

HOLMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Course Descriptions 8th Grade



2009 - 2010

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2009 - 2010

PREFACE

The following courses will be offered at Holman Middle School in the 8th-Grade. Students will be grouped according to their achievement in mathematics classes. Four periods will focus on the core academic areas of Communication Arts, Social Studies, Math and Science. Students will also be given the opportunity to select a challenge level class for each of these core subjects. All other classes are a heterogeneous mixture of ability levels. The school day will also include one period of Physical Education / Health, one period of Core Electives (2 semester courses), and two periods of a General Elective. Students who are not achieving at grade level in Reading, Writing, or Math may have remedial or essential classes during the elective periods.

Each student will be assigned an advisor who will serve as a guide in the areas of social, emotional and academic growth. Added emphasis will be given to independent decision making and relationships. It is the continued goal that each student will develop a close relationship with at least one adult at Holman Middle School before they move on to Pattonville High School.

We offer challenge courses for 8th-Grade students meeting the qualifications listed in each course description. The challenge courses are designed to offer the same curriculum but with a more compacted, accelerated, and in-depth approach. A greater level of student responsibility will be expected for all students in challenge courses. The courses are designed to foster a greater level of student self-directed independence and academic strength.

COMMUNICATION ARTS

(Required, Full Year)

COMMUNICATION ARTS 8

Communication Arts, which includes a study of literature and grammar, is designed to develop and refine higher-level reading, writing, and thinking skills. Students must demonstrate knowledge and growth in written communication, vocabulary, and literary skills. Each student's portfolio is assessed by both student and teacher to determine a satisfactory level of growth and achievement in accordance with individual needs and goals.

CHALLENGE COMMUNICATION ARTS 8 (Teacher Recommendation Required)

This course builds upon the existing 8th-Grade Communication Arts curriculum. The challenge offering for 8th-Grade will foster student self-direction and independence, promote self-understanding, incorporate inquiry skills, be relevant to the learner, promote student discovery, and encourage the critical and creative exploration of ideas. The course will incorporate instructional strategies leading to the learner outcome of independent study, cooperative learning, and presentation and publishing. Emphasis will be on oral and written analysis, literary critique, producing and publishing written work, research skills as well as speaking and listening.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. 6th-Grade reading and/or language standardized test scores at or above the 80th percentile AND first semester 7th-Grade Communication Arts grade of A or A-
2. OR teacher recommendation

SOCIAL STUDIES

(Required, Full Year)

SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Social Studies in the 8th-Grade is a survey of the development of the United States from the period of colonization to the restoration following the Civil War. Students will gain an understanding of the forces and conflicts that have shaped our progress as a nation. Students will also gain insight into our changing role as a member of the world community.

CHALLENGE SOCIAL STUDIES 8 (Teacher Recommendation Required)

Challenge Social Studies builds upon the existing 8th-Grade curriculum that covers U.S. History to 1877. Using complex reasoning and higher levels of thinking, challenge students will examine primary sources in-depth, engage in both independent and group research and writing, participate in long term investigation, and utilize literature to make connections between various historical events.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. 6th-Grade reading and/or language standardized test scores at or above the 80th percentile
AND first semester 7th-Grade Social Studies grade of A or A-
2. OR teacher recommendation

MATHEMATICS

(Required, Full Year)

MATH 8

This course is designed to practice operations with fractions, decimals, and integers in a real world setting. Students will identify, classify and describe solid figures, compute the volume and surface area of solids, and solve problems using measurement. They will interpret data to construct an appropriate graph and continue their study of experimental and theoretical probability. To prepare for ninth grade mathematics, students will extend patterns and analyze change in various contexts. Much time will be spent solving multi-step equations and plotting ordered pairs given an equation. They will extend their knowledge of mathematical systems to recognize irrational numbers. In addition there will be a focus on mathematical problem solving and communication. This course will lead to a student taking Algebra I in the ninth grade.

ALGEBRA I (Teacher Recommendation and Prerequisite Required)

Algebra I is a course for students who have demonstrated exceptional mathematical ability. This course is the standard first year high school algebra course. It is taught in conjunction with the high school curriculum. The program is called "Algebra for All." Topics include properties, operations with rational numbers, equations, inequalities, exponents, polynomials, linear equations and graphs, systems of equations, rational expressions and equations, relations and functions, and quadratic equations. In addition there will be a focus on mathematical problem solving and communication. Successful completion of this course will lead to a student taking Honors Algebra II in the 9th-Grade. This placement will be determined by Pre-algebra grades and teacher recommendation.

SCIENCE (Required, Full Year)

SCIENCE 8

The 8th-Grade general science course covers meteorology, astronomy, chemistry and geology. Students develop process skills needed for experimentation, investigation, and exploration while learning these concepts. Scientific inquiry is a major aspect of the many hands on activities designed to actively engage students in the learning process.

