Course Descriptions

Critical Thinking - Mandatory for all 6th Grade Students (Mandatory Course)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop learning strategies, critical-thinking skills, and problem-solving skills to enhance their performance in academic and nonacademic endeavors.

The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- strategies for acquiring, storing, and retrieving information
- strategies for oral and written communication
- critical-thinking operations, processes, and enabling skills
- problem-solving skills and strategies
- strategies for linking new information with prior knowledge

Peer Counseling - 7th Grade Leadership (Mandatory Course)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop awareness of self and others. Emphasis will be on acquisition of basic skills for thoughtful planning, peer facilitation, effective communication and making healthy choices.

The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Peer Facilitating
- Human Needs
- Self-Awareness and Expression
- Peer Pressure
- Peer and Family Relationships
- Conflict Resolution
- Goal Setting
- Social Skills
- Active Listening
- Personal Choices
- Healthy Lifestyles
- Effects of Stress

Research 3- 8th Grade Leadership (Mandatory Course)

Students will study global issues that are current. Students in small groups will select a global issue and make a 5-minute documentary on that issue. The documentary must contain an interview with an expert in the field, a call to action for what students think that everyone can do to help solve this global issue. The culmination of the 8th grade leadership course is the Symposium where the projects of the top 5 projects in each of the following categories: Most Technical, Most Creative, Best Call to Action, Best Global Awareness and finally Best in Show.

2-D Studio Art

Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provide a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Advanced Academics: 6-8 & Career Planning for Gifted Students (Must be staffed Gifted) (also called Global Scholars)

This course is designed to enable exceptional students to acquire and apply the skills and abilities needed to enhance academic achievement through experiences which provide enrichment, in-depth learning, and / or accelerated study of academic curriculum requirements. Students who are gifted have learning needs that go beyond what is traditionally offered in the regular classroom. The nature of their abilities, demonstrated or latent, requires differentiated learning experiences and opportunities for them to maximize their potential. Teachers need to develop the depth and quality of their students' experiences while adjusting the pace to meet individual needs.

Major Concepts/Content. The purpose of this course is to provide appropriately individualized curricula for students who are gifted.

The content should include, but not be limited to the following:

- higher-order thinking skills
- independent learning
- application of acquired knowledge
- high-level communication
- career exploration
- leadership
- self-awareness
Chorus I/II/II (Course Number doesn't match grade level - ie an 8th grader could take Chorus 1 and 2)

Students with little or no choral experience develop beginning vocal technique and skills, critical and creative thinking skills, and an appreciation of music from around the world and through time. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

Band I/II/III

Students with little or no instrumental experience develop foundational instrumental technique, foundational music literacy, and aesthetic musical awareness through rehearsal, performance, and study of high-quality band literature. Instrumentalists work on the fundamentals of music notation, sound production, instrument care and maintenance, and personal and group rehearsal strategies. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source.

7th Grade Spanish (1st 9th 7th Graders ONLY)

The purpose of this course is to enable students whose heritage language is Spanish to develop, maintain, and enhance proficiency in their heritage language by reinforcing and acquiring skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, including the fundamentals of Spanish grammar. Language Arts Standards are also included in this course to enable students to become literate in the Spanish language and gain a better understanding of the nature of their own language as well as other languages to be acquired.

The course content will reflect the cultural values of Spanish language and societies.

8th Grade Spanish (The 90 7th graders roll to 8th grade for the Spanish I High School Credit)

Spanish 1 introduces students to the target language and its culture. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

Creative Writing

The purpose of this course is to enable students to learn and use writing and language skills for creative expression in a variety of literary forms. Emphasis will be on development of a personal writing style.

Information and Communication Technology Essentials 1

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the computer, digital, and information technology skills necessary for success in their future academic and occupational goals. In addition to fundamental computer information, the content includes but is not limited to digital technologies associated with web development, multimedia, word processing, spreadsheet, database, Internet communications, cybersecurity, and computer programming.

Instruction and learning activities are provided in a laboratory setting using hands-on experiences with the equipment, materials and technology appropriate to the course content and in accordance with current practices.