



Allen ISD

Where Eagles Soar

**Allen ISD
Middle School
Academic Planning Guide**

2020 - 2021

Academic Planning Guide

2020-2021



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Allen ISD reserves the right to reduce or eliminate courses and/or programs due to lack of enrollment, changes in district facilities, or financial constraints.

All information contained herein is subject to alteration due to Board or administrative action or unforeseen changes to the school calendar or operations.

Allen ISD does not discriminate on the basis of age, national origin, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or against any other legally protected group.



ALLEN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

MISSION

Allen ISD cultivates innovation in education that empowers every learner to realize his or her full potential.

GRADUATE PROFILE

Allen High School Graduates will be:

Effective Problem-Solvers

Students will master the skills needed to design innovative solutions within independent and team settings.

Responsible and Engaged Citizens

Students will demonstrate ethical and moral decision-making in the context of their local, national and world community. They will also possess an awareness of community resources and understand the value of service to others.

Academically Prepared for Future Pursuits

Students will possess necessary skills to seek educational and career options as they continually pursue and integrate knowledge.

Effective Communicators

Students will be able to listen critically and speak articulately, will be able to resolve conflicts effectively and appropriately, will be able to understand and appreciate diverse individuals and cultures, will be able to exercise leadership qualities, and will be able to communicate using advancing technology.

**Texas Education Agency
Division of Career and Technical Education**

**Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in
Career and Technical Education Programs**

1. Allen ISD offers career and technical education career clusters in:
 - **Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources**
 - **Architecture and Construction**
 - **Arts, A/V Technology, and Communications**
 - **Business, Marketing, and Finance**
 - **Education and Training**
 - **Health Science**
 - **Hospitality and Tourism**
 - **Information Technology**
 - **Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security**
 - **Manufacturing**
 - **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**
 - **Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics**
2. It is the policy of Allen ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
3. It is the policy of Allen ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.
4. Allen ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.
5. For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the School Leadership and Support office at P.O. Box 13, Allen, TX 75013, (972) 727-0511.

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PLANNING YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Being in middle school is both an exciting and challenging time in a student's life. Allen ISD offers a wide array of programs that are designed to meet the academic needs of middle school students and to prepare them for high school course selections and requirements. It is recommended that students and parents think in terms of a **six-year plan** that includes not only middle school considerations, but possible high school choices as well.

Academic Considerations

Advanced Academics:

Students who show readiness and willingness to challenge themselves with advanced coursework are encouraged to enroll in Pre-AP/IB classes. Successful completion of these classes may be part of preparing students for AP and IB coursework in high school.

- It is very important that a student be placed as accurately as possible in the appropriate advanced class.
 - Pre-AP/IB courses in English/Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies are open enrollment (self-select) courses.
 - Students must qualify for placement in Math 7 Pre-AP/IB. All current 6th grade students will be evaluated for Math 7 Pre-AP/IB. A student typically qualifies by meeting at least two of these four district criteria for placement:
 - 4th Grade Math STAAR Masters Level
 - 5th Grade Math STAAR Masters Level
 - 6th Grade Math STAAR Masters Level
 - A course grade of 90% or higher for the first OR second semester of 6th Grade math.
 - Students who successfully complete Math 7 Pre-AP/IB will be eligible for Algebra I Pre-AP/IB in Grade 8.
 - Placement in a foreign language course in Grade 8 requires an 85 or higher in Grade 7 courses for both English and Math.
- Parents and students should carefully consider how many Pre-AP courses the student will be taking and the amount of coursework that is required. In the event that the student wishes to drop from Pre-AP to regular coursework, those changes will take place at the end of the first grading period or at semester.
- Students enrolled in Algebra I Pre-AP/IB, Spanish I Pre-AP/IB, and French I Pre-AP/IB in the 8th grade earn high school credit. The course content and workload are the equivalent of a high school course and students enrolled in the course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation. Students receive 1 high school credit, but the course grade is not included in the high school GPA. The district recommends all students in Algebra I, Spanish I, and/or French I maintain an 80 average or higher each nine week period.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Courses:

- Middle school students enrolled in the following CTE courses earn high school credit: Professional Communications (0.5 credit), Robotics/Web Communications (0.5 credit), Social Media Marketing (0.5 credit), and Business Information Management I (1 credit). The course content and workload are the equivalent of a high school course. Students receive high school credit, but the course grade is not included in high school GPA. High school expectations will be adhered to throughout the course.

