

WAXAHACHIE ISD JUNIOR HIGH COURSE CATALOG 2023 - 2024



**EDDIE D. FINLEY
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**ROBBIE E. HOWARD
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

**EVELYN LOVE COLEMAN
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

Choir I

Prerequisite: *Audition for Voice Placement Required (S/A/T/B)*

The Choir I serves students who have a desire to study and perform vocal/choral music. Previous choir and/or singing experience is helpful but not required. The course covers an introduction to the choral program, beginning aspects of music theory, vocal technique, ensemble singing and the fundamentals of singing in a choral setting. Students will be expected to sing independently and in an ensemble. Choir members perform at concerts, school and community events including evening concerts.

Choir II

Prerequisite: *Choir I + Audition (Director will determine the Section)*

The Choir II course serves students as a continuation of Choir I, increasing in curricular depth of vocal performance for students who desire the next level of study and performance for vocal/choral music. The course pursues more challenging aspects of music theory, vocal technique, ensemble singing and music evaluation. Students will be expected to sing independently and in an ensemble. Students at this level are assigned to a unique campus ensemble and have an expectation to participate in concerts to satisfy state requirements in Music TEKS through the curriculum. Students in this course are directed through music evaluation and elements of adjudication and will perform in the UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation process at the discretion of the campus Choir Director, with opportunities to showcase musical proficiency in other public and contest venues that are sometimes conducted after school and on weekends.

Theatre Arts I

The Theatre Arts I course offers an introduction to the study of theatrical arts concepts. Fundamental elements of the theatre program of study are explored. The course offers a creative outlet for performing individually and in groups. Studies will include acting techniques, body control, verbal and nonverbal interaction and communication, theatre production, history of theatre, technical theatre and other theatre devices. Rehearsals and performances beyond the school day may be required to meet course requirements outlined in the TEKS. Theatre students may perform in plays, school and community events and at UIL competitions.

Theatre Arts II

Prerequisite: *Theatre Arts I*

The Theatre Arts II course serves students as a continuation of Theatre Arts I, increasing in curricular depth of individual and group performance for students who desire the next level of study and performance for stage plays in theatre. The course pursues more challenging aspects of acting, movement, stagecraft, vocal technique, ensemble acting and theatre evaluation. Students at this level are encouraged to audition for campus plays to satisfy public performance requirements of the TEKS. Students will learn Elements of adjudication and will be provided an opportunity to experience the UIL One-Act Play process at the discretion of the campus Theatre Director. Students will also have opportunities to showcase theatre proficiency in other public venues that are sometimes conducted after school and on weekends.

Advanced Theatre Arts I

Prerequisite: *Audition Required*

Advanced Theatre Arts I provides special emphasis on advanced acting styles and techniques and critical analysis of scripts and characters. Students selecting this course will engage in advanced theatre productions concepts, alongside individual and ensemble performances via scene work, full length plays and student written works. Multiple after school performances are a requirement for the course, as students will frequently manage campus productions as members of the cast and crew. *Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.*

Advanced Theatre Arts II

Prerequisite: *Advanced Theatre Arts I + Audition*

The Advanced Theatre Arts II course builds upon experiences in Advanced Theatre Arts I and continues special emphasis on advanced acting styles and techniques and critical analysis of scripts and characters. Students selecting this course will engage in advanced theatre productions concepts, alongside individual and ensemble performances via scene work, full length plays and student written works. Students in Advanced Theatre Arts II may work in collaboration with the High School Theatre Arts program at events during the year to prepare them for transitioning to the program in 9th grade. Multiple after school performances are a requirement for the course, as students will frequently manage campus productions as members of the cast and crew. *Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.*

Musical Theatre I

Prerequisite: *Audition Required*

The Musical Theatre I course is designed for the introduction and production of musicals. Instruction in the Musical Theatre course will ensure students to have foundational vocal training in sight reading, solfege, SATB part

recognition / harmonic awareness, and a choral-focused basis on quality sound production and aural awareness, versus learning through rote or impromptu memorization of prerecorded tracks; The course will also introduce student performers to contemporary and classical acting styles and techniques, exploration and analysis of representative plays from various periods of history, film, puppetry, dance, masked theatre, playwriting and other specialized production techniques. All students will be involved in many performances, written and visual project thought out the year. This class is designed for the theatre student who wishes to apply singing and acting study and apply high level production skills. Rehearsals and performances beyond the school day may be required to meet course requirements outlined in the TEKS. Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.

