



**TYLER ISD**

**SUCCESSFUL STUDENT OUTCOMES**

**Middle School**

**Course Guide**

**2021-2022**

## **English/Language Arts & Reading:**

### **English Language Arts and Reading**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

Students will engage in meaningful activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills in five key areas: reading, writing, research, listening and speaking, oral and written conventions

### **English Language Arts and Reading Pre-AP**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the high school level. Students will engage in reading, writing, and oral language activities at an advanced degree of depth and complexity.

### **English Language Arts and Reading**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

Students will engage in meaningful activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills in five key areas: reading, writing, research, listening and speaking, oral and written conventions

### **English Language Arts and Reading Pre-AP**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the high school level. Students will engage in reading, writing, and oral language activities at an advanced degree of depth and complexity.

### **English Language Arts and Reading**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

Students will engage in meaningful activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills in five key areas: reading, writing, research, listening and speaking, oral and written conventions

### **English Language Arts and Reading Pre-AP**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into Advanced Placement (AP) courses at the high school level. Students will engage in reading, writing, and oral language activities at an advanced degree of depth and complexity.

## **Mathematics:**

### **Mathematics**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

This course will develop and extend procedures for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of integers and positive rational numbers. Students will also develop an understanding of and solve ratio and rate problems, create equivalent ratios that describe situations that involve proportionality, solve problems involving proportional relationship, use expressions and equations to represent relationships in a variety of contexts, use mathematical symbols to represent linear relationships and formulas, and understand and use descriptions of center, spread, and shape to summarize and compare data sets. Students will organize and display data to pose and solve problems, develop personal financial literacy, and explore the use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations.

### **Mathematics Pre-AP**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

Students will study all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills required for Grade 6 and a portion of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Grade 7. The additional content will include: developing fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers, use the operations to solve problems, use of reasoning about ratios, rates, proportionality, and percent to solve problems in preparation for Algebra I (a high school course) in eighth grade.

### **Mathematics**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

Students will develop fluency with addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational numbers and use the operations to solve problems. Students use reasoning about ratios, rates, proportionality, and percent to solve problems select, justify, and use appropriate symbolic representations to solve problems in varied contexts, including use of geometric formulas for pyramids and circles. Students use representations of center, spread, and shape to compare and form inferences about sets of data, and develop personal financial literacy through the use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations.

### **Mathematics Pre-AP**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None (recommend PAP Grade 6 Mathematics)**

Students will study all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills required for Grade 8 and a portion of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Grade 7. The additional content will include: select, justify, and use appropriate symbolic representations to solve problems in varied contexts, including use of geometric formulas for pyramids and circles, use representations of center, spread, and shape to compare and form inferences about sets of data. This course serves as preparation for Algebra I (a high school course) in eighth grade

**Mathematics****8<sup>th</sup> Grade****Prerequisite: None**

In this course students will extend their understanding of proportionality to include representations on a coordinate plane and applications, including slopes of lines, contrast proportional relationships with relationships that are not proportional, select and use expressions and equations to represent and solve problems involving rational numbers, use geometric properties, including the Pythagorean Theorem, to solve problems, use representations of association, center, and variation to make inferences from data, and develop personal financial literacy. Students will use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations

**Mathematics Pre-AP (Pre-Algebra)****8<sup>th</sup> Grade****Prerequisite: None (recommend PAP Grade 7 Mathematics)**

Students will extend the concepts in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills required for Grade 8 in application and problem-solving situations through the use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations

**Algebra I****7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade****Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process**

In this course, students study the development of algebraic thinking and symbolic reasoning, linear and quadratic functions, equations, and their relationships, and the use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations. This course is worth one high school credit and requires an end-of-course exam.

**Algebra I (A only)****8<sup>th</sup> Grade****Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process**

In this course, students will continue to build on a foundation of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum and work toward earning  $\frac{1}{2}$  high school credit for the first half of Algebra I. The second half of the course would be taken as a year-long 9<sup>th</sup> grade course, with an end-of-course exam following.

**Geometry****8<sup>th</sup> Grade****Prerequisite: Algebra I & a score of "Met Standard" on Algebra I end-of-course exam**

In this course, students explore the development of geometric thinking and spatial reasoning, the study of geometric figures and their properties, and the use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations. This course is worth one high school credit.