Physical Education:

- All students are required to complete 2 semesters of Physical Education (or an approved substitute) prior to the end of the 8th grade. A student may take advantage of a full year of PE in 7th grade, which allows for more possible electives as an 8th grader, or a student may choose to take a semester of PE during both the 7th and 8th grade.

Middle School Requirements

Curriculum Subject Areas Or Equivalent Programs	7 th Grade Required Courses	8 th Grade Required Courses
English/Language Arts	1 year double blocked	1 year
Mathematics	1 year	1 year
Science	1 year	1 year
Social Studies	1 year	1 year
Physical Education	2 semesters (may be completed in one or two years)	
Electives	2 semesters (1 year-long class or 2 one semester classes)	4 Semesters Some electives are year-long classes and some are semester classes)

Practical Suggestions for Students and Parents

Carefully plan a middle school course of study, keeping in mind student's abilities and interests as well as high school programs. [The Graduation Plan Overview for the Lowery Freshman Center and Allen High School](#), which contains program requirements and course descriptions, can be found on the district web site.

- **Participate** in school-related activities, school-sponsored clubs and community service. Being involved in school programs and community service contributes to developing a well-rounded, sensitive and compassionate citizen.
- **Begin keeping** a resume or portfolio of student accomplishments. Electronic portfolios are an excellent way to save a quantity of superior student efforts over a period of years. Student certificates and awards can also be kept in photo albums. All records should be updated yearly.
- **Integrate technology** into each student's studies and life. Success in the 21st century will require a high level of knowledge and skill in the use of technology.
- **Establish good study habits and organizational skills** during the middle school years. The use of a planner, electronic calendar or agenda book is crucial for keeping up with daily assignments, tests and long-term projects. Designate a study place which has good lighting and is furnished with necessary study tools such as pens, paper, highlighters, dictionary, and a calculator.

Schedule Changes

No drops, adds, or schedule changes will be allowed after the fifth instructional day of the semester.

Promotion and Retention

- Promotion from 7th grade to 8th grade requires that a student's yearly average in ELA **AND** Mathematics is at or above 70%, and a student's yearly average in either Science **OR** Social Studies is at or above 70%. The 90% attendance rule must also be met (see Student Handbook).
- Promotion from 8th grade to the Lowery Freshman Center requires that a student's yearly average in English 8 **AND** Mathematics is at or above 70%, and a student's yearly average in either Science **OR** Social Studies is at or above 70%. A student should also have completed at least a year of Physical Education. The 90% attendance rule must also be met (see Student Handbook).

Student Success Initiative

The 76th Texas Legislature mandated new grade advancement testing requirements that were enacted as the Student Success Initiative and are specified in TEC, §28.0211. The Student Success Initiative mandated new passing requirements beginning in school year 2007-2008 for the reading and mathematics State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) tests at Grade 8. As specified by these requirements, a student may advance to the next grade level only by passing these tests or by unanimous decision of his or her grade placement committee.

Multiple Test Opportunities

TEC, §28.0211 requires that students have three opportunities to meet standard on the grade 8 reading and mathematics STAAR tests.

Grade Placement Committee

For a student who does not meet standard on the reading or math STAAR test for the second time, school districts are required to establish a grade placement committee for the student. The grade placement committee consists of the principal or designee, the student's parent or guardian, and the teacher of the subject area failed by the student. The law charges the grade placement committee with prescribing the accelerated instruction that the district will provide the student before the statewide assessment is administered a third time.

If the student does not meet standard a third time, the student is retained at the same grade level. The parent or guardian may appeal this retention to the student's grade placement committee. This committee may promote the student if it determines by unanimous decision that, in accordance with school board policy, it is likely the student will perform at grade level given accelerated instruction upon promotion. The final decision of this committee cannot be appealed.

If a student receives special education services, the ARD committee makes decisions about SSI-grade advancement requirements.

STAAR Information

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (**STAAR**) is the state assessment program that began in spring 2012. STAAR includes 5 end-of-course (EOC) assessments.