Musical Theatre II

Prerequisite: Musical Theatre I + Audition Required

The Musical Theatre II course continues the study and production of musicals with a focus in vocal techniques, pedagogy, and music application in the theatre setting. Increased focus on sight reading, musical execution in acting, ensemble collaboration, and choreography are components of the course. All students will be involved in many performances, written and visual project thought out the year. Rehearsals and performances beyond the school day may be required to meet course requirements outlined in the TEKS. Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.

Career and Technical Education Elective

College and Career Readiness 7

The career development process is unique to every person and evolves throughout one's life. Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will 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 investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths.

Integration of Required State Technology Application Standards

The Technology Applications Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) describe what students should know and be able to do using technology. The goal of the Technology Application TEKS is for students to gain technology-based skills and apply them to all curriculum areas at all grade levels. There are four common strands for Grades K-12: Foundations, Information Acquisition, Work in Solving Problems, and Communication. In grades 6-8, students become fluent in using multiple software applications and applying them across the curriculum. Students build on the Grades 3-5 knowledge and skills, and continue to demonstrate keyboarding proficiency in technique and posture while building speed. The TEKS can be taught integrated into other areas (such as English Language Arts and Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science), as a separate class, or both.

PLTW- Gateway 1: Design and Modeling/App. Creators – (High School CTE Credit)

GPA Type: None. GPA will not be calculated for rank if taken prior to 9th grade

Course#: 17584

Credit: .5 state credit toward graduation requirements

Through explorations of coding and robotics, flight and space, and DNA and crime scene analysis, PLTW Gateway fuels students' passion for discovery. As they engage in hands-on, collaborative problem solving focused on real-world challenges, students use and stretch their imaginations in brand-new ways and connect their learning to life. All the while, students step into roles spanning the career landscape – a crucial experience during this transitional time in their lives.

Other Electives

Spanish I -1A (High School Language Other Than English-LOTE Credit)

GPA Type: None. GPA will not be calculated for rank if taken prior to 9th grade

Course # 0120

HS Credit: 1.0 High School Spanish I **after successful completion of both Spanish I- 1A and 1B.**

IMPORTANT COURSE NOTE: Spanish I is a two-year program offered in middle school that is equivalent to the high school's first-year course. In order to receive high school credit, a student must successfully complete both courses Spanish I- 1A and 1B.

This two-year course program introduces the language and facilitates opportunities for students to acquire basic language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing across all three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Vocabulary acquisition and communication in daily situations are emphasized. Students will also compare cultures and customs.

8th Grade Course Information

Required Courses <i>ONE from each core area (ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language Arts 8 • Advanced English Language Arts 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Math 8/Pre-Algebra • Pre-AP Algebra I- <i>(1.0 High School credit- no GPA^)</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science 8 • Advanced Science 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies 8 (United States History to 1877) • Advanced Social Studies 8 (United States History to 1877)
<i>ONE from PE or Athletics</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Education 8 • *Dance I: Physical Education/Chey-Annes • *Dance II: Physical Education/Chey-Annes • *Dance III: Physical Education/Chey-Annes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics 8
Elective Course Offerings <i>TWO from the following electives</i>	
Spanish I <i>(1.0 High School credit- no GPA^)</i>	Art I <i>(1.0 High School credit- no GPA^)</i>
Art I	Art II
Art III	*Choir I
*Choir II	*Choir III
*Band I	*Band II
*Band III	Theatre Arts I
Theatre Arts II	Theatre Arts III
*Advanced Theatre I	*Advanced Theatre II
*Advanced Theatre III	*Musical Theatre I
*Musical Theatre II	*Musical Theatre III
Journalism/Yearbook <i>(Application required)</i>	Reading Lab 8- <i>counselor assigned</i>
Front Office Aide <i>(Application required)</i>	Library Aide <i>(Application required)</i>
Career and Technical Education Elective Courses	
Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Tech. & Communications – <i>(1.0 High School credit- no GPA^)</i>	
Principals of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources – <i>(1.0 High School credit- no GPA^)</i>	
PLTW- Gateway 1: Design and Modeling/App Creators- <i>(.5 High School credit- no GPA^)</i>	

* Auditions Required; Director will determine the section

^ Students may earn high school credits with successful completion of designated courses offered prior to the 9th grade level. Course work completed before the start of the student's 9th grade year will count as high school credit, but the grade point average (GPA) earned will not be included when calculating class rank.