## **Science:**

### **Science**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

Much of the content focus is on physical science. Students will be engaged in many hands-on lab activities each week. As students learn science skills, they study topics such as properties of matter, energy transformations, organisms and their environments, forces and motion, Earth processes, and the solar system. Recurring themes such as change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models and scale are highlighted throughout.

### **Science Pre-AP**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Pre-AP Science is a rigorous course that emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving and is recommended for students who have demonstrated an interest in science. The course is interdisciplinary; however, much of the content focus is on physical science. Students will be engaged in many hands-on lab activities each week. As students learn science skills, they study topics such as properties of matter, energy transformations, organisms and their environments, forces and motion, Earth processes and the solar system. Recurring themes such as change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models and scale are highlighted throughout. Students in Pre-AP Science will extend their knowledge and apply their scientific skills by solving complex problems.

### **Science**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

The study of science in grade 7 includes conducting field and laboratory investigations using the scientific method. The students will be doing critical-thinking and problem-solving in physical, chemical, earth, and life sciences. Forty percent of the curriculum involves using scientific and technological tools to collect and analyze data.

### **Science Pre-AP**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

This course requires the students to perform field and laboratory investigations at a more advanced level using the scientific method. The students will be doing critical-thinking and problem-solving in physical, chemical, earth, and life sciences. Participation in outside-of-class scientific research projects is required. Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation.

### **Science**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

In grade 8, the study of science includes planning and conducting field and laboratory investigations using the scientific method, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to collect and analyze information in the areas of physical, life and earth science concepts. Forty percent of the curriculum is devoted to using scientific and technological tools to collect and analyze data.

**Science Pre-AP****8th Grade****Prerequisites: None**

In Science 8 Pre-AP, students are introduced to the Advanced Placement science courses that are offered at the high school level. Science 8 Pre-AP includes more advanced planning and conducting field and laboratory investigations using the scientific method, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to collect and analyze information about physical, life and earth science, incorporating chemistry and physics concepts. Forty percent of the curriculum is devoted to using scientific and technological tools to collect and analyze data. Participation in outside-of-class scientific research projects is required. Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation.

## **Social Studies:**

### **Social Studies World Cultures**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

Students will use critical thinking skills to study people and places of the contemporary world within broad regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and East Asia. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies. Students identify locations and geographic characteristics as well as different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. Students also describe the nature of citizenship in various societies and compare institutions common to all societies such as education and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of selected societies. Students will be expected to read write, and discuss analytically to increase their knowledge about the various regions.

### **Social Studies World Cultures Pre-AP**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisite: None**

Students will use critical-thinking skills to study people and places of the contemporary world within broad regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and East Asia. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies. Students identify locations and geographic characteristics as well as different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. Students also describe the nature of citizenship in various societies and compare institutions common to all societies such as education and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of selected societies. Self-motivated students will be expected to read, write, and work more independently and with greater depth and complexity in preparation for advanced placement courses in high school.

### **Texas History**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

Texas History tells the stories of people, events, and institutions from the state's earliest civilizations to modern times. It touches upon and includes all of the social studies disciplines. People's beliefs, the ways they meet their economic needs, form, and the culture they transmit from one generation to another are all a part of Texas history. So, too, is geography, which tells the story of where events took place and the interaction between people and places. The themes of location, region, place, movement and human environment interaction are woven through the chronological story of all the peoples of Texas. Carefully planned activities and projects help students go beyond the rote learning of events and dates to gain an understanding of how and why events occurred and their historical significance.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Texas History Pre-AP**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

In Texas History 7 Pre-AP, students will be able to identify various aspects of the Lone Star State. The history of Texas will come alive through structured projects that give the student hands-on experiences in understanding how the people of the past affect the present and future. A major component of this course will be the interaction of students within group settings, and their ability to recognize

relationships and draw conclusions among their peers. Whether students are learning how to read or use maps or determining how Texas gained its independence, organization and clarity of ideas will be important to their success. Development of problem solving skills as well as learning decision making processes will be emphasized.