Students in the following grades will take assessments under STAAR:				
Grade 7	Reading, Math, and Writing			
Grade 8	Reading, Math, Social Studies, and Science			
High School	Algebra I*	English I	Biology	U.S. History
		English II		

*Students taking Algebra I as an 8th grader will take the Algebra I EOC

Impact on Graduation

Beginning with the 9th grade class in 2011-2012, students will take up to 5 STAAR/EOC assessments listed previously based on their participation in courses (schools determine the sequence of courses in a subject area). Currently, each student must meet the passing score requirement for all STAAR/EOC assessments they take in order to graduate. High school students may continue to take the STAAR/EOC exams until they meet the passing standards.

Texas Virtual School Network Courses

The Allen Independent School District (Allen ISD) offers opportunities for students to earn high school credits through online courses provided by the Texas Virtual School Network. (EHDE Legal and Local) Virtual courses provide students the opportunity to obtain graduation credits for courses not currently available at Allen High School.

Allen High School is an approved member of the Texas Virtual School Network and the online program is supported by the Allen Independent School District. This program is a fully accredited solution that provides online courses for high school credit for students across the State of Texas.

Prior approval is required from the student's principal to enroll in a course through The Texas Virtual School Network and gain high school credit for graduation.

Information on The Texas Virtual School Network course offerings and requirements can be found on the following website: www.txvsn.org.

Graduation Plans Beginning with the Class of 2018

The Minimum, Recommended, and Distinguished Achievement Programs will be replaced by the Foundation High School Program beginning with the class of 2018. Beginning with the class of 2018, all students will be required to complete the Foundation High School Program plus an endorsement with the opportunity to earn distinguished level of achievement. Allen ISD is a default Distinguished Level of Achievement District with the goal that all students will graduate college and career ready.

The Foundation High School Program, including one endorsement, requires the following courses for a total of 26 credits:

- 4 credits in English Language Arts
- 4 credits in Mathematics
- 4 credits in Science
- 4 credits in Social Studies
- 2 credits in Languages other than English (LOTE)
- 1 credit in Fine Arts
- 1 credit in Physical Education
- 6 credits in electives

Foundation High School Program + Endorsements

Beginning with the class of 2018, all students must indicate during course selection, an anticipated endorsement choice.

The five endorsement options are:

- Arts and Humanities
- Business and Industry
- Public Services
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Multidisciplinary

Multiple options (areas of study) are available within each endorsement, and then pathways (sequence of courses) are available within each option. Click on the following link for a more detailed look at the available options and pathways: [Graduation Planning with Endorsement Overview](#).

Foundation High School Program + Endorsements + Distinguished Level of Achievement

Beginning with the class of 2018, a student may earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement. Students may accomplish this by completing the 26 credits consisting of the Foundation High School Program plus an endorsement. Students' credits must include Algebra II as one of the four math courses, and an advanced Science as one of the four science courses in order to earn the Distinguished Level of Achievement.

Performance Acknowledgements

Beginning with the class of 2018, a student may earn Performance Acknowledgements:

- For outstanding performance:
 - In a dual credit course
 - In bilingualism and biliteracy
 - On a College Board Advanced Placement test or International Baccalaureate examination
 - On the PSAT, ACT-Plan, SAT or ACT
- OR**
- For earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification of license.

The performance acknowledgement earned will be noted on the student's diploma and transcript.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

All students participate in a summer reading in order to continue supporting literacy skills. Please see your middle school's website for Summer Reading Information. (www.allenisd.org/fordms), (www.allenisd.org/erecksonms) or (www.allenisd.org/curtisms).

LA1D7A / LA1D7B English 7

English 7 emphasizes the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing and thinking. Students will engage in academic conversations and read and write on a daily basis with opportunities for cross-curricular content and student choice. This course focuses on further developing knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order for students to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

LA2D7A / LA2D7B English 7 Pre-AP/IB **No Prequalification for this Course**

English 7 Pre-AP/IB emphasizes the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing and thinking. Students will engage in academic conversations and read and write on a daily basis with opportunities for cross-curricular content and student choice. This course focuses on developing advanced knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order for students to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy. The course is designed to develop advanced critical thinking skills as preparation for the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate English courses at the 11th and 12th grade levels.