High School Credit Courses will be listed with the following format:

Course Title – High School Credit

GPA Type: None. *Course GPA will not be calculated for rank if taken prior to 9th grade*

Course #

Credit: 1 state credit toward graduation requirements

Important Notice: *Students and parents are advised to pay particular attention to courses which apply to high school credits. Grades earned will be denoted on the student's official high school transcript which is used as the basis for college entrance. Before selecting a course for high school credit, parents and students should consider prior academic success.*

Eighth Grade English Language Arts Course

English Language Arts 8

Students in this course will read and understand a wide variety of literary and informational texts; compose a variety of written texts; conduct research and present ideas and information; listen and respond to the ideas of others while contributing their own ideas in conversations and in groups; and use the oral and written conventions of the English language in speaking and writing. Students will read and write on a daily basis.

Advanced English Language Arts 8

This course covers the same TEKS as ELAR 8. The course will focus on developing and sustaining foundational language skills such as listening, speaking, reading and writing fluency. Students will be challenged in a variety of ways which may include: introduction to the content at a faster pace, depth and complexity in which the content is taught, inquiry based learning, and critical thinking and analysis to solve problems. This course will serve as a foundation for Pre-Advanced Placement and advanced courses that may be taken in high school.

Reading Lab 8 – *Counselor assigned*

Students who have demonstrated academic deficits in 7th grade ELAR and/or the 7th grade STAAR Reading assessment may be enrolled in the English Language Arts Lab 8 in order to receive required interventions. This course may take the place of the student's elective choice in order to provide extra help and instruction in the core area of reading.

Eighth Grade Math Courses

Math 8/Pre-Algebra

The primary focal areas in Grade 8 are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of real numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students begin to develop an understanding of functional relationships. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Pre-AP Algebra I (*High School Math Credit*)

Prerequisite: Advanced Math 6 & Advanced Math 7/Pre-Algebra

GPA Type: None. *GPA will not be calculated for rank if taken prior to 9th grade*

Course # 0204

Credit: 1.0 state credit toward graduation requirements

The Pre-AP Algebra 1 course is designed to deepen students' understanding of linear relationships by emphasizing patterns of change, multiple representations of functions and equations, modeling real world scenarios with functions, and methods for finding and representing solutions of equations and inequalities. Taken together, these ideas provide a powerful set of conceptual tools that students can use to make sense of their world through mathematics. This course will serve as a foundation for advanced courses that may be taken in high school. ***Students enrolled in this class will take the STAAR Algebra 1 EOC.***

Eighth Grade Science Courses

Science 8

Students in this course will focus on earth and space science. Students recognize matter is composed of atoms, examine the Periodic Table to recognize the elements are grouped into families. Students will also experiment with the relationship between force, motion, and energy through the study of Newton's three laws. Students will also identify the role of natural events in altering Earth systems. The student will conduct laboratory and field investigations for at least 40% of instructional time.

Advanced Science 8

Students in this course will cover the same TEKS as Science 8. Students will study matter and energy, Newton's laws, Earth and space, and organisms and their environments with a more extensive and detailed approach. Students will be challenged in a variety of ways which may include: introduction to the content at a faster pace, depth and complexity in which the content is taught, inquiry based learning, and critical thinking and analysis to solve problems. This course will serve as a foundation for Pre-Advanced Placement and advanced courses taken in high school.

Eighth Grade Social Studies Courses

Social Studies 8 (United States History to 1877)

Students will use a variety of rich primary and secondary sources to study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The content builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events 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 describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material.

Advanced Social Studies 8 (United States History to 1877)

Students in this course will cover the same TEKS as Social Studies 8, with a more extensive and detailed approach and an emphasis on knowledge and skills necessary to participate in further advanced courses in high school. Students will be challenged in a variety of ways which may include: introduction to the content at a faster pace, depth and complexity in which the content is taught, inquiry based learning, and critical thinking and analysis to solve problems.

Eighth Grade Physical Education/Athletics Courses

Physical Education 8

General physical education for boys and girls shall be concerned with the development of physical fitness and the learning of skills. The program provides each student with opportunities to develop skill and understanding in a variety of sports activities, with daily exercise designed to help students develop and maintain physical fitness for their age. Course offerings include: flag football, basketball, volleyball, softball, weight training, gym games and other fitness activities as well as, the fitness program. The student is evaluated on the basis of skill in each sport, knowledge and strategy, rules, history, and terminology in each sport, and behavior in terms of participation, health, and safety practices.