**8th Grade US History**

**8th Grade**

**Prerequisites: None**

This course exposes students to materials and information covering prehistoric times through 1877. Several themes such as exploration, colonization, independence, nationalism, expansionism, conflict and resolution and basic human rights are strongly embedded in the program. Many opportunities are provided for integrating technology through research and presentation of projects. Regular classroom work, homework, projects and tests are used to assess progress on an ongoing basis.

**8th Grade US History Pre-AP**

**8th Grade**

**Prerequisites: None**

In U.S. History 8 Pre-AP, student's instruction is accelerated allowing for more in-depth coverage of the topics and time for project-based learning to take place. This course exposes students to materials and information covering prehistoric times through 1877. Several themes such as exploration, colonization, independence, nationalism, expansionism, conflict and resolution, and basic human rights are strongly embedded in this program. Many opportunities are provided for integrating technology through research and presentation of projects.

## **Electives:**

### **Art**

**6th-8th Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

Visual Arts introduces students to art: its histories, criticism, theories, and production. The academic focus is on the elements and principles of design, cultural studies and art history. The studio focus is expressing feelings and ideas through a variety of visual mediums, processes, problem-solving, and high-level thinking skills relating to art and composing the visual elements.

### **Athletics – Boys**

**7th Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

Athletics offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which students may participate. The emphasis is on providing a fundamental foundation for the young athlete in order to prepare them for the more demanding high school athletic program. The boys' program offers football, cross-country, basketball, and track. During the time that a sport is not in season, athletes will participate in a strengthening condition program. Some activities will require tryouts to select team members. \*Completion of a medical history, physical exam and parental permission forms are required prior to participation. Students must meet state mandated academic and attendance requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

### **Athletics - Boys**

**8th Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

Athletics offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which students may participate. The emphasis is on providing a fundamental foundation for the young athlete in order to prepare them for the more demanding high school athletic program. The boys' program offers football, cross-country, basketball, and track. During the time that a sport is not in season, athletes will participate in a strengthening condition program. Some activities will require tryouts to select team members. \*Completion of a medical history, physical exam and parental permission forms are required prior to participation. Students must meet state mandated academic and attendance requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

### **Athletics - Girls**

**7th Grade**

#### **Prerequisites: None**

Athletics offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which students may participate. The emphasis is on providing a fundamental foundation for the young athlete in order to prepare them for the more demanding high school athletic program. The girls' program offers volleyball, cross-country, basketball, soccer and track. During the time that a sport is not in season, athletes will participate in a strengthening condition program. Some activities will require tryouts to select team members. \*Completion of a medical history, physical exam and parental permission forms are required prior to participation. Students must meet state mandated academic and attendance requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

**Athletics - Girls****8th Grade****Prerequisites: None**

Athletics offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which students may participate. The emphasis is on providing a fundamental foundation for the young athlete in order to prepare them for the more demanding high school athletic program. The girls' program offers volleyball, cross-country, basketball, soccer and track. During the time that a sport is not in season, athletes will participate in a strengthening condition program. Some activities will require tryouts to select team members. \*Completion of a medical history, physical exam and parental permission forms are required prior to participation. Students must meet state mandated academic and attendance requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.

**AVID****6<sup>th</sup> Grade****Prerequisites: None**

The sixth grade AVID Elective course is an introduction to the AVID philosophy. Students will develop awareness of the values accompanying academic goals and success. The course will focus on building self-confidence and communication skills in working with peers and adults. Students will be exposed to reading strategies that will assist in vocabulary building and understanding a variety of texts, and will also focus on prewriting techniques, summary writing and structural components of note-taking. The students will increase college and career awareness through guest speaker presentations, field trip opportunities and research.

**AVID****7<sup>th</sup> Grade****Prerequisites: None**

The seventh grade AVID Elective course builds upon the components of the AVID philosophy. Students will refine short- and long-term goals, and as a result, begin to understand the value in taking charge of their actions. Students will start working on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills, as well as formal and informal speech. Students will complete self-evaluations and peer evaluations, related to reading, writing, organization, and speaking. In broadening their writing practice, students will begin considering audience, purpose and form in their writing. Students will take an active role in their learning, understanding the roles of all members in assignments and collaborative lessons. They will expand their knowledge bases of note-taking, in relation to studying and test preparation. Students will be exposed to different field trips, guest speakers and research, to increase their knowledge of college and career options.

