

# **Kwajalein Junior High School Course Descriptions**

**2023-2024**



Kwajalein School System  
Kwajalein Junior-Senior High School  
Unit 17001 Box 76  
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Dear Student,

It is our goal to work together to create an educational pathway that helps you strive for high academic achievement and create positive memories that come from attending a premier high school. We are excited to support your learning with the variety of courses we are able to offer at Kwajalein Schools.

As a student, it is very important to choose a course of study which best suits your needs as you begin planning for life after high school. The purpose of this course description guide is to provide you information on all our course offerings which will assist you and your parents in matching your educational needs and interests with the courses we offer. Please read through the enclosed material carefully and discuss with your parents the classes you feel will best suit your needs, as well as our graduation requirements.

I am confident the coming school year will be a great success and we look forward to building our Spartan community. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We are here for you. Your success as a student and young adult is our number one goal!

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Gerber  
High School Principal  
Kwajalein Junior-Senior High School

# Graduation Requirements

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS			
Content Area*	Course Requirements	Standard Diploma	Honors Diploma
* AP and/or IB courses may be used to meet KSS requirements.			
English Language Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (ELA 9)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (ELA 10)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (ELA 11)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (ELA 12)</li> </ul>	4.0 credits	4.0 credits
Social Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (World History 9 or 10)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (U. S. History)</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (U. S. Government)</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (Social Studies elective)</li> </ul>	3.0 credits	3.0 credits Note: Honors diploma requires completion of one semester of Economics Literacy.
Mathematics  Note: Three credits must be earned in grades 9-12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (Algebra I)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Geometry)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Algebra II)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Elective Math Course)</li> </ul>	4.0 credits	4.0 credits  Note: Honors diploma requires completion of one additional math course beyond Algebra II or identified equivalent.
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (Biology)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Chemistry)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Physics)</li> </ul>	3.0 credits	3.0 credits
World Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2.0 credits</li> </ul> Note: Credits must be sequential and in the same language.	2.0 credits	2.0 credits
Career Technical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.5 credits</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (Computer technology CTE course)</li> </ul>	2.0 credits	2.0 credits

<b>Content Area*</b>	<b>Course Requirements</b>	<b>Standard Diploma</b>	<b>Honors Diploma</b>
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 0.5 credit (Personal Fitness)</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (Lifetime Sports)</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (Activity &amp; Nutrition or equivalent PE)</li> </ul> Note: Two years of JROTC taken in high school fulfills the 0.5 credit requirement for Lifetime Sports	1.5 credits	1.5 credits
Fine Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (Course in visual arts, music, theater, creative writing, digital arts, and/or humanities)</li> </ul>	1.0 credit	1.0 credit
Health Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 0.5 credit</li> </ul>	0.5 credit	0.5 credit
Honors Diploma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 0.5 credit in Economic Literacy</li> <li>● 4 AP Courses</li> </ul>	Not Required	0.5 credit
<i>Economic Literacy: Courses meeting this requirement</i>	Economics, AP Human Geography, Environmental Science, Business and Personal Finance, Management Foundations, Marketing Entrepreneurship, Financial Literacy, Financial Algebra, Management and International Business, AP Macroeconomics and Microeconomics, AP Comparative Government and Politics		
<b>Summary</b>		<b>Standard Diploma</b>	<b>Honors Diploma</b>
Minimum Total Credits		26.0 credits	26.0 credits
Required Courses		21.0 credits	21.5 credits
Elective Courses		5.0 credits	4.5 credits
Advanced Placement and/or IB Courses and requisite exams		Not Required	4 courses
Minimum GPA		2.0 GPA	3.8 GPA

## **College Entrance Requirements**

College entrance requirements are dependent upon the individual college/university and the selected course of study. Students should discuss this with their counselor when planning class schedules.

Students planning to enter a four (4) year college or university need to adhere to the following guides:

Minimum expectation:

English	4 years
Math	3 years (incl Alg II)
Social Studies	3 years
Science	3 years
World Language	2 years of one language
Computer	1 semester

Preferred program:

English	4 years
Writing	1 semester
Social Studies	4 years
Math	4 years (incl Alg II plus one additional)
Science	4 years
World Language	3 or 4 years, one language
Fine Arts	1 year
Computer	1 semester

SAT and/or ACT college entrance exams.

