Course Description Handbook

2015-2016

Contact personnel

Mr. Dewayne Tampen – Principal
Mrs. Terri Hornsby – Assistant Principal, 7/8 Grade Campus
Mrs. Beth Fountain – Assistant Principal, 6th Grade Campus
Mrs. Cindy Barksdale – Counselor

1201 West Thompson
Decatur, Texas 76234
(940) 393-7300
http://www.decaturisd.us/Domain/163
The MMS Administration may make changes in courses offered, student schedules, class makeup, teacher assignments, campus rules, and student privileges as deemed necessary by the administration. Please realize this is a dynamic document that can change throughout the year as local and state rules and regulations change. It is important to know that this course description book includes all courses that are possible at McCarroll Middle School. However, due to enrollment and teacher availability, not every class will be offered every year.

McCarroll Middle School is an accredited middle school, which meets state requirements and provides broad academic experiences for all students. Students and parents should read thoroughly the information provided in this guide in order to select the best possible courses according to students’ needs, abilities, and career plans.

REGISTRATION
Registration: Registration will take place in the spring of each school year. Although students will receive specific instructions during that time from middle school personnel, the counseling staff is available to assist in making decisions related to course selections.

- There will be a parent and student information meeting before the opening of registration
- Students will have opportunity to fill out schedule request forms and meet with counselor before deadline
- Students that do not submit or complete a schedule request form will have their schedule arranged for them based upon their academic needs.

SCHEDULE CHANGES
Schedule Changes for Electives:
- Completed Schedule Change Request Form
- Parent teacher conference with teacher of class wanting to drop and form signed by both teachers and a parent.
- Must be returned before the 5th day of classes.

Schedule Changes for Pre-Advanced Placement or High School Credit Classes:
- Students enrolled in Pre-AP and advanced classes are required to have a current documented average of ≥70 at the end of the and at the end of the first 6 week term (T1), and also must have a current documented average at the end of first semester (S1) the of >75.

- At the end of the first 3 week progress report (PR1), if the student has a average of ≤70 they will be required to attend tutoring for the next three weeks and removed at the end of the first 6 weeks if the average is still ≤70. A student will transfer at end of the first 6 week term (T1) and first semester (S1). They may be placed in a regular class based on a committee decision consisting of teacher, counselor, parent, and administrator. Changes will be made based on availability and class size. (Note: A documented grade of “Incomplete” is treated as a failing grade and the student may be moved to a regular class of the same subject if available.)

Students may discuss changes to their 2015-2016 schedule with their counselor or Assistant Principal through August 15, 2015. After that time, after review by administrators, schedules will only be changed due to extraordinary circumstances.

ENROLLMENT
A student enrolling in the district for the first time must be accompanied by his/her parent(s) or legal guardian and must provide satisfactory evidence of required immunization, proof of residence (utility bill if within Decatur City Limits or verification form from Wise County Appraisal District if outside city limits but in DISD, or transfer approval from DISD Central Administration), and a withdrawal form from the previous school. To complete admission the following demographic information is necessary: birth certificate, social security card, home address and phone, mother’s name, employer, and work phone, father’s name, employer, and work phone, and emergency contact information. In addition, we must have on file a photocopy of at least one
parent/guardian’s driver’s license. It is important to note that DISD no longer charges tuition for transfers. You may contact DISD Central Administration at 940.393.7100 if you are interested in transferring students to DISD.

**COURSES**

**A. Required Courses**
These courses are required to fulfill state educational guidelines. A course may or may not have a prerequisite; a prerequisite is a course that must be taken before the course under consideration.

**B. Elective Courses**
In addition to required state courses, students must choose other courses to complete their schedules. The number of electives varies from year to year.

**C. Pre-AP/Advanced**
McCarroll Middle School provides curriculum offerings for students with special talents and abilities. Pre advanced Placement classes are on-grade level academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments. Students enrolled in Pre-AP should expect a faster class pace, more depth in classroom discussion, increased amount of reading, and overall greater academic expectations on assignments and time management. Many of these courses have summer assignments, which must be completed before school begins. Failure to complete those summer assignments will result in possible removal from the class.