LA1E8A / LA1E8B English 8

English 8 emphasizes the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing and thinking. Students will engage in academic conversations and read and write on a daily basis with opportunities for cross-curricular content and student choice. This course focuses on further developing knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order for students to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy.

LA2E8A / LA2E8B English 8 Pre-AP/IB **No Prequalification for this Course**

Suggested Prerequisite: English 7 Pre-AP/IB

English 8 Pre-AP/IB emphasizes the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing and thinking. Students will engage in academic conversations and read and write on a daily basis with opportunities for cross-curricular content and student choice. This course focuses on developing advanced knowledge and skills with increased complexity and nuance in order for students to think critically and adapt to the ever-evolving nature of language and literacy. The course is designed to develop advanced critical thinking skills as preparation for the Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate English courses at the 11th and 12th grade levels.

LA3E7A / LA3E7B Humanities 7 GT/Pre-AP/IB **Qualification based on GT identification**

Humanities 7 GT is a course designed to prepare students for advanced study of listening, speaking, reading, writing and thinking at the high school level, including Pre-AP and Pre-IB courses. Humanities 7 GT is a two-period course offering through the GEMS (Gifted Education Middle School) program for identified Gifted and Talented students designed to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the gifted learner. This course grants credit in both history and English/Language Arts by integrating language arts and Texas History with fine arts through student-centered chronological thematic units of study. Through a comprehensive integrated literacy instructional framework, students will explore and reflect on the political, social, and economic issues that have shaped our society and defined our roles as citizens.

LA3E8A / LA3E8B Humanities 8 GT/Pre-AP/IB **Qualification based on GT identification**

Humanities 8 GT is a course designed to prepare students for advanced study of listening, speaking, reading, writing and thinking at the high school level, including Pre-AP and Pre-IB courses. Humanities 8 GT is a two-period course offering through the GEMS (Gifted Education Middle School) program for identified Gifted and Talented students designed to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the gifted learner. This course grants credit in both history and English/Language Arts by integrating language arts and U.S. History with fine arts through student-centered chronological thematic units of study. Through a comprehensive integrated literacy instructional framework, students will explore and reflect on the political, social, and economic issues that have shaped our society and defined our roles as citizens.

LA3R7A / LA3R7B Leadership through Literacy 7 GT/Pre AP/IB

Qualification based on GT Identification

Leadership through Literacy is a course offering through the GEMS (Gifted Education Middle School) program for identified gifted and talented students designed to foster and develop leadership skills and meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the gifted learner. Through the study of and utilization of literacy skills, students will deepen their understanding and application of impactful, positive leadership qualities.

MATHEMATICS

MA1M7A / MA1M7B Math 7

Math 7 is a course designed to continue and expand the concepts developed in elementary mathematics. This course emphasizes number and operations, proportionality, expressions, equations and relationships, measurement and data.

MA2M7A / MA2M7B Math 7 Pre-AP/IB

Qualification based on 4th grade Math STAAR, 5th grade Math STAAR, and 6th grade 1st semester math grade. New students to Allen ISD interested in entering the program must submit a request to AdvancedAcademics@allenisd.org. *All students not placed initially will be reevaluated.*

Math 7 Pre-AP/IB is a course designed to prepare students for advanced study of math at the high school level, including Pre-AP and Pre-IB courses. This course covers concepts from Mathematics 7 and Mathematics 8 with a concentration in Pre-Algebra and emphasizes proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. The students will use algebra in working with proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships, and foundations of functions, and measurement and data. **Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation.**

MA1M8A / MA1M8B Math 8 (Pre-Algebra)

Math 8 (Pre-Algebra) is a course designed to prepare the student to study algebra in the ninth grade.

This course emphasizes proportionality,; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. **Students will use graphing calculators in this course.**

MA2A1A / MA2A1B Algebra 1 Pre-AP/IB

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 7 Pre-AP/IB. District recommendation is for all students to maintain an 80 average or higher.