Dance I, Dance II, Dance III: Chey-Annes/Physical Education (Auditions Required)

This course is designed to introduce the principles of dance as discipline and an art form while establishing a basic knowledge of movements. The focus of all the class will be placed on proper body alignment, balance, and ability to learn a new movement style, musicality, and memory. These skills will then be combined into standard dance combinations. This will be accompanied by an emphasis placed on the development of total body fitness, and will prepare for dance performance. The Dance Team will perform at junior high football and basketball games. There will be an activity fee associated with this program. Please check with your counselor for details.

**Candidates will learn a jazz routine they will have to execute before a panel of judges. Prior dance training is not required.*

Athletics

The 8th Grade Athletic Program is designed to develop successful student athletes with strong character and high standards and success is measured physically, but foremost academically.

Girls' Athletics 8

8th grade girls may participate in a variety of sports. Teams are chosen by tryouts. Athletics will be placed on the schedule after tryouts and placement on a team. Students MUST have a physical on file with the coaches prior to tryouts, as required by UIL rules. WISD provides opportunities for free physical examinations in the spring; students who do not take advantage of this opportunity are responsible for obtaining the necessary evaluation forms and having their physical examination at their own expense.

Volleyball – Volleyball tryout are held the first week of school with a White and Green team selected. During the season, practice is held prior to the school day. Some after school practices may be required.

Basketball – Basketball tryouts are held the first week of school with a White and Green team selected. During season practice is held prior to the school day. Some after school practices may be required.

Volleyball and Basketball tryout information will be passed out at 7th grade orientation in August. Students who are new to the district, and enroll after volleyball and basketball teams are selected, may tryout if they were participating in athletics at their previous school.

Track – Track tryouts are held in February and practices are held prior to the school day. Some after school practices may be required.

Tennis – Teams are supervised by the high school tennis coaches. Practices are held before school at the high school courts. *Transportation to the high school must be arranged by students and parents.*

Golf – Teams are supervised by the high school golf coaches. Practices are held after school at the Waxahachie Country Club. *Transportation to the Country Club must be arranged by students and parents.*

Boys' Athletics 8

8th grade boys may participate in a variety of sports. Teams are chosen by tryouts. Student **MUST** have a physical on file with the coaches prior to tryouts, as required by UIL rules. Student requests for removal from the athletic program will only be granted at the end of the first semester.

Football – Camp is offered in the summer but is not a requirement. Teams are chosen by tryouts. After football season is completed, students continue to be active in an off-season conditioning program.

Basketball and Track – Teams are chosen by tryouts. Both sports are competitive in the spring.

Basketball – Tryouts are held late fall. To participate in track you must be enrolled in Athletics 2nd semester.

Tennis – Teams are supervised by the high school tennis coaches. Practices are held before school at the high school courts. *Transportation to the high school must be arranged by the students and parents.*

Golf – Teams are supervised by the high school golf coaches. Practices are held after school at the Waxahachie Country Club. *Transportation to the Country Club must be arranged by students and parents.*

Eighth Grade Elective Courses

Fine Arts Elective

Art I

This course offers a continuation of Visual Arts concepts from primary school and transitions the student by introducing higher level concepts in the subject area. Art I is a hands-on, project-based course focusing on the creation of original work through a variety of methods and materials. Students will experience success through a wide-range of projects that emphasize skill development. Students will explore elements of art, principles of design, artists, cultures and art history.

Art II

Prerequisite: Art I

This course continues to build on the TEKS and project-based elements learned in Art I. Students will work with a variety of methods and materials and will be expected to use higher level thinking skills, increased planning and improved hand-eye coordination in their work. Students will use principles of design to organize the elements of art in their projects. Students explore artists, cultures and art history. Students in this course are coached through art evaluation and elements of adjudication and have the opportunity to submit works to local art shows and competitions such as Jr. VASE.

Art III

Prerequisite: Art II

This course follows an advanced art curriculum that consists of complex art projects that require student planning and involved processes. The Art III class will require students to identify their individual voice and personal connection with most projects at a deeper level. Advanced students will complete an independent study project based on careers in visual art allowing them to explore art career options and culminate with a product in the chosen field. Students in this course are coached through art evaluation and elements of adjudication are highly encouraged to submit works to local art shows and competitions such as Jr. VASE to showcase their mastery in visual arts projects and works.

Art I (High School Fine Art Credit)

GPA Type: None. *GPA will not be calculated for rank if taken prior to 9th grade*

Course#:0687

Credit: 1.0 state credit toward graduation requirements

This course is designed to study the visual arts of painting, sculpture and architecture. Related problems in drawing and design allow creative application and extension of art materials and tools. Participation in regional and local exhibitions is part of the visual experience of the program. Students will be introduced to the visual arts and art history. Students will work with a variety of materials and techniques as they learn drawing skills, basic painting techniques, printmaking techniques, and basic three dimensional designs. Students will also study art history as it can be applied to the painting, printmaking, and sculpture.

Band I

Prerequisite: *Audition for Instrumental Placement Required*

The Band I course serves as the introductory level of instrumental music. The Band I classes are divided by instrument classification. All students in these classes have been or will be tested to determine which instrument they will play, and instruments will be assigned primarily according to the abilities of the student and then the needs of the band program. This course will cover basic fundamentals of tone production and not reading. Elements of music are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty which present challenging and interesting problems for students to master through individual practice and class rehearsal. Students and parents will be assisted in all matters pertaining to instrument procurement and materials for class.

Band II

Prerequisite: *Band I*

The Band II course serves as the continuation of instrumental music studies from Band I. Students in Band II classes continue assignment by instrument classification. This course will continue development of instrument fundamentals of tone production and note reading. Elements of music are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty which present challenging and interesting problems for students to master through individual practice and class rehearsal. Students at this level are assigned to a unique campus ensemble and have an expectation to participate in concerts to satisfy state requirements in Music TEKS through the curriculum. Students in this course are directed through music evaluation and elements of adjudication and will perform in the UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation process at the discretion of the campus Band Director, with opportunities to showcase musical proficiency in other public and contest venues that are sometimes conducted after school and on weekends.

Band III

Prerequisite: *Band II*

The Band III course serves as the continuation of instrumental music studies from Band II. Students in Band III classes continue assignment by instrument classification. This course will continue development of instrument fundamentals, while focusing on advanced level of difficulty in sight reading, tone production and note reading. Elements of music are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty which present challenging and interesting problems for students to master through individual practice and class rehearsal. Students at this level are assigned to a unique campus ensemble and have an expectation to participate in concerts to satisfy state requirements in Music TEKS through the curriculum. Students in this course are directed through music evaluation and elements of adjudication and will perform in the UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation process at the discretion of the campus Band Director, with opportunities to showcase musical proficiency in other public and contest venues that are sometimes conducted after school and on weekends. This level of course prepares the student for transition to the High School Band program.

Choir I

Prerequisite: *Audition for Voice Placement Required (S/A/T/B)*

The Choir I course serves students who have a desire to study and perform vocal/choral music. Previous choir and/or singing experience is helpful but not required. The course covers an introduction to the choral program, beginning aspects of music theory, vocal technique, ensemble singing and the fundamentals of singing in a choral setting. Students will be expected to sing independently and in an ensemble. Choir members perform at concerts, school and community events including evening concerts.

Choir II

Prerequisite: *Choir I + Audition (Director will determine the section)*

The Choir II course serves students as a continuation of Choir I, increasing in curricular depth of vocal performance for students who desire the next level of study and performance for vocal/choral music. The course pursues more challenging aspects of music theory, vocal technique, ensemble singing and music evaluation. Students will be expected to sing independently and in an ensemble. Students at this level are assigned to a unique campus ensemble and have an expectation to participate in concerts to satisfy state requirements in Music TEKS through the curriculum. Students in this course are directed through music evaluation and elements of adjudication and will perform in the UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation process at the discretion of the campus Choir Director, with opportunities to showcase musical proficiency in other public and contest venues that are sometimes conducted after school and on weekends.

Choir III

Prerequisite: *Choir II + Audition (Director will determine the section)*

The Choir III course serves students as a continuation of Choir II, increasing in curricular depth of vocal performance for students who desire the next level of study and performance for vocal/choral music. The course pursues increasingly challenging aspects of music theory, vocal technique, ensemble singing and music evaluation. Students will be expected to sing independently and in an ensemble. Students at this level are assigned to a unique campus ensemble and have an expectation to participate in concerts to satisfy state requirements in Music TEKS

through the curriculum. Students in this course are directed through music evaluation and elements of adjudication and will perform in the UIL Concert & Sight Reading Evaluation process at the discretion of the campus Choir Director, with opportunities to showcase musical proficiency in other public and contest venues that are sometimes conducted after school and on weekends. This level of course prepares the student for transition to the High School Choir program.