## **Junior High Elective and Exploratory Classes**

Junior High students are exposed to a number of different classes and opportunities through our use of Exploratory Classes. Students will take a world language each year to learn which language they are most interested in pursuing in high school, in addition to a technology course. Students will also take specific quarter classes to ensure they experience many different kinds of things and can choose the quarter option they are most interested in to finalize their schedule.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**TITLE OF COURSE:** ENGLISH 7  
Grade Level: 7  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

## Brief Description of Course:

The primary purpose of 7<sup>th</sup> grade English is to establish a foundation for critical analysis of literature and to compose coherent, logical paragraphs leading to formal, multiple paragraph essay construction. Additionally, students will continue to develop speech and discussion techniques, grammar, listening and organizational skills, and vocabulary. To accomplish this, students will read from a variety of literary selections (see reading list), analyze these works, develop original theses, and share their ideas in formal compositions, class discussions, and oral presentations.

Reading Choices (minimum 4): Student selected novels and additional titles may include but are not limited to the following: *Dragonsong*, *The Hound of Baskervilles*, *The Light in the Forest*, *The Call of the Wild*, *Downriver*, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths*, *selections from the literature book*, and a variety of nonfiction texts and articles.

**TITLE OF COURSE:** ENGLISH 8  
Grade Level: 8  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

## Brief Description of Course:

The primary purpose of 8<sup>th</sup> grade English is to build on the foundation established in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will heighten their critical literary analysis and formal composition skills as they read more challenging texts and compose with greater sophistication. Additionally, students will continue to develop speech and discussion techniques, grammar, listening and organizational skills, and vocabulary. To accomplish this, students will read from a variety of literary selections (see reading list), analyze these works, develop original arguments about them, and share their ideas in formal compositions, class discussions, and oral presentations. They will also participate in a range of writing activities including narrative writing, analytical/argumentative writing, and poetry.

Reading List: Students will read independently from a wide range of fiction and nonfiction texts. Texts read by the whole class may include, but are not limited to, the following: *The Giver*, *The Outsiders*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Messenger*, *Divergent*, *The House on Mango Street* and various works of short fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

# MATHEMATICS

The mathematics department offers a range of year long sequential courses. The nature of mathematics is such that satisfactory completion of specified prerequisites is necessary for appropriate placement and continued success.

**TITLE OF COURSE:** MATH FOUNDATIONS  
Grade Level: 7 - 8  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

## Brief Description of Course:

Math Foundations is a course designed to reinforce basic arithmetic concepts to build the foundation prior to adding algebraic content. Students will extend their knowledge and understanding of math in the areas of operations, real and rational numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, proportions, basic equations and inequalities, scientific notation, graphing and geometry. This course is designed for students prior to enrolling in Pre-Algebra.

**TITLE OF COURSE:** PRE-ALGEBRA  
Grade Level: 7 - 8  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

## Brief Description of Course:

Pre-Algebra is a course designed as an introduction to algebraic concepts. The course accommodates students from a wide range of skills and backgrounds. The students will extend their knowledge of math in the areas of order of operations, variables, fractions, solving single and multi-step equations, measurements, scientific notation, linear equations, and geometry.

**TITLE OF COURSE:** ALGEBRA I  
Grade Level: 8  
Length of Course: 2 semesters  
Credits: .5 per semester (High School Credit will be earned)  
Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra  
Recommended: "C" or better in Pre-Algebra

## Brief Description of Course:

Algebra I continues the Pre-Algebra transition from arithmetic to higher levels of abstraction. Emphasis is placed on the language of algebra and the order of operations used to evaluate, simplify, and solve algebraic expressions and equations. Major topics include solving linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, factoring, operations with algebraic fractions and radical expressions, solving systems of linear equations, graphs of linear equations, and an introduction to functions and relations. Applications of algebraic techniques in solving real world situations (word problems) are used throughout the course.