Pre-AP Algebra I will extend the concepts taught in Algebra I by taking the student to a more in-depth study of the subject. The student should have good critical thinking skills and be an independent thinker. The use of the graphing calculator is a major component in the teaching of this course. **Students will be expected to take four years of math in grades 9-12. Students earn high school credit: the course content and workload are the equivalent of a high school course. Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation (Student receives 1 high school credit but the course grade is not included in high school GPA). High school expectations will be adhered to throughout the course.**

SCIENCE

SC1S7A / SC1S7B Science 7

The study of Science in grade 7 is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. The class involves laboratory and field investigations in which students will be using critical thinking skills to analyze data and solve problems. Students will also be offered the opportunity to participate in Science Fair; an outside of class experiment-based or engineering-based project.

SC2S7A / SC2S7B Science 7 Pre-AP/IB

No Prequalification for this Course

Seventh grade Pre-AP/IB Science is a course designed to prepare students for advanced Science at the high school level, including Pre-AP and Pre-IB courses. The study of science in this course is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment at a higher level of rigor. The class involves laboratory and field investigations in which students will be using critical thinking skills to analyze data and solve problems. Students will also be offered the opportunity to participate in Science Fair; an outside of class experiment-based or engineering-based project. **Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation.**

SC3S7A / SC3S7B Science 7 GT/Pre-AP/IB**Qualification based upon GT identification**

Seventh grade GT Science is a course offering through the GEMS (Gifted Education Middle School) program for identified Gifted and Talented students designed to meet the social, emotional, and academics needs of the gifted learner. This course will prepare students for advanced sciences at the high school level through Project Based Learning and STEM experiences to support depth of exploration and engagement. The study of science in this course is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment at a higher level of rigor. The class involves laboratory and field investigations in which students will be using critical and creative thinking skills to analyze data and solve problems. Students will also be offered the opportunity to participate in Science Fair; an outside of class experiment-based or engineering-based project. **Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation.**

SC1S8A / SC1S8B Science 8

The study of science in grade 8 is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. The class involves laboratory and field investigations in which students will be using critical thinking skills to analyze data and solve problems. Students will also be offered the opportunity to participate in Science Fair; an outside of class experiment-based or engineering-based project.

SC2S8A / SC2S8B Science 8 Pre-AP/IB**No Prequalification for this Course**

Eighth grade Pre-AP/IB is a course designed to prepare students for advanced Science at the high school level, including Pre-AP and Pre-IB courses. The study of science in this course is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science at a higher level of rigor. The class involves laboratory and field investigations in which students will be using critical thinking skills to analyze data and solve problems. Students will also be offered the opportunity to participate in Science Fair; an outside of class experiment-based or engineering-based project. **Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation.**

SC3S8A / SC3S8B Science 8 GT/Pre-AP/IB**Qualification based upon GT identification**

Eighth grade GT Science is a course offering through the GEMS (Gifted Education Middle School) program for identified Gifted and Talented students designed to meet the social, emotional, and academics needs of the gifted learner. This course will-prepare students for advanced Science at the high school level, through Project Based Learning and STEM experiences to support depth of exploration and engagement. The study of science in this course is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science at a higher level of rigor. The class involves laboratory and field investigations in which students will be using critical and creative thinking skills to analyze data and solve problems. Students will also be offered the opportunity to participate in Science Fair; an outside of class experiment-based or engineering-based project. **Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation.**

SOCIAL STUDIES

SS1TXA / SS1TXB Texas History 7

In Grade 7, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students use primary and secondary sources to acquire information about Texas.

SS2TXA / SS2TXB Texas History Pre-AP/IB 7**No prequalification for this course**

The Pre-AP/IB course is designed to prepare student for advanced Social Studies courses at the high school level. In Grade 7, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students use primary and secondary sources to acquire information about Texas.

SS1USA / SS1USB U.S. History 8

In Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The knowledge and skills of this section comprise the first part of a two-year study of U.S. history. The content in Grade 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction.

SS2UHA / SS2UHB U.S. History Pre-AP/IB 8**No prequalification for this course**

The Pre-AP/IB course is designed to prepare student for advanced Social Studies courses at the high school level. In Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The knowledge and skills of this section comprise the first part of a two-year study of U.S. history. The content in Grade 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction.