CHALLENGE SCIENCE 8 (Teacher Recommendation Required)

Challenge Science builds upon the existing 8th-Grade science curriculum of investigating physical science through earth science concepts. Using complex reasoning and higher levels of thinking, challenge students will examine primary sources in depth, engage in both independent and group research and writing, participate in a long-term, inquiry-based investigation and utilize literature to make connections between various scientific principles and concepts.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

1. 6th-Grade reading and/or language standardized test scores at or above the 80th percentile
AND first semester 7th-Grade Science grade of A or A-
2. OR teacher recommendation

CO-ED PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 8

(Required, Full Year)

GET YOUR BODY MOVING...IMPROVE YOUR HEALTH...YOUR MIND
AND YOUR ENERGY LEVEL!!!

The daily Physical Education program, through a series of approved activities, promotes good health practices, normal growth and development, self-control, and is a means of self-expression. It is a planned program of team sports, individual and large group activities. Through these activities, students will learn rules and develop skills that can be carried into their everyday lives. A six (6) week course of health will be included to help students understand what comprises physical, mental, and social health, as well as the balance necessary to maintain overall health and wellness. Topics will include body systems, nutrition, fitness, drugs, tobacco, alcohol, safety, first aid, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and your body – growing and changing.

READING PROGRAM

(Full Year – By teacher recommendation only)

Remedial Reading Services is a delivery of services, by a Reading Specialist, to groups of ten or less students that address the basic categories of reading including: comprehension, word study (phonics, vocabulary, fluency), and higher order reading/thinking skills. The major areas of reading instruction that are covered also include: main idea, sequences, compare/contrast, cause/effect, predicting, inferences, and drawing conclusions. The effort is to offer individual, pair, or small group instruction.

BOYS TOWN (BT): FOUNDATIONS AND ADVENTURES (FAME) 8

This intense course, taught by a reading specialist and a paraprofessional, is designed for students reading below the fourth grade level. First semester (Foundations) involves instruction in spelling, phonics, oral reading fluency, use of words in context, and word attack skills. Second semester (Adventures) involves instruction in vocabulary development, word usage, oral reading fluency and word attack skills. Both fiction and nonfiction books, computer programs and a variety of games and activities are utilized to give students an opportunity to make high reading gains in a relatively short period of time.

BOYS TOWN (BT): MASTERY AND EXPLORATIONS 8

This course is designed for students reading below the current grade level. A certified reading specialist teaches this course. ‘Mastery’ focuses on comprehension, vocabulary, and reading strategy growth. ‘Explorations’ focuses on extending literacy across the curriculum through reading, study, and writing strategies.

REMEDIAL READING 8

Qualified students will learn a variety of reading strategies that foster independence in reading. By using a wide range of material, i.e., novels, plays, textbooks, magazines, charts, etc., students will have an opportunity to become lifelong readers.

ACADEMIC INTERVENTIONS

(Full Year – By teacher recommendation only)

COMMUNICATION ARTS ESSENTIALS 8

This course is designed for students that need to improve their basic reading and writing skills to be more successful in all classes.

MATH ESSENTIALS 8

This course will focus on basic math skills. Specific gaps will be addressed through conceptually developmental lessons and targeted skill practice.

SIGMA 8 – MIDDLE SCHOOL GIFTED PROGRAM

(Full Year - Specialized Program for students who meet entrance criteria)

The eighth grade SIGMA Program is for students who have qualified for gifted services. Emphasis will be placed on the continual development of thinking, reading, and writing skills, especially analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students receive instruction in research skills and are assisted on both individual and group projects.

PERFORMING ARTS

(Full Year – with the exception of General Music)

BAND 8 (Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th-Grade band or director approval.)

Eighth Grade Band includes brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. Students will concentrate on developing performance skills and learning music theory. Music of moderate difficulty in many different styles will be studied and performed. Public performances are required and will be a contributing factor in the grade for this course.

ORCHESTRA 8 (Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th-Grade orchestra or director approval.)

Students are encouraged to continue studying the violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students will define their musical goals, while improving their musical skills. Emphasis will be on musical terms, musical history, rhythm skills, sight reading, II and III position, and the study of various orchestra styles. This focus will be on preparing the student for the high school orchestra. Above average students may participate in a solo ensemble contest and audition for membership in the St. Louis All-Suburban Honors Orchestra. Students may also have the opportunity to attend special performances by local musicians. Recent experiences have included attending special concerts at Powell Symphony Hall. This experience will prepare the student for a lifetime of musical enjoyment and appreciation.

BEGINNING LEVEL CHOIR (Grades 6, 7 & 8)

Emphasis is placed on 2-part and 3-part singing and the development of a good choral sound, reading choral music, understanding the changing voice, and the development of sight-reading skills. All types of music will be performed, and the choir will represent the school in community performances. Public performance will be required for this course and will be a major determining factor in the student's overall final grade.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL CHOIR (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning Level Choir or director approval. Grades 7 & 8)

Emphasis is placed on increasingly complex 3-part music, cambiata vocal timbre, the further development of a good choral sound, reading choral music, and sight-reading skills. All types of music will be performed, and the choir will represent the school in community performances. Public performance will be required for this course and will be a major determining factor in the student's overall final grade.

GENERAL MUSIC (Semester Course – Grades 7 & 8)

This course will use the computer to review and expand upon the concepts taught in the sixth and seventh grade general music exploratory program. Students will complete assignments using several music computer applications and the electronic musical keyboard. Elements of music, such as tone, rhythm, and form, will be taught, as well as music theory and history.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

(Full Year – Some classes may include both 7th and 8th grade students)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

GERMAN I-A (Full Year – Grades 7 & 8)

This course is an introduction to the German language with emphasis on listening and speaking skills. It will include oral work with students learning basic conversation skills, as well as, basic sentence structure and verb usage. Eighth grade students who take German I-A must take German I before moving to German II at Pattonville High School, unless recommended by teacher.

FRENCH I-A (Full Year – Grades 7 & 8)

This course is an introduction to the French language with emphasis on listening and speaking skills. It will include primarily oral work with students learning the basic sounds of French and simple conversation based on everyday usage. Correct sentence structure both oral and written is the main focus. Eighth grade students who take French I-A must take French I before moving on to French II at Pattonville High School, unless recommended by teacher.

SPANISH I-A (Full Year – Grades 7 & 8)

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language with emphasis on listening and speaking skills. It will include primarily oral work with students learning the basic sounds of Spanish and simple conversation based on everyday usage. Correct sentence structure both oral and written is the main focus. Eighth grade students who take Spanish I-A must take Spanish I before moving on to Spanish II at Pattonville High School, unless recommended by teacher.

GERMAN I-B (Full Year – Prerequisite: Successful completion of German I-A.)

Students will further develop skills in four areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The student will study principles of sentence structure and verb usage. Supplementary reading will include short stories and related cultural materials. Oral participation and written work are essential parts of this course. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to be moderately self-sufficient in a German speaking country.

FRENCH I-B (Full Year – Prerequisite: Successful completion of French I-A.)

Students will develop skills in four areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The students will study principles of sentence structure and verb usage. It is essential that students build a working vocabulary. Supplementary reading will include poetry, songs, short stories and related cultural materials. Oral participation and written work are essential parts of this course. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to be moderately self-sufficient in a French speaking country.

SPANISH I-B (Full Year – Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I-A.)

Students will develop skills in four areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The students will study principles of sentence structure and verb usage. It is essential that students build a working vocabulary. Supplementary reading will include short stories and related cultural materials. Oral participation and written work are essential parts of this course. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to be moderately self-sufficient in a Spanish speaking country.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

(Semester Courses – Some classes may include both 7th and 8th grade students)

ART

CERAMICS (Grades 7 & 8)

This course explores art techniques and art history with emphasis on **3-D** art, such as sculpture, ceramics, and textiles. Students will use a variety of media, such as clay, aluminum, paper-mache, plaster, wood carving, wire and glass. Projects may include ceramic vessels, masks, jewelry making, glass fusion, plaster casting, and mixed media assemblage, along with many others.

CULTURAL ARTS (Grades 7 & 8)

This course will provide students an opportunity to create individual art projects while learning about art of other cultures. Student projects will reflect art forms from Africa, Asia, Europe and North, South and Central America. Projects may include weaving, metal tooling, printmaking, drawing, ceramics, papier-mâché, and textile arts.

ART ENRICHMENT (Grades 7 & 8)

This course provides students the opportunity to experiment with both **2-D** and **3-D** art mediums, building upon prior art knowledge and preparing them for specialty art opportunities, such as painting and sculpture. Projects may include painting, drawing, ceramics, metal tooling, weaving, and found art. This course will have an emphasis on art elements and principles.

FINE ARTS (Grades 7 & 8)

This course explores art techniques and art history with emphasis on **2-D** art. This course offers students the opportunity to experiment with several types of **2-D** media using a multitude of techniques. Projects may include drawing, painting, computer graphics, printmaking, and metal tooling. The emphasis of this course is to introduce students to a variety of art mediums.

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS (Grades 7 & 8)

Students will implement a variety of technology resources to create multimedia projects and presentations. They will experience the excitement of using a digital camera, scanner, internet application, and cd-roms to enhance all aspects of computer created work. Applications include, but are not limited to: True Basic, PowerPoint, Microsoft Word, Excel, DreamWeaver, HyperStudio, and iMovie.

