

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2013 - 2014

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.

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

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)

PRE-ALGEBRA 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. Successful completion of this course will qualify a student for enrollment in Algebra I in the ninth grade.

ALGEBRA I (Teacher Recommendation and

Prerequisite Required: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra 7)

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 (80% or higher) will qualify a student for enrollment in Honors Geometry in the ninth grade

HONORS GEOMETRY (Teacher Recommendation and

Prerequisite Required: Successful completion of Algebra 1.2)

The Honors Geometry course includes an in-depth analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts, and real world problem situations. Algebra representation and manipulation are critical tools for understanding much of the course content, and students will be exposed to several standardized test (ACT and SAT) problems. Topics include logic and proof, parallel lines and polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, trigonometry, coordinate geometry, vectors, and analytic geometry. Emphasis will be placed on the student’s ability to research and communicate geometric ideas, as well as developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument. Students will be required to use different technological tools and manipulatives to discover and explain much of the course content.

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

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.

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.

MS BEGINNING CHOIR 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.

MS INTERMEDIATE CHOIR 7/8 (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Choir - Beginning Level or director approval.)

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 7/8 (Semester Course)

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

FRENCH IA 7/8 (Full Year)

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.

FRENCH IB 8 (Full Year – Prerequisite: Successful completion of French IA)

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.

GERMAN IA 7/8 (Full Year)

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.

GERMAN IB 8 (Full Year – Prerequisite: Successful completion of German IA)

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.

SPANISH IA 7/8 (Full Year)

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.

SPANISH IB 8 (Full Year – Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish IA)

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

ART ENRICHMENT 7/8

This course is designed for students of all ability levels and serves as an introduction to many basic art-making techniques. This course provides students the opportunity to experiment with both 2-D and 3-D art mediums. Many art forms will be immersed in rich cultural experiences. The primary **difference between this course and Drawing I Foundations is that Art Enrichment offers a combination of both 2-D and 3-D art forms.**

CERAMICS 7/8: Foundations of Ceramics and Sculpture

This introduction course offers students the opportunity to learn a variety of ceramic and sculptural techniques and terminology. The ceramic portion of the class will focus on using slab, coil, and pinch pot methods. The primary focus of this class is on the art of ceramics but will also incorporate sculpture. Students may use a variety of mixed media including clay, paper mache, plaster, wire, woodcarving and glass this course prepares students for high school Art Fundamentals.

DRAWING I 7/8: Foundations of Two-Dimensional Art

This course offers students the opportunity to experiment with several types of two-dimensional media using a multitude of techniques. Projects may include drawing, painting, computer graphics, and printmaking. The emphasis of this course is to introduce students to a variety of art mediums while gaining a strong understanding of the art elements and principles. This course will help prepare students for high school Art Fundamentals. **All students interested in taking Drawing II must complete this course unless they receive special permission from the instructor.**

DRAWING II 7/8: Mastery and Exploration of Drawing

(Prerequisite Required: Drawing I.)

In this **advanced** course students will continue their study of drawing on a higher performance based level. The course will continue to build on more advanced techniques gained in Drawing I Foundations and serve as an extension of Drawing I Foundations. All students in this class will have the opportunity to complete a drawing portfolio to submit to the high school. Drawing II develops higher-level problem solving skills, creative thinking, and analysis of art. This class will help prepare students for high school Art Fundamentals and Drawing I. **All students interested in taking Drawing II must complete Drawing I unless they receive special permission from the instructor.**

GENERAL ELECTIVES (cont'd)

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

BUSINESS APPLICATIONS

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS 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 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 7/8

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

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (FACS)

FACS I 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.

FACS II 7/8 (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.

GENERAL ELECTIVES (cont'd)

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

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

HIGH-TECH CAREERS! 7/8

Students in this course will explore different careers in several areas of technology through the use of computer modules and hands on laboratory activities related to the career fields of study. Some examples are: CAD design, robotics, electricity, structural engineering, process and design.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY 8.1

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. Students will also 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 8.2 (No Prerequisite Required)

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 gaining 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.

CORE ELECTIVES

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

Mathematics:

CRACKING THE CODE 8

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.

Communication Arts:

AND THE WINNER IS: An Introduction to Award Winning Books

Serious Readers Wanted! Meet new characters and adventure to many fictional lands. Laugh, cry, and dive into fantasy. Come join us on our journey as we engage in active reading and analysis. Each year area librarians nominate twenty fiction novels. Of these twenty novels, students must read at least four to be eligible to cast a vote for the Mark Twain Award winner. The winner is then announced in April of each year.

AUTHOR IN CHARGE

Discover the author in you! Make a collection of your creative writing pieces. Your scrapbook of pieces may include poems, stories, narratives, and much, much more. This course will provide enriching opportunities by encouraging writer's choice, developing writer's style and improving written fluency.

NEWSPAPER 8

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.

Communication Arts / Social Studies:

LEADERS IN TRAINING 8 (Communication Arts / Social Studies)

(Teacher Recommendation Required)

This semester long course is designed for students who have been selected as WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leaders for the 2011-12 school year. In order to be selected as a WEB leader, students must be able to work well with others, contribute positively to both the school and community, show empathy and display responsibility. Students who enroll in this class will be held to high expectations as leaders in our school and community. During the class, students will read portions of "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens" by Sean Covey. In addition to reading and discussing this book, there will be numerous leadership activities and opportunities incorporated into the curriculum. A letter grade will be issued for this class.

CORE ELECTIVES (cont'd)

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

Science:

ADVENTURES IN SCIENCE 8 (Science)

Looking for a little adventure in your life? Adventures in Science is an enrichment class that will allow students opportunities to explore high interest topics in biological sciences. The Adventures in Science class will focus heavily on scientific investigations and technology design skills.

GREEN CHEMISTRY 8 (Science)

Green Chemistry is an inquiry-based and hands-on course for students interested in designing and manufacturing products that promote an environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable world and future. Students will take on the role of a scientist as they generate a product idea, create a plan, develop, experiment, market and share their ideas with others.

PFI_Forensics 8 (Science)

Are you ready to solve a crime? Well, the Pattonville Forensic Investigations (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.