SS3H7A / SS3H7B Humanities 7 GT/Pre-AP/IB**Qualification based on GT identification**

Humanities 7 GT is a course designed to prepare students for advanced study of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking at the high school level, including Pre-AP and Pre-IB courses. Humanities GT 7 is a two-period course offering through the GEMS (Gifted Education Middle School) program for identified Gifted and Talented students designed to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the gifted learner. This course grants credit in both history and English/Language Arts by integrating language arts and Texas History with fine arts through student-centered chronological thematic units of study. In Grade 7, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students use primary and secondary sources to acquire information about Texas. Through a comprehensive integrated literacy instructional framework, students will explore and reflect on the political, social, and economic issues that have shaped our society and defined our roles as citizens.

SS3H8A / SS3H8B Humanities 8 GT/Pre-AP/IB**Qualification based on GT identification**

Humanities 8 GT is a course designed to prepare students for advanced study of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking at the high school level, including Pre-AP and Pre-IB courses. Humanities GT 8 is a two-period course offering through the GEMS (Gifted Education Middle School) program for identified Gifted and Talented students designed to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the gifted learner. This course grants credit in both history and English/Language Arts by integrating language arts and U.S. History with fine arts through student-centered chronological thematic units of study. In Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The knowledge and skills of this section comprise the first part of a two-year study of U.S. history. The content in Grade 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Through a comprehensive integrated literacy instructional framework, students will explore and reflect on the political, social, and economic issues that have shaped our society and defined our roles as citizens.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH**FL2SPA / FL2SPB Spanish I Pre-AP/IB**

Prerequisite: Must have a 7th grade fall semester grade of at least 85 in both math and English. District recommendation is for all students to maintain an 80 average or higher. *Students not initially placed must submit a request for reevaluation to the campus counselor.*

Spanish I Pre-AP/IB is an expansion of the essentials of Spanish I. This course emphasizes development of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. This course also stresses cultural awareness and appreciation of the Spanish-speaking world, as well as an awareness of the Spanish influence on the language and customs of North America. Spanish I Pre-AP/IB is a first-year Spanish course; students do not need prior knowledge of Spanish to enroll in this course. The focus of this class is developing Novice-High proficiency. Communication is the overarching goal of all LOTE courses. **This course is designed to prepare students for the AP/IB program and**

may require extra hours of study per week. Students earn high school credit: the course content and workload are the equivalent of a high school course. Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation (Student receives 1 high school credit but the course grade is not included in high school GPA). High school expectations will be adhered to throughout the course.

FL2FRA / FL2FRB French I Pre-AP/IB

Prerequisite: Must have a 7th grade fall semester grade of at least 85 in both math and English. District recommendation is for all students to maintain an 80 average or higher. Students not initially placed must submit a request for reevaluation to campus counselor.

French I Pre-AP/IB is an expansion of the essentials of French I. This course emphasizes development of the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. This course also stresses cultural awareness and appreciation of the French-speaking world, as well as an awareness of the French influence on the language and customs of North America. French I Pre-AP/IB is a first-year French course; students do not need prior knowledge of French to enroll in this course. The focus of this class is developing Novice-High proficiency. Communication is the overarching goal of all LOTE courses. **This course is designed to prepare students for the AP/IB program and may require extra hours of study per week. Students earn high school credit: the course content and workload are the equivalent of a high school course. Students enrolled in this course should expect extensive outside-of-class preparation (Student receives 1 high school credit but the course grade is not included in high school GPA). High school expectations will be adhered to throughout the course.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Coed PE 7/8

PECOA

Fall

PECOB

Spring

Physical Education 7/8 provides instruction in wellness which includes fitness, skill development and health instruction. The goal of the physical education program is to enhance the physical, mental and social/emotional development of every student. Program components consist of a variety of team and individual sports, aerobic activities, which include weight training and adventure outdoors. A variety of technological tools will be used during class to assist the students' education about exercise intensity and personal goal setting. Students enrolled in physical education could experience moderate to vigorous intensity levels. **(One or Two Semesters)**

Physical Fitness Assessment

Each student identified by the Texas Education Agency will participate in an annual physical fitness assessment. The Fitnessgram assessment instrument contains criterion-referenced standards specific to a student's age and gender based on the physical fitness level required for good health. Good health components will include an aerobic capacity, body composