

Pioneer Middle School

Eighth Grade Course Descriptions

LANGUAGE ARTS (Regular, Advanced, Gifted)

This course aims to provide instruction in the interaction of reading, the process and application of writing, literary analysis, and communication, as well as information/research skills and media literacy in preparation for college and career readiness. These strands of the Sunshine State Standards are integrated throughout students' learning experiences to develop their ability to use, interpret, and appreciate spoken and written English.

MATHEMATICS (Regular, Advanced)

This course is a continued development of mathematical concepts and processes that can be used to solve real-world problems and mathematical problems. The focus is on developing an understanding of proportionality, including similarity, the use of formulas to determine surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes and understanding operations on all rational numbers as well as solving linear equations. Data Analysis, probability, geometry and measurement, and number and operations are included in the course content. Placement is based on achievement test scores.

ALGEBRA 1 HONORS (High School Course)

Students will deepen and extend their understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. This course is designed for mature mathematically talented students who are willing to put in the extra time needed to master the standards taught in this high school course. Students are continuously monitored and must maintain Honors criteria. Students must pass Chapter Tests, County Midterm (10% of their grade) and State Algebra/End of Course Exam (30% of their grade). Students must pass the EOC in order to graduate from High School. **The grade for this course is calculated in the student's high school GPA and included on the high school transcript.**

GEOMETRY HONORS (GEM 8) (High School Course)

The fundamental purpose of the Geometry Honors course is to formalize and extend students' geometric experiences from the middle grades. Students explore more complex geometric situations and deepen their explanations of geometric relationships, moving towards formal mathematical arguments. The course stresses the ability to reason logically and to think critically, using spatial sense. Students will engage in activities that allow them to create geometric understanding of the world around them. The units are Congruence, Proof, and Constructions; Similarity, Proof, and Trigonometry; Extending to Three Dimensions; Connecting Algebra and Geometry through Coordinates; and Circles. Successful completion of Algebra 1 Honors is a prerequisite. Students must pass Chapter Tests, County Midterm (10% of their grade) and State End of Course Exam (30% of their grade). **The grade for this course is calculated in the student's high school GPA and included on the high school transcript.**

PHYSICAL SCIENCE

This is a comprehensive curriculum involving physical science. Benchmarks for Sunshine State Standards are incorporated into instruction at each grade level to prepare students for 8th grade FSA testing in science. Students must participate in the science research process, demonstrate scientific writing skills, and perform hands-on activities using appropriate laboratory procedures. Students are encouraged to save all notes and handouts from each grade level to review for the 8th grade FSA that is comprehensive for all grade levels.

BIOLOGY HONORS (High School Course)

Biology 1 Honors is a high school-level class that encompasses a broad overview of the study of life, the origins of life, cellular structures, and the evolution of species. During each unit, students will establish a deep understanding of how all organisms are interrelated, connect what they learn in the classroom to the real world, and conduct experiments to further their knowledge. Students should have excellent note-taking and study skills to succeed in this class. Students must pass Chapter Tests, County Midterm (10% of their grade) and State End of Course Exam (30% of their grade). **The grade for this course is calculated in the student's high school GPA and included on the high school transcript.**

US HISTORY (Regular, Advanced, Gifted)

The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the historical development of the United States. Students will examine the causes, course, and consequences of settlement in the American colonies. They will demonstrate an understanding nation. Students will examine westward expansion, sectionalism, and the consequences of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Students will examine how the United States became a world power and how we got involved in international affairs. Students will examine connections to the past to prepare for the future in a global world. Civics will be incorporated in the curriculum. Students will also participate in "Junior Achievement Finance Park", a program designed to assess personal skills and interests, career options and personal and family financial management.

READING (Full Year)

Reading plays a critical role in today's rapidly evolving technological world. In addition to receiving reading in content area classes, formal reading classes provide additional assistance in many target areas, including vocabulary development, comprehension, word and sound recognition, informal writing, and text reading efficiency.

ELECTIVES

BAND - BEGINNING (Full Year)

Beginning band is designed for students with limited or no musical experience. Beginning Band provides students with training in basic instrumental techniques including instrument selection, tone production, note reading, and musical terms. This group will perform a minimum of two times during the year. Previous musical experience is not required.

BAND - CONCERT (Full Year)

Concert band is designed for students that have some prior experience playing an instrument. Students continue to build upon the proper fundamentals and skills learned in Beginning Band. This group will perform a minimum of four concerts during the school year and will have other opportunities to perform and participate in music-related activities and field trips. Teacher recommendation is required.

BAND - SYMPHONIC (Full Year)

Symphonic band is an advanced ensemble designed for students that have had at least one year of playing experience on a band instrument. Students in symphonic band will be provided with further training in instrumental techniques, music theory, music history, and music appreciation. This group will perform a minimum of two times during the school year. Teacher recommendation is required.

BAND - WIND ENSEMBLE (Full Year) - High School Credit Course

Wind Ensemble is a select ensemble designed for the student who has proven himself/herself to be one of the best musicians. Students must show dedication to the band program and show a strong desire for learning and performing music. Wind Ensemble will offer students many varied performance opportunities, as it is the main performing band of the school. Students will continue their study of instrumental techniques, music theory, music history, and music appreciation. Teacher recommendation is required. **The grade for this course is calculated in the student's high school GPA and included on the high school transcript.**

CHORUS (Full Year)

Chorus is designed to offer students the opportunity to develop skills in the following areas: healthy vocal production, sight singing, ear training, music history, and performance. Students will build traditional vocal fundamentals while familiarizing themselves with the techniques behind today's popular music, such as tonality and harmony, which will prepare them for live vocal performances. No prior chorus experience is necessary to be enrolled in this class.