Theatre Arts I

The Theatre Arts I course offers an introduction to the study of theatrical arts concepts. Fundamental elements of the theatre program of study are explored. The course offers a creative outlet for performing individually and in groups. Studies will include acting techniques, body control, verbal and nonverbal interaction and communication, theatre production, history of theatre, technical theatre and other theatre devices. Rehearsals and performances beyond the school day may be required to meet course requirements outlined in the TEKS. Theatre students may perform in plays, school and community events and at UIL competitions.

Theatre Arts II

Prerequisite: *Theatre Arts I*

The Theatre Arts II course serves students as a continuation of Theatre Arts I, increasing in curricular depth of individual and group performance for students who desire the next level of study and performance for stage plays in theatre. The course pursues more challenging aspects of acting, movement, stagecraft, vocal technique, ensemble acting and theatre evaluation. Students at this level are encouraged to audition for campus plays to satisfy public performance requirements of the TEKS. Students will learn Elements of adjudication and will be provided an opportunity to experience the UIL One-Act Play process at the discretion of the campus Theatre Director. Students will also have opportunities to showcase theatre proficiency in other public venues that are sometimes conducted after school and on weekends.

Theatre Arts III

Prerequisite: *Theatre Arts II + Audition (Director will determine the section)*

The Theatre Arts III course serves students as a continuation of Theatre Arts II, increasing in curricular depth of theatrical performance for students who desire the next level of study in theatre. The course pursues increasingly challenging aspects of acting and ensemble theatre production with a cast and crew. Students in this course are directed through theatre evaluation and elements of adjudication and are encouraged to audition for campus musicals, plays and the UIL One-Act Play contest. Students will have opportunity to perform in other public venues that are sometimes conducted after school and on weekends. Rehearsals and performances beyond the school day may be required to meet course requirements outlined in the TEKS. This level of course prepares the student for transition to the High School Theatre Arts program.

Advanced Theatre Arts I

Prerequisite: *Audition Required*

Advanced Theatre Arts I provides special emphasis on advanced acting styles and techniques and critical analysis of scripts and characters. Students selecting this course will engage in advanced theatre productions concepts, alongside individual and ensemble performances via scene work, full length plays and student written works. Multiple after school performances are a requirement for the course, as students will frequently manage campus productions as members of the cast and crew. *Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.*

Advanced Theatre Arts II

Prerequisite: *Advanced Theatre Arts I + Audition*

The Advanced Theatre Arts II course builds upon experiences in Advanced Theatre Arts I and continues special emphasis on advanced acting styles and techniques and critical analysis of scripts and characters. Students selecting this course will engage in advanced theatre productions concepts, alongside individual and ensemble performances via scene work, full length plays and student written works. Students in Advanced Theatre Arts II may work in collaboration with the High School Theatre Arts program at events during the year to prepare them for transitioning to the program in 9th grade. Multiple after school performances are a requirement for the course, as students will frequently manage campus productions as members of the cast and crew. *Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.*

Advanced Theatre Arts III

Prerequisite: *Advanced Theatre Arts II + Audition*

The Advanced Theatre Arts III course builds upon experiences in Advanced Theatre Arts II and continues special emphasis on advanced acting styles and productions. Students in Advanced Theatre Arts II may work in collaboration with the High School Theatre Arts program at events during the year to prepare them for transitioning to the program in 9th grade. Multiple after school performances are a requirement for the course, as students will frequently manage campus productions as members of the cast and crew. *Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.*

Musical Theatre I

Prerequisite: Audition Required

The Musical Theatre I course is designed for the introduction and production of musicals. Instruction in the Musical Theatre course will ensure students to have foundational vocal training in sight reading, solfege, SATB part recognition / harmonic awareness, and a choral-focused basis on quality sound production and aural awareness, versus learning through rote or impromptu memorization of prerecorded tracks; The course will also introduce student performers to contemporary and classical acting styles and techniques, exploration and analysis of representative plays from various periods of history, film, puppetry, dance, masked theatre, playwriting and other specialized production techniques. All students will be involved in many performances, written and visual project thought out the year. This class is designed for the theatre student who wishes to apply singing and acting study and apply high level production skills. Rehearsals and performances beyond the school day may be required to meet course requirements outlined in the TEKS. *Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.*