**D. GIFTED AND TALENTED  and NJHS Information**
Students who are identified as G/T have the option of enrolling in Pre AP and Advanced classes.

*** Students who plan on applying for the National Junior Honor Society as an 8th grade student, must maintain an accumulative GPA of 90 in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies.

**E. CONTENT MASTERY PROGRAM**
The content mastery program provides a comprehensive program for each student who has been identified as having a special need. Special needs include physical, mental, or emotional needs as well as learning disabilities. Consideration of a student’s need for special education services is initiated by a referral, which may be made by the parents, a physician, a community agency, and/or school personnel.

The program operates under state guidelines for admission, program content, and dismissal from the program. Students in content mastery earn course credit through regular education, or a combination of regular education and special education. Consult your counselor for more detailed information.

**F. 504 SERVICES**
A student who qualifies for 504 services is entitled to accommodations designed to remove barriers to academic instruction.
1. State Assessment
The STAAR test evaluates student learning based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) - the state required standards. Students are tested in the areas of; 6th grade Math and Reading, 7th grade Math, Reading, and Writing, and 8th grade Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies.

- Student Success Initiative: By Texas State Law 8th graders must pass the STAAR Reading and Math test to advance to 9th grade.
- Based on current or previous year’s performance, a student may be scheduled into a Reading or Math SSI intervention class.

2. Credit by Exam (Acceleration)
These exams provide a procedure for students who have command of a subject or course to earn credit without actually attending the class. Students taking the Acceleration Exam must not have had formal prior instruction. Students must score 80% or above for the credit to be awarded. This grade is not used to determine class rank or GPA. Acceleration tests will be given two times a year. Students desiring to obtain credit by this method must contact counselors by the posted deadline and provide the cost of the exam (currently $40) to reserve their exam-testing slot. Once the student has completed the exam at the prescribed time, their deposit will be refunded in full to them. Failure to attend and complete the exam will result in forfeiture of the deposit. All CBE’s are ordered through Texas Tech University distance education for K-12.

3. SUMMER SCHOOL
6th, 7th, and 8th graders: Summer school is an option for students to make up failed courses or attendance days. 8th Graders: only Summer school is mandatory as part of the SSI program before the summer administration of the STAAR test. Also, there are some classes offered by Decatur High School for incoming freshman to receive accelerated credits. Summer school is dependent upon the number of students who register. Decatur students may attend summer classes offered at Decatur Independent School District or other accredited school districts to obtain credit; however, required courses taken in summer school do count in GPA.

Required Courses

6th GRADE
All sixth graders are required to take Reading/ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, PE, and one elective.

7th GRADE
All seventh graders are required to take Reading, Writing/ELA, Math, Science, Texas History, PE or Athletics, and one elective.

8th GRADE
All eighth graders are required to take Reading/ELA, Math, Science, American History, Technology and 2.5 electives.
MCCARROL MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All Pre-AP Advanced courses and requirements are addressed in the PRE-AP Advanced courses program guidelines in the addendums of this handbook.

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ELA 6th, 7th, & 8th
The scope of English includes composition skills based on the emphasis of grammar, usage, and various audiences. Reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills are enhanced with the study of grammar, composition, and usage. Literature for this course includes short stories, novels, plays, nonfiction, and poetry.

Reading 7th
Reading introduces a variety of literary forms, continues skill development in reading, and reinforces STAAR strategies. This course includes a study of short stories, biographies, novels, plays, and poetry.

MATHEMATICS

Math 6th
Sixth grade mathematics focuses on students’ knowledge of numbers, number theory, computation, ratios, estimation, measurement, geometry, statistics, probability, patterns, and functions. Problem Solving strategies, communication, connections within and outside of mathematics, and reasoning are emphasized.

