instrument. 3) High level of commitment required.

17603 Year ORCHESTRA-INTERMEDIATE (Pre-req. – One year of experience required.) This is an ensemble of intermediate to advanced string players directed toward performing the finest in classical and contemporary music.

18603 Year ORCHESTRA-ADVANCED (Pre-req. – Audition required). Students will be part of an ensemble of intermediate to advanced string players directed toward performing the finest in classical and contemporary music.

19500 Sem. DRAMA 1 - This course introduces the student to the beginning elements of theatre and performance with emphasis on self-improvement in performance and public communication. The student will study acting and scene performance, characterization, playwriting, pantomime, and stage combat.

78010 Sem. DANCE 1 - In this introduction to dance, beginning dance techniques and movements will be taught. This beginning level will explore rhythms, style, and techniques of modern dance, emphasizing the basic elements of dance choreography. Class fee \$2.50 plus PE uniform required \$15.00.

78020 Sem. DANCE 2 – Pre-req. Dance 1 or audition – In this class students will develop a further understanding of the techniques and elements of modern dance. Students will also gain knowledge in dance history, dance and culture, composition, improvisation, and performance skills.

41600 Sem. CREATIVE WRITING 1 - This class is designed to provide experiences and activities which will enhance the communication of ideas through written expression.

41610 Sem. CREATIVE WRITING 2 – (Pre-req. Creative Writing 1) – Students will work to produce a variety of manuscripts that may be personally rewarding and suitable for publication

47000 Sem. INTRO TO FOREIGN LANGUAGE – This course is for the student who wants to learn a foreign language but has not yet selected a specific language to study. The course includes cultural material as well as language experiences in Spanish, French, and German.

47143 Year SPANISH 1 - This class stresses the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students practice the skills by means of dialogues, structure drills, reading selections, and written exercises. Emphasis will be on near-native pronunciation, speaking, listening, and writing correct Spanish as well as learning about the culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

47153 Year SPANISH 2 (Pre-req. - Spanish 1) - Spanish is used almost exclusively in the classroom with emphasis on reading and grammar review. Oral comprehension, oral practice, and Spanish literature are stressed in the reading program which includes class readings and a novel. Through the reading selections, pupils learn more about Spanish culture. Creative projects are incorporated.

47403 Year FRENCH 1 - Students will acquire accurate pronunciation and habits of correct usage of the fundamental patterns of French. They will learn to read and write what they can say. Cultural lessons introduce French lifestyle, geography, cooking, art and music. Students practice the skills by means of dialogues, reading selections, exercises and real-life practice.

47413 Year FRENCH 2 (Pre-req. French 1) – Emphasis is placed upon expansion of vocabulary while stressing reinforcement and amplification of accurate and fluent use of the structural elements of French. Narratives and dialogues are used to learn structure and vocabulary. Students gain an insight into the French culture and appreciation of French attitudes and interests. Students study French literature and other French speaking countries around the world.

47503 Year GERMAN 1 - Students will receive an introduction to the German language and culture. They will learn accurate pronunciation and correct usage of the basic structural patterns. Students will learn to express themselves in oral conversation and will practice skills by means of dialogues, structure drills, reading selections, and written exercises.

47513 Year GERMAN 2 (Pre-req. German 1) – This class continues the development of speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills in German and the study of the German culture. Emphasis is on expansion of vocabulary and knowledge of grammatical structures. Materials are based upon the everyday activities and way of life of German-speaking people.

96000 Sem. COMPUTER LITERACY – BEGINNING – This is a beginning level computer awareness course. It is a broad spectrum course intended to give an overview of the place and use of computers in our society today. It will cover keyboarding and data processing as well as a wide range of topics from basic computer design to computer related careers to robotics to the ethics of computer use, etc. A brief look at programming a computer and the basic processes involved in programming is included. Students will also be exposed to the creation and use of data bases, web pages, graphics, and spreadsheets. Class fee \$5.00.

96010 Sem. COMPUTER LITERACY-INTERMEDIATE – (Pre-req. Computer Literacy Beginning.) This is a course for students who are interested in ways to use computers as a tool. Programming will be reviewed, and desktop publishing, databases, spreadsheets, graphics, presentations and multimedia will be stressed. Web page creation software will be introduced and web ethics will be stressed. Class lab fee \$10.00.

56020 Sem. COMPUTER SCIENCE 1 – (Pre-req. Computer Literacy-Beginning and enrollment in or completion of Algebra 1.) This course teaches the fundamentals of programming, flow charting, writing and debugging programs. Students will learn to program in a structured environment using the BASIC and PASCAL programming languages. Strong Math skills are important. This is an honors-level class. Class fee \$10.00.

56030 Sem. COMPUTER SCIENCE 2 – (Pre-req. Computer Science 1) – This course is an extension of Computer Science 1 with in-depth programming. Operating systems are also part of this course. Class fee \$10.

19860 Sem. TECHNICAL THEATER – (Pre-req. Beg Drama/Teacher approval required) – Students will study theatre lighting, sound, scenery, properties, make-up, stage-management, and technical design. Students will be involved in all areas of technical theatre.

91000 Sem. TEACHER AIDE – Must have a cumulative 3.0 GPA or permission from an administrator – Must have signed permission from teacher to register.

91050 Sem. PEER TUTOR - Students will be involved in peer tutoring students in special education and resource classes in math, English, reading, life skills, and other academic areas. This class would be most helpful to students considering a career in teaching, coaching, etc. This course involves working with disabled students. It is extremely important that the students chosen for this class have a very good attendance record. During the school year this class goes on a number of community trips, a few may require the student to bring a dollar or so.

82040 Sem. FACS EXPLORATION-CLOTHING - This course introduces the students to basic clothing construction techniques, clothing care and maintenance, textiles, and consumer skills. \$5.00 fee to pay for pattern and windsock. Students need to supply their own basic sewing supplies. Each student will purchase fabric for the other projects which are backpack, nightshirt and boxers.

82050 Sem. FACS EXPLORATION-FOODS – This class provides students opportunities to learn essential life skills. It allows them to develop skills in food and nutrition. Students will learn about lab management and safety procedures, appliances, nutrition, the food pyramid and dietary guidelines. Class fee \$10.00

88100 Sem. INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY - Students will be introduced to the technological systems of aerospace, communications, construction, energy/power/transportation, manufacturing, and biotechnology. The course emphasis is on exploration activities using computers, technology equipment, and manufacturing tools. Class fee \$10.00. Project fee \$24.00.

88110 Sem. INTERMEDIATE TECHNOLOGY - (Pre-req. - Intro to Tech Ed.) - This course builds on the concepts introduced in the Introduction to Technology Education course. Students will further explore the technology systems of aerospace, energy/power/transportation, construction, manufacturing, and communications. Equipment use in a shop environment will be a part of this course. Class fee \$10.00. Project fee \$24.00.

88310 Sem. COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY – This course introduces basic skills and applications of communications technology. Activities may include laser and fiber optic systems, design and drafting, CAD, electronics, photography, satellite and space technology, graphic arts, and audio/visual technology. This is a self-motivated class. Cost of projects \$14.00 plus class fee \$10.00.