**AVID****8<sup>th</sup> Grade****Prerequisites: None**

The eighth grade AVID Elective course is the year of preparation for high school. The students will regularly exhibit and utilize the skills and strategies learned in the sixth and seventh grade AVID courses. Students will refine previous goals, focusing on their transition to high school as part of a college preparatory path. Their writing will focus on completing all steps of the writing process and varying style, word choice, vocabulary, structure and voice. Major writing assignments include persuasive,

expository, descriptive and timed writing. Students will transition from active learners to leaders. Other areas of focus include increasing the use of technology and building upon their test preparation and test-taking knowledge. They will broaden their experiences with analyzing text and utilizing appropriate reading strategies in various settings. Students will become more involved in the presentations of guest speakers and field trips, particularly as they relate to preparation and prior knowledge. Students will also participate in college preparatory testing and build connections with the high school they will attend.

**Band - Beginning**

**6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Prerequisite: None**

Students will be introduced to instrumental music through the selection of a band instrument. Students will learn to read music and basic music theory, including scale studies. Students will learn the elements of tone production, balance, and blend. Students will perform concerts and learn proper concert etiquette.

**Band**

**6th-8th Grade**

**Prerequisites: Beginning Band**

A student will be placed in a band class with students who have comparable skills. Auditions are required for placement in the more advanced band classes. The overall goals of the band program are to teach students: (1) respect for each other as well as adults, (2) responsibility through a positive work ethic, and (3) a love and respect for music through learning how to play band instruments and working together. \*All students must meet University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines and participate in required band competitions and concerts with after school practices providing a portion of the students' grades for the six weeks average. Students must audition with the Band department.

**Choir**

**6th-8th Grade**

A student will be placed in a choir class with students who have comparable skills. Auditions are required for placement in the more advanced choir classes. Beginning choir students will be placed in a beginner class. The Junior High Choir Program focuses on sight-reading knowledge and building vocal skills and technique. Students may select choir and audition to participate in a variety of choirs. All students must meet UIL (University Interscholastic League) guidelines and participate in All-Region competitions as well as Solo & Ensemble Contests outside of the school day. Students must audition with the Choir teacher.

**College and Career Readiness**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Prerequisite: None**

College and Career Readiness allows students to identify strengths and interests that align to college & career goals and to investigate different endorsements and pathways necessary for high school graduation.

**Orchestra – Beginning****6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> Grade****Prerequisite: None**

Students will be introduced to instrumental music through the selection of an orchestra instrument. Students will learn to read music and basic music theory, including scale studies. Students will learn the elements of tone production, balance, and blend. Students will perform concerts and learn proper concert etiquette.

**Orchestra****6th-8th Grade****Prerequisites: Beginning Orchestra**

A student will be placed in an orchestra class with students who have comparable skills. Auditions are required for placement in the more advanced orchestra classes. The overall goals of the orchestra program are to teach students: (1) respect for each other as well as adults, (2) responsibility through a positive work ethic, and (3) a love and respect for music through learning how to play orchestra instruments and working together. \*All students must meet University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines and participate in required orchestra competitions and concerts with after school practices providing a portion of the students' grades for the six weeks average. Students must audition with the Orchestra department.

**Physical Education****6th-8th Grade****Prerequisites: None**

PE includes a combination of activities designed for improving physical fitness and body strength. It also introduces a variety of team sports, individual sports, and activities. Basic skills, rules and team strategies will be taught. Students are required to actively participate each day in building team play with friendly competitions.

**Professional Communications****1 Semester Course****8th Grade****Prerequisites: None**

Professional Communications blends written, oral, and graphic communication in a career-based environment. Careers in the global economy require individuals to be creative and have a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong and solid academic foundation, and a proficiency in professional oral and written communication. Within this context, students will be expected to develop and expand the ability to write, read, edit, speak, listen, apply software applications, manipulate computer graphics, and conduct Internet research. **Successful completion will result in .5 high school credits.**

**Spanish I****8th Grade****Suggested Prerequisites: Commended Performance on reading STAAR and high English performance**

This is Level I of high school Spanish offering the student the opportunity for acquisition of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The primary objective of the level one course is to develop audio-lingual skills and to obtain a mastery of simple basic communicative structures. The students will develop a cultural appreciation of the Hispanic World and recognize the interdependence of languages. Successful completion will result in 1.0 high school credit.