Math 7th
Seventh grade Math is designed such that students will learn how to identify and apply mathematics to everyday experiences, to activities in and outside of school, and to other disciplines. This is achieved by the gaining of knowledge in number, operation, and quantitative reasoning, proportional reasoning, discovering pattern relationships, and developing the ability to think algebraically. This goal is further achieved through one’s understanding of geometry and spatial reasoning, probability and statistics, and measurement.

Math 8th
8th grade Math integrates algebra, geometry, statistics, probability and mathematical reasoning. Students relate and apply algebraic reasoning to geometry, measurement, data analysis, probability and statistics. Problem Solving strategies, communication, connections within and outside of mathematics, and reasoning are emphasized.
SCIENCE

Science 6th
Grade 6 Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on physical science. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale. The study of science includes conducting field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods, critical thinking, problem solving, and scientific instruments to collect and analyze information to explain a phenomenon. Students also use computers and information technology tools to support scientific investigations. Much of the course involves laboratory skills in which students draw logical inferences, predict outcomes, test their ideas, and formulate conclusions, helping students apply science to everyday life.

Science 7th
Grade 7 Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale.

Science 8th
Grade 8 Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. Recurring themes are pervasive in sciences, mathematics, and technology. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 6th
In this course students will study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Students will describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the location and geographic characteristics of various societies. Students will identify different ways in organizing economic and governmental systems.

Texas History 7th
This course provides coverage of all historical periods from settlement by Native Americans to recent developments of the 21st century. The text includes the study of the land, people, politics, and government of Texas.

U.S. History 8th
This course is a chronological history of the United States from its beginnings through the end of Reconstruction. The textbook covers the major periods and themes of American history up to 1877.
ATHLETICS

Athletics – Boys
Prerequisite: Must meet set requirements to participate.
This course offers students an opportunity to participate in and improve skills in the games of football, basketball, cross-country, and track. Athletics may count as Physical Education credit in the 7th grade and is an elective in the 8th grade.
*** Please consider transportation issues. There could be athletic practices before and/or after school hours.

Athletics – Girls
Prerequisite: Must meet set requirements to participate.
This course offers students an opportunity to participate in and improve skills in the games of volleyball, basketball, cross-country, and track. Athletics may count as Physical Education credit in the 7th grade and is an elective in the 8th grade.
***Please consider transportation issues. There could be athletic practices before and/or after school hours.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education
Prerequisite: (6th grade) Students will learn the history and rules to several typical team and individual activities. They will also be involved in developing leadership skills and learning strategies for making good decisions. Grades are based on participation and dressing out for class activities.

FINE ARTS

Band
Prerequisite: (6th grade) Students will be placed by instrument based on results of 5th grade instrument test.
Prerequisite: (7th grade) Successful completion of at least 1 year of beginning band. 7th grade Band is a basic instrumental music class that is designed to help students with reading basic musical notation, rhythms, and tone production. The music literature used in this class is chosen at a level to assure continued success in all areas of music performance; must have consent of the band director.
Prerequisite: (8th grade) Successful completion of at least 2 years of band. 8th grade Band students must have above average ability to perform and sight-read music; must have consent of the band director. The music literature used in this class is chosen from the Primary Music List for the UIL band contest.
Choir

**6th, 7th, & 8th**

**Beginning Choir 6th**
Introduces students to choral music and sight-reading in order to prepare them for membership in the intermediate and advance choirs.

**Choir 7th and 8th**
Emphasis is on the development of vocal skills at the beginner level, basic theory and aural skills, and sight-reading and performance skills in a choral setting. Students are placed in choir by gender and experience level – Intermediate girls, Varsity girls, combined 7th and 8th boys’ choirs.