DEBATE 1 (Full Year) – High School Credit – Application Required

Debate 1 is a high school level course designed to introduce students to the competitive Speech and Debate events of the National Speech and Debate Association. Students will develop public speaking, writing, performance strategies, and organization. This course will increase students' understanding of the communication process, help students develop confidence and poise, and enhance their abilities to speak and listen effectively. Students compete monthly at county tournaments. To receive High School Honors Credit, out of school participation is mandatory. **The grade for this course is calculated in the student's high school GPA and included on the high school transcript.**

JOURNALISM (Full Year) – Application Required

Students are taught the fundamentals of reporting and writing and learn the necessary elements for a successful yearbook. In addition to writing articles for the newspaper, capturing memorable Pioneer moments, and producing a quality yearbook, students are introduced to media broadcasting where a variety of hands on activities take place. Students learn interview techniques that are implemented by interviewing students and faculty members.

TV Production (Full Year) – Application Required

The TV production class is an exciting and high energy class. TV production is responsible for producing and airing the morning announcements and preparing a variety of different videos for Pioneer. Students learn to write scripts, edit video and learn skills needed for working behind the camera as well as on camera. Prior experience is not required, just the desire to learn!

PEER COUNSELING (Full Year) – Application Required

The purpose of the Peer Counseling Program is to promote the health and well-being of young people through peer education and referral. The core of the program is a strong academic curriculum that addresses a multitude of social, individual, school, and family concerns, and allows trained students to help themselves while helping others. The focus of the curriculum is preventative, and a variety of intervention strategies are employed to educate and motivate students and their associates towards the realization of self-fulfillment and desired personal and social goals.

SPANISH I (Full Year) – High School Credit Class

This is a rigorous fast-paced introductory high school credit course. Successful completion will fulfill your foreign language requirement for high school graduation provided Spanish II is taken the following year.

The purpose of the course is to enable students to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a communicative and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is on the development of the listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and on the acquisition of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding, critical thinking and problem-solving skills are fostered. Students should be highly motivated and committed to spending the time required to gain proficiency in the content skills. Regular attendance and completion of assignments are essential.

One half (1/2) of a high school credit will be earned upon successful completion of the coursework each semester. 75% of the grade will come from the quarter grades and 25% of the semester grade will come from the semester exam. **The grade for this course is calculated in the student's high school GPA and included on the high school transcript.**

SPANISH II (Full Year) - High School Credit Class

To be enrolled in this class you must have completed and passed Spanish 1. Upon successful completion of Spanish 2 this course will complete the two-year consecutive sequence needed to fulfill the high school requirement for graduation. One half (1/2) of a high school credit will be earned upon successful completion of the coursework each semester. 75% of the grade will come from the quarter grades and 25% of the semester grade will come from the semester exam. **The grade for this course is calculated in the student's high school GPA and included on the high school transcript.**

The class is conducted mainly in Spanish and the student is expected to speak the target language. The student will continue to make progress in the following areas: reading, writing, listening and speaking. **This is considered an academic core subject. Once selected students will remain in the class for the entire year. There will be no changes.**

ART – ADVANCED (Full Year)

This program is designed to further challenge students who show an aptitude for fine art. In addition to creating two and three-dimensional work, students will be required to use the elements and principles of art to participate in contests, create murals, produce art for school functions and much more. Examples of student work must be shown for required teacher recommendation.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Full Year)

Physical education is a unique course that allows students to engage their minds as well as their bodies in an open environment that is not confined to the classroom. This program consists of team, individual and dual sports, lifetime and leisure activities, and daily exercise. There is an emphasis on lifetime fitness, sportsmanship and teamwork. Students are required to wear proper physical education clothing, do homework, tests, and keep a notebook.

INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP - High School Credit

This is a brand new and exciting computer science course that will introduce students to the fundamental knowledge and skills necessary to start and operate a business from creating an idea to running the business. Students will learn the basics of advertising, marketing, social media marketing, finance, and the stock market.

FOUNDATIONS OF WEB DESIGN - High School Credit

This exciting new course will introduce students to the foundations of computer science. Students will learn how to create a website using HTML & CSS and move on to creating apps and games using JavaScript while helping them develop leadership and teamwork skills. This will prepare students for the Microsoft Technology Associate Industry Certification in HTML & CSS.

EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY

This course will develop foundational knowledge and skills related to Computer Applications and Coding. Students will complete course work that includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel. Students will learn basic skills in coding using JavaScript to create animations and games.

ELECTIVE ROTATION COURSES:

ART (18 Weeks)

This course is designed to provide students with experiences in two-dimensional and three-dimensional art. Students are introduced to the elements and principle of art through various styles and materials. Art history will be incorporated with the lessons. Some of the activities are still life, portraits, and painting.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY - Wood Shop (18 Weeks)

This exploratory program allows the students to work with different materials, machines, and processes. Students will learn how to use various tools to make exciting things out of wood. They will demonstrate proper and safe procedures while working with tools, apparatus, equipment, systems, and materials. Students will perform special skills unique to manufacturing and demonstrate and apply problem-solving processes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (18 Weeks)

Physical education is a unique course that allows students to engage their minds as well as their bodies in an open environment that is not confined to the classroom. This program consists of team, individual and dual sports, lifetime and leisure activities, and daily exercise. There is an emphasis on lifetime fitness, sportsmanship and teamwork. Students are required to wear proper physical education clothing, do homework, tests, and keep a notebook.

MUSIC APPRECIATION (18 Weeks)

Music Appreciation is an exciting course designed for students to develop an understanding of contemporary musical concepts as they build their musical theory knowledge through hands-on techniques. Students will become familiar with the history of different music genres, instrument origins and important figures in music.