# **SCIENCE**

**TITLE OF COURSE:** INTEGRATED SCIENCE I  
Grade Level: 7-8  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

**Brief Description of Course:**

Integrated Science I is designed to provide students with an integrated approach to three traditional science disciplines (life science, physical science, earth/space science). Scientific inquiry and understanding about inquiry are emphasized through practical implications and meaningful applications. Topics students study typically include energy and energy transfer, waves and their applications, geological processes and history, and cells and heredity.

**TITLE OF COURSE:** INTEGRATED SCIENCE II  
Grade Level: 7-8  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

**Brief Description of Course:**

Integrated Science II is designed to provide students with an integrated approach to three traditional science disciplines (life science, physical science, earth/space science). Scientific inquiry and understanding about inquiry are emphasized through practical implications and meaningful applications. Topics students study typically include ecology and the environment, earth and human activity, introduction to chemistry, and space science. Inquiry labs, engineering activities and projects will be an important part of this course.

# **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**TITLE OF COURSE:** HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES I  
Grade Level: 7  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

**Brief Description of Course:**

Grade 7 Social Studies is arranged chronologically and incorporates geography as well as economic, social, and political trends. The course content is divided into eight key ideas, tracing the human experience in the United States from pre-Columbian times until the Civil War, with a focus on the significant people, events, and places. Throughout the course, teachers should help students see connections across time. For example, when examining indentured servitude and slavery, teachers could examine human trafficking, experiences of immigrants and informed action that citizens might take.

**TITLE OF COURSE:** HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES II  
Grade Level: 8  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

**Brief Description of Course:**

Grade 8 Social Studies is arranged chronologically, beginning with Reconstruction and ending at the



present, and incorporates geography as well as economic, social, and political trends. The course content is divided into nine key ideas: the first seven trace the human experience in the United States from Reconstruction to the end of World War II. The last three key ideas examine different themes in the United States from the post-war period up to the present day, which provides the opportunity to explore contemporary issues.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**TITLE OF COURSE:** JUNIOR HIGH PE  
Grade Level: 7-8  
Length of Course: 1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

Each semester, students will concentrate on team and individual sports ranging from flag football, soccer, floor hockey, softball, basketball, racket sports, frisbee activities, and personal fitness. The objective in this class is to discover activities and exercises that will help guide students to life-long activity, social interactions, basic sports knowledge, and physical fitness.

## **JUNIOR HIGH EXPLORATORY COURSES**

### **EXPLORATORY COURSES FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**TITLE OF COURSE:** INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY  
Grade Level: 7  
Length of Course: 1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

This exploratory course into the world of computers and technology includes an emphasis on typing accuracy and speed. Topics include the history of technology, digital citizenship, technology careers, secure passwords, Gmail, online privacy and cyber security. A brief introduction to computer programming and Google applications are covered, as well.

**TITLE OF COURSE:** EXPLORATORY SPANISH 7  
Grade Level: 7  
Length of Course: 1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

The course will introduce basic Spanish vocabulary and develop listening skills in Spanish. Students will learn to pronounce selected words and memorize meanings in English. Throughout the course, Hispanic culture will be presented to accompany the units of study.

### **EXPLORATORY COURSES FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**TITLE OF COURSE:** INTRO TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMING (CODING I)  
Grade Level: 8-12

Length of Course: 1 semester  
Credits: .5 per semester (High School Credit will be earned)

Brief Description of Course:

This course introduces students to the field of computer science and the fundamentals of computer programming. Languages include: Java Script, HTML, CSS and Python. Topics also included are digital citizenship, cybersecurity, and keyboarding. This is an introduction to computer programming and is not an all-inclusive programming course.

**TITLE OF COURSE: EXPLORATORY FRENCH 8**

Grade Level: 8  
Length of Course: 1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

The course will introduce basic French vocabulary and develop listening skills in French. Students will learn to pronounce selected words and memorize meanings in English. Throughout the course, French culture will be presented to accompany the units of study.