**JOURNALISM/YEARBOOK**

**8th**
This elective class for 8th graders only will be responsible for designing, producing and assembling the MMS annual yearbook. Students will be using available technology to create photo layouts, captions, dedication pages, club/organization pages, and class picture layouts. Students will be expected to show responsibility in regards to work and deadlines and to display ability to work with other students and adults. **Before students can be enrolled in Yearbook, they are required to complete a questionnaire and interview with the teacher/advisor for the course.**

**Art**

**6th & 8th**
This class combines formal lessons about art and culture with hands-on work in various media. Students will work in drawing, painting, and 3-D media while gaining a greater appreciation of how knowledge of history, language, math and science improve expression, art and creativity.

**VOCATIONAL/TECHNOLOGY**

**Agriculture Science (one semester)**

**8th**
This comprehensive course is designed to introduce beginning students of agriculture to global agriculture and horticulture. The course includes agricultural career development, leadership, communication, cultural diversity, industry description, research, plant and animal science concepts, and mechanical systems.

**Industrial Technology (one semester)**

**8th**
To be prepared for careers in agricultural power, structural, and technical systems, students need to attain academic skills and knowledge; acquire technical knowledge and skills related to power, structural, and technical agricultural systems and the industry; and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, industry certifications, and industry expectations. This course is designed to develop an understanding of agricultural mechanics as it relates to safety and skills in tool operation, carpentry, and metal working techniques.

**STEM (semester)**

**8th**
STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. The foundation of this course will be highly interactive group activities built around STEM concepts. Group activities may include Computer Design, Rockets, Catapults and other hands on activities. Each activity is designed to emphasize collaborative learning, critical and analytical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving and experimental design. Through participation in STEM course activities, students will practice many of the critical skills needed for 21st Century careers.
Technology Applications (one semester)
Technology Applications is a one-semester course for eighth graders. It is a hands-on class that provides an introduction to technology and computer application skills. Keyboarding, word-processing, databases, spreadsheets, iMovie, and web design are covered throughout the semester. Internet skills are taught also, along with saving documents and managing folders. This course will also give students an opportunity to explore careers in preparation for high school and post-secondary education. The students will use this information to select high school courses and endorsements.

Exploration Courses
This is offered only to 7th graders in a rotation of 6 six-week classes or a rotation of 3 twelve-week classes. It enables students a sampling of future elective classes and provides important information for future development. Any of the following classes maybe offered: Introduction to Industrial Technology, Keyboarding, Introduction to Art, Leadership, Introduction to Spanish, Introduction to S.T.E.M. and other locally developed electives.

McCarroll Middle School

Pre-AP and Advanced Courses Program Guidelines

What is Pre-AP?
Pre advanced Placement classes are on-grade level academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments.

What is the difference between a Pre-AP and a General Education class?
The curricula for both Pre-AP and General Ed courses are built on the core academic curriculum following the Texas Education Agency guidelines for each course. This curriculum is called TEKS, or Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Students enrolled in Pre-AP should expect a faster class pace, more depth in classroom discussion, increased amount of reading, and overall greater academic expectations on assignments and time management.

Why should my child take a Pre-AP class?
Pre-AP middle school courses are designed to prepare students for high school Pre-AP and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP courses are college-level courses taught in a high school setting, generally during the Junior and Senior years. At the end of each AP course and AP Exam is given. Qualifying scores on the AP Exams can possibly enable students to receive college credit and/or advanced standing at a university or college. Students taking Pre-AP courses should expect additional demands on time, personal organization, and commitment.
**Can any child take a Pre-AP course?**
Decatur ISD has an open enrollment policy in Pre-AP offerings. Teachers, parents and students should work together to choose the most appropriate classes for student success. The following characteristics have been found in successful Pre-AP students:

- Strong study skills and self-motivation
- Proficient oral and communication skills
- Self-discipline to plan, organize, and carry out assigned tasks
- Commended performance on STAAR tests in the related core subjects
- Above average grade in the previous year related content area

**Specific Differences in Core subjects:**
**MATH:** Pre-AP prepares students for Algebra I in eighth grade, via acceleration of curriculum in 6th and 7th grades to cover all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade State standards. General education is regular math.