Musical Theatre II

Prerequisite: Musical Theatre I + Audition Required

The Musical Theatre II course continues the study and production of musicals with a focus in vocal techniques, pedagogy, and music application in the theatre setting. Increased focus on sight reading, musical execution in acting, ensemble collaboration, and choreography are components of the course. All students will be involved in many performances, written and visual project thought out the year. Rehearsals and performances beyond the school day may be required to meet course requirements outlined in the TEKS. *Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.*

Musical Theatre III

Prerequisite: Musical Theatre II + Audition Required

The Musical Theatre III course completes the vocal study of musicals with a transition element to High School Musical Theatre courses. Sight reading, musical execution in acting, ensemble collaboration, and choreography are in continued study. All students will be involved in many performances, written and visual project thought out the year. Rehearsals and performances beyond the school day may be required to meet course requirements outlined in the TEKS. *Students must complete an application and will audition for placement in this list driven, limited enrollment course.*

Career and Technical Education Elective

Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Tech. & Communications – (High School CTE Credit)

GPA Type: None. *GPA will not be calculated for rank if taken prior to 9th grade*

Course#: 17160

Credit: 1.0 state credit toward graduation requirements

The goal of this course is for the student to understand arts, audio/video technology, and communications systems. Within this context, students will be expected to develop an understanding of the various and multifaceted career opportunities in this cluster and the knowledge, skills, and educational requirements for those opportunities.

Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources – (High School CTE Credit)

GPA Type: None. *GPA will not be calculated for rank if taken prior to 9th grade*

Course#: 17040

Credit: 1.0 state credit toward graduation requirements

Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources will allow students to develop knowledge and skills regarding career and educational opportunities, personal development, globalization, industry standards, details, practices, and expectations.

PLTW- Gateway 1: Design and Modeling/App. Creators – (High School CTE Credit)

GPA Type: None. *GPA will not be calculated for rank if taken prior to 9th grade*

Course#: 17584

Credit: .5 state credit toward graduation requirements

Through explorations of coding and robotics, flight and space, and DNA and crime scene analysis, PLTW Gateway fuels students' passion for discovery. As they engage in hands-on, collaborative problem solving focused on real-world challenges, students use and stretch their imaginations in brand-new ways and connect their learning to life. All the while, students step into roles spanning the career landscape – a crucial experience during this transitional time in their lives.

Other Electives

Spanish I (High School Foreign Language -Language Other Than English -LOTE Credit)

GPA Type: None. GPA will not be calculated for rank if taken prior to 9th grade

Course#:0120

Credit: 1.0 state credit toward graduation requirements

Prerequisite: None

Spanish I begins the development of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing through the use of oral drills, vocabulary building, simple composition and reading assignments, dialogue, and creative writing. The course also stresses cultural awareness and understanding of the Spanish speaking world and its impact on North America.

Journalism/Yearbook (Application Required)

Students enrolled in Journalism Yearbook will participate in the development of the yearbook. Students will learn journalistic tradition and the principles of publishing. Students in this course will study basic journalism skills such as feature writing, new stories, interviewing, sports writing, proofing and photography. Students will layout, produce and publish the 8th grade yearbook. Students who are interested in this course must complete an application and turn it in to the counselor at registration; selection will be made by the yearbook sponsor.

Student Aide- Office/Library (Application Required)

Student aides provide assistance to library or office personnel. The criteria for the selection of student aides are:

- Complete Application
- Good Citizenship – No ISS, OSS or DAEP
- Teacher recommendation
- Passing grades on STAAR state assessment
- Passing grades in all classes
- Good attendance and punctuality

Students who are interested in becoming a student aide may obtain an application from their counselor and return it to their counselor when the student turns in their registration form.

OUR VISION IS TO BE A DISTRICT WHERE INNOVATION THRIVES AND GROWTH IS LIMITLESS.

CHOICES We value **choices** because they make us unique and are critical to learning.

COLLABORATION We value a **collaborative culture** that honors and supports all who positively impact the lives of our students.

We value an environment of **belonging** that respects individual differences and ensures equality for all.

BELONGING We value relationships that broaden learning experiences and enrich our **community**.

COMMUNITY