## **ELECTIVE EXPLORATORY COURSES FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**TITLE OF COURSE: EXPLORATORY ART**

Grade Level: 7-8  
Length of Course: 1 quarter

This course will be an enjoyable and educational experience for students as it covers a variety of interesting and different Art techniques, media, and cultural styles from around the world, incongruence with the Art Elements/Principles of design. Students will have the opportunity to express themselves through drawing, ceramics, print-making, design, painting, sculpture, collage, etc. Students should be able to make better connections with Art in relation to their everyday lives and form an appreciation for self-expression and the artistic expressions of others.

**TITLE OF COURSE: EXPLORATORY FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE**

Grade Level: 7-8  
Length of Course: 1 quarter

Brief Description of Course:

In Family and Consumer Science class, students will learn relevant real-world skills and gain first-hand experiences that will foster independence and personal development. Subject matter for this course will include instruction in many valuable and practical capabilities, such as: making and staying within a reasonable personal budget, basic sewing construction and mending practice, proper laundering techniques for clothing and linens, and meal-planning and food preparation skills. These important abilities will support student success as they grow into young adulthood with confidence

**TITLE OF COURSE: EXPLORATORY WOODS**

Grade Level: 7-8  
Length of Course: 1 quarter

Brief Description of Course:

This is a course designed to introduce the junior high student to the various skills in the Industrial Technology field. Students will receive RefTRA (refresher training) in using hand tools; portable electric power tools; woodworking machinery; glues and fasteners; project design, parts creation, assembly and finishing; electrical components; basic bicycle repair, and industrial materials. Students will create a furniture project to take home at no cost. Safety will be stressed throughout the course, along with teamwork and problem-solving skills.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                    **AVID 7-8**  
Grade Level:                            7-8  
Length of Course:                    1 quarter

Brief Description of Course:

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an elective class offered to students who would like to prepare for four-year universities. The curriculum features writing, inquiry, collaboration, reading, note-taking and study skills, and college/career/motivational activities. This course will focus on the skills and processes needed by 7-8 grade students to prepare to be successful in high school and college.

## **ELECTIVES**

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                    **JUNIOR HIGH BAND**  
Grade Level:                            7-8  
Length of Course:                    Full Year  
Prerequisite:                            Previous band experience or 1 semester of Beginning Band

Brief Description of Course:

In this full year course, instrumental performance skills are refined through the study of intermediate level band music. A diverse repertoire of music will be studied and performed, with emphasis on rehearsal etiquette, ensemble skills, music literacy and music theory. This ensemble performs at least three concerts each year, including the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                    **BEGINNING BAND**  
Grade Level:                            7-8  
Length of Course:                    One Semester

Brief Description of Course:

This course is intended for students with no previous instrumental music experience, with the goal of joining the Kwajalein Jr/Sr HS Band program. Instrument selection will be based on availability, student preferences, and the needs of the ensemble. Students will enjoy individualized instruction as they learn the basics of music literacy and instrument specific performance skills. Extensive practice outside of class is required to ensure the appropriate level of achievement at the end of this course for placement into the ensemble class. This is a one semester course that occurs during zero hour.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                   **INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING**  
Grade Level:                           7-8  
Length of Course:                   1-2 semesters

Brief Description of Course:

Introduction to Engineering will help students conduct engineering projects and activities, including design and build challenges. Students will be completing a variety of activities and lessons in various fields of engineering in addition to learning more about engineering as a career.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                   **ADVENTURES IN READING**  
Grade Level:                           7-8  
Length of Course:                   1-2 semesters

Brief Description of Course:

Adventures in Reading will increase reading fluency and endurance through integrated experiences in the language arts. This course incorporates reading and analysis of literary and informational selections to develop critical and close reading skills. At the end of 7th and 8th grade, students are expected to read and comprehend texts in the 7-8 grade complexity band proficiently and read texts at the high end of the band with support. Students enrolled in the course should be consistently challenged with increasingly complex text.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                   **PHOTOGRAPHY & INTRO TO YEARBOOK**  
Grade Level:                           7-8  
Length of Course:                   1-2 semesters

Brief Description of Course:

This course creates an opportunity for students to participate in the design and development of our yearbook by exploring and learning all about photography. Students will have hands-on experiences with photography during this course. Students will be members of the yearbook staff and participate in yearbook through design and photography.