**ENGLISH:** Pre-AP will have summer reading assignments and outside-of-class, independent reading throughout the year. They will be expected to form in-depth responses, both spoken and written, on a variety of topics and literature pieces. Pre-AP students should enjoy reading and writing and embrace the challenge of both activities.

**SCIENCE:** (8th grade) Pre-AP students should have an above average aptitude in Science. They should enjoy the higher questioning practices needed in science exploration, and all Pre-AP students should be prepared for tests that will include essay questions.

We also suggest that you discuss this with your child and with the current academic teacher in that subject. We hope this guide will be helpful in selecting the courses most appropriate for the success of your child.

**McCarroll Middle School Pre-AP Program**

Pre-AP courses are on-grade level academically advanced courses designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content. **The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments and to complete a substantial amount of work outside of class.** The curricula for the courses are built on the core academic curriculum following the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) expectations for each course. Pre-AP middle school courses are designed to prepare students for high school Pre-AP and Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP courses are college-level courses taught in a high school setting. At the end of each AP course an AP Exam is given. Qualifying scores on the AP exams can enable students to receive college credit and/or advanced standing at a university or college.

The following Pre-AP Courses are offered at McCarroll Middle School:

- 6th Gr Pre-AP Language Arts
- 6th Gr Pre-AP Math
- 7th Gr Pre-AP Language Arts
- 7th Gr Pre-AP Math
- 8th Gr Pre-AP Language Arts
- 8th Gr Algebra 1 (which includes the new STAAR End-of-Course Exam from the Texas Education Agency)
- 8th Gr Pre-AP Science

Students who experience success in Pre-AP courses typically exhibit the following personal and academic characteristics:
Personal Characteristics:

- Excellent study and organizational skills
- Ability to work well with others
- Persistence in pursuing goals
- A strong sense of responsibility
- Ability to become an independent learner
- A desire to be academically successful
- Reading on or above grade level
- Proficient oral and written communication skills

Academic Criteria:

- Grade of 85 or higher in a related academic content area course
- Scores at the Advanced Measure level on the most recent STAAR test closely related to the Pre-AP course being considered

Students are encouraged to take Pre-AP courses that are appropriate to their interests and academic strengths. The number of Pre-AP courses also varies with students’ motivation, self-discipline, and available time outside of class. Students are not expected to enroll in Pre-AP courses in all core subject areas.

The homework load for Pre-AP Courses is intensive and requires academic discipline. Students must maintain the requirements stated in the removal/schedule change form policy at the end of the McCarroll Middle School Advanced Course Guidelines.

Pre-AP Teachers have received subject-specific training to provide strategies and tools to engage their students in high-level learning.

In addition the student and parents need to sign an agreement to the following responsibilities:

**STUDENT:** I agree to take full responsibility:

- to show a commitment to academic excellence
- to complete summer assignments as required by each grade level and content area
- to attend class regularly
- to do my own work in order to improve my ability to reason, analyze and understand
- to organize my time and study habits to complete successfully the above named course(s)
- to confer with the teacher and take immediate action if I fall behind

**PARENT/GUARDIAN:** I agree to be familiar with the Enhanced or Pre-AP course requirements and exit procedures and help my child organize study time in support of class assignments. I agree to encourage him/her to communicate openly with the teacher when disciplinary or curricular questions or concerns arise. If the situation remains unresolved, I will request an appointment with the teacher.

**TEACHER:** I agree to teach the above course at a level and pace in accordance with College Board recommendation and/or the DISD curriculum document. Student and parent/guardian will be advised within the first six weeks if the student’s work is not adequate. Student progress after the first six-weeks will be reported with the normal progress and report card cycles.
Academic Criteria (Subject Specific)