DIGITAL MEDIA APPLICATIONS (Grades 7 & 8)

Learn the basics of digital media creation like movies and web design. Also, learn to use tools to create digital media like digital cameras and camcorders.

TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION (Grades 7 & 8)

Learn basic computer techniques including web quests, internet research, and digital imaging.

GENERAL ELECTIVES (cont'd)

(Semester Courses – Some classes may include both 7th and 8th grade students)

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

HIGH-TECH CAREERS! (Grades 7 & 8)

The most important thing that can be taught to students about the future is how to create it. By exploring the following modules, you can help prepare yourself for the future: computer aided drawing, computer graphics and animation, digital music, electricity/electronics, flight, laser mechanisms, research & development, robotics, structural engineering, virtual architecture and video production.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY I

This course is an introduction for students to explore the different areas of the industrial arts and the systems of technology. Students will gain and develop the knowledge and appreciation of the design process through graphic communications and pre-engineering projects and test those acquired skills and applications. Also students will be able to demonstrate and create safe working habits and creative problem solving activities through the use of a variety of tools and equipment and cooperative learning. Some projects include woodworking, engineering, mechanical drafting and electronics.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY II (No Prerequisite)

This course is an introduction for students to explore the different areas of the manufacturing process, the design and application of construction technology, and an in depth discovery of the systems of technology in the world and how it has changed through the years. Students will be able to design and create metal and woodworking projects while at the same time gain knowledge of the mass production process and building construction process and principles through hands on projects and activities. Students will also learn, develop and practice safe working habits through the use of all tools and equipment.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FACS)

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES I (Grades 7 & 8)

Express your creative talents through skills learned in Family and Consumer Sciences I. While understanding nutrition and important healthy food choices, students will prepare foods from each component of the Daily Food Guide Pyramid. Cooperation, problem solving, and evaluation skills are enhanced during cooking lab experiences. Students will select a sewing project that will reflect their personal interest and ability. Hand and machine sewing will be explored during construction of the projects. Enhance your decision-making power by understanding consumer responsibilities. Finally, through the study of family and peer relationships students will be prepared for future personal experiences. Students are responsible for purchasing their own fabric and supplies for the sewing portion of this class.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES II (Prerequisite Required: FACS I)

This class integrates a variety of curricular areas such as math, science, health and artistic design through the use of projects and labs. Intermediate level sewing projects and food labs are chosen to further develop students' family and consumer knowledge. In addition to these practical living skills, students will be instructed in the care, guidance, understanding, and appreciation of children and their development. Finally, students will learn about the principles of design in housing. Students are responsible for purchasing their own fabric and supplies for the sewing portion of this class.

CORE ELECTIVES

(Semester Courses – Based upon the grade level core curriculum)

CRACKING THE CODE 8 (Math)

Students will explore a variety of topics in discrete mathematics including making and breaking codes. It will be interesting - you will not think its math.

EARLY AMERICAN REBELS 8 -- 1492-1877 (Social Studies)

Do you ever feel like a rebel? Come see how the rebels before you have changed the world. Throughout history, people who had new and innovative ideas were considered to be rebels: civil/political visionaries, leaders of science and industry, and people from all walks of life have helped to create the United States of today.

NEWSPAPER 8 (Communication Arts)

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! This course is designed to give students an opportunity to participate in the school newspaper on a more in-depth level than is allowed if they are to simply join the after school club. In addition to writing articles, editing, taking photographs, and making decisions regarding what will and won't be in their school newspaper, students will learn to scan material into a computer and turn it into a working draft that will be published in the school for everyone to read and enjoy! Topics covered will include many of the basics regarding journalism and learning to communicate effectively using the written word.

PROJECT LIMELIGHT! 8 (Communication Arts)

3-2-1 Action! Let's make a movie! If you have always wanted to write and produce your own film, then this is the class for you. During this semester-long course you will have the opportunity to write and edit a script for your very own short film. You will then produce that film. The class will culminate with a film festival to be shared school-wide. This course will give students the opportunity to apply skills in writing, reading, and speaking to broadcasting.

PFI: Pattonville Forensic Investigations 8 (Science)

Are you ready to solve a crime? Well the PFI team is for you. You will use forensic science techniques to solve a major crime each semester. You will be involved in activities in which you are given the opportunity to make observations, solve problems, analyze clues, and draw conclusions through high-interest experiences.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD 8 (Science)

Did the recent Olympics excite you beyond all belief? Do you wish to become an Olympian and earn a Gold Medal for the glory of ol' Pattonville? Then the Science Olympiad team is for you where brains, brawn and scientific know how all come together in a competitive format against other schools in the area. Events may include egg drop, battery buggy, bottle rockets, mystery powders and orienteering. You will be encouraged to participate in an area-wide competition in the early spring.