Language Arts

Pre-Advanced Placement Language Arts 6
As a preparation for Advanced Placement English courses in high school, this curriculum adds a focus on literary analysis in reading, writing, and speaking in addition to the required work of a regular Language Arts class. Pre-AP classes will also be exposed to analytical reading of literature, writing and speaking focusing on tone and style, and using analytical literary terms in both writing and speaking which are key facets to this program. The combination of the above mentioned aspects prepare students for success on the Advanced Placement exams in high school. The content of this course will be organized to include elaborate, complex and in-depth study of major ideas, problems, and themes that integrate knowledge with learning skills. Activities, which allow for the development and application of productive thinking skills enabling students to re-conceptualize existing knowledge and/or generate new knowledge, will be stressed. An essential part of the program will allow for the integration of multiple disciplines as they relate to analyzing and writing about literature. The homework load for this class is intensive. Students should be prepared to invest additional time and effort as the curriculum demands. It is STRONGLY advised that students have the following prerequisites to enter this class:

• 90 or above grade average in 5th grade language arts
• Aptitude for and genuine interest in both reading and writing.
• Advanced on the 5th grade STAAR reading test

Successful students are task oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time and produce quality work. Parental support is necessary.

Pre-Advanced Placement Language Arts 7
As a preparation for Advanced Placement English courses in high school, this curriculum focuses on literary analysis in reading, writing, speaking and listening. In addition to what is expected in a regular language arts class, Pre-AP classes will also be exposed to analytical reading of literature, analytical writing and speaking focusing on tone and style, and using analytical literary vocabulary in both writing and speaking which are key facets to this program that aid in preparing students for success on the Advanced Placement exams in high school. The content of this course will be organized to include the in-depth study of major ideas, problems, and themes that integrate knowledge with systems of thought. The development and application of productive thinking skills through Socratic methods will enable students to reformulate existing knowledge and/or generate new knowledge. Part of the program will allow for the integration of multiple disciplines as they relate to literature. The homework load for this class is intensive. Students should be prepared to invest additional time and effort as the curriculum demands. It is STRONGLY advised that students have the following prerequisites to enter this class:

• 90 or above grade average in 6th grade language arts OR
• 85 or above grade average in 6th grade Pre-AP language arts
• Aptitude for and genuine interest in both reading and writing
• Advanced on the 6th grade STAAR reading test

Successful students are task oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time and produce quality work. Parental support is necessary.

Pre-Advanced Placement Language Arts 8
As preparation for Advanced Placement English courses in high school, this curriculum focuses on literary analysis in reading, writing, speaking and listening. In addition to what is expected in a regular language arts class, Pre-AP classes will also be exposed to analytical reading of literature focusing on tone and style, and using literary vocabulary in both writing and speaking which are key facets to this program. The content of this
course will be organized to include elaborate, complex and in-depth study of major ideas, problems and themes. Activities will be stressed that allow for the development and application of productive thinking skills enabling students to conceptualize existing knowledge and/or generate new knowledge. An essential part of the program will allow for the integration of multiple disciplines as they relate to literature. The homework load for this class is intensive. Students should be prepared to invest additional time and effort as the curriculum demands. It is STRONGLY advised that students have the following prerequisites to enter this class:

- 90 or above grade average in 7th grade language arts OR
- 85 or above grade average in 7th grade Pre-AP language arts
- Aptitude for and genuine interest in both reading and writing
- Advanced on the 7th grade STAAR reading test

Successful students are task oriented, proficient readers, able to prioritize their time and produce quality work. Parental support is necessary.

Math

Pre-AP Math 6
The 6th grade mathematics pre-AP curriculum is designed to expand students’ knowledge of numbers, number theory, computation, estimation, measurement, geometry, statistics, probability, patterns, and functions. Emphasis will be placed on in-depth problem solving and application of mathematics. Students with strong computation and problem-solving skills will enjoy the challenge this course provides. The pre-AP designation indicates a more rigorous curriculum. It is STRONGLY advised that students have the following prerequisites:

- 90 or above grade average in 5th grade math
- Aptitude for and genuine interest in math.
- Advanced Measure on the 5th STAAR math test
- Meet requirements on the 6th grade Placement Rubric
- Parent request if student did not meet requirements on the 6th grade Placement Rubric student must:
  - Successfully complete Summer online Pre-AP Math modules

Pre-AP Math 7
The seventh grade Pre-AP mathematics curriculum is designed to continue expanding the students’ knowledge of number theory, measurement, geometry, proportional reasoning, probability, statistics, pre-algebra, and other advanced mathematics topics. Emphasis will be on problem solving, technology, and independent student discovery. It is STRONGLY advised that students have the following prerequisites to enter this class:

- 90 or above grade average in 6th grade math OR
- Aptitude for and genuine interest in math.
- Advanced on the 6th grade STAAR math test
- Meet requirements on the 7th grade Placement Rubric
- Parent request if students weren’t previously enrolled in 6th grade Pre-AP student must:
  - Successfully pass district Pre-AP 6th grade math CBE.

Successful students are problem solvers, able to prioritize their time and produce quality work. Parental support is necessary.
Algebra (8th grade, High School Course)
Algebra I is the study of mathematical relationships. It covers topics such as algebraic properties, solving equations and inequalities (linear, absolute value, radical, and quadratic), and applying equations and inequalities. Operations involving polynomials and exponents, rational algebraic expressions, and functions are also covered. These topics are studied algebraically (abstractly), graphically, and analytically. Students can expect to use graphing calculators frequently in the course. Students who take Algebra I are preparing to enter a sequence of courses including Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, and Advanced Placement Calculus. The curriculum of this course is designed to prepare eighth grade students for these rigorous courses. Students in Algebra I will be administered the STAAR End-of-Course Exam from the Texas Education Agency. It is STRONGLY advised that students have the following prerequisites to enter this class:

- Meet requirements on the 8th grade/Algebra Placement Rubric
- Parent request if students weren't previously enrolled in 7th grade Pre-AP student must:
  - Successfully pass 8th CBE by 80%.
- The Course grade for Algebra will be averaged into their High School GPA

Successful students are problem solvers, able to prioritize their time and produce quality work. Parental support is necessary.

Science
Pre-AP Science 8
This study of science includes planning and conducting field and laboratory investigations, maintaining a scientific journal, using the scientific method, analyzing data, critical thinking, scientific problem solving and using various tools and equipment to collect and analyze information. It is STRONGLY advised that students have the following prerequisites:

- 90 or above grade average in 7th grade science OR
- 85 or above grade average in 7th grade Pre-AP science
- Aptitude for and genuine interest in science.

Students will be involved in a minimum of 2 projects a year that will include research and experimentation.

Foreign Language
Spanish I (8th Grade, High School Credit)
The first year of Spanish includes basic reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, vocabulary acquisition, and grammar study. Students are introduced to the Hispanic culture. Students who take Spanish I are preparing to enter Spanish II as a freshman. The curriculum of this course is designed to prepare eighth grade students for these rigorous courses. It is STRONGLY advised that students have the following prerequisites to enter this class:

- Students complete one 7th grade Pre-AP Course
- 85 or above in at least one 7th grade Pre-AP course
- Advanced on the 7th grade STAAR reading test
- The Course grade for Spanish will be averaged into their High School GPA

Successful students are problem solvers, able to prioritize their time and produce quality work. Parental support is necessary.
REMOVAL AND SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY

Students enrolled in Pre-AP and advanced classes are required to have a current documented average of $\geq 70$ at the end of the and at the end of the first 6 week term (T1), and also must have a current documented average at the end of first semester (S1) the of $>75$.

At the end of the first 3 week progress report (PR1), if the student has a average of $\leq 70$ they will be required to attend tutoring for the next three weeks and removed at the end of the first 6 weeks if the average is still $\leq 70$. A student will transfer at end of the first 6 week term (T1) and first semester (S1). They may be placed in a regular class based on a committee decision consisting of teacher, counselor, parent, and administrator. Changes will be made based on availability and class size. (Note: A documented grade of “Incomplete” is treated as a failing grade and the student may be moved to a regular class of the same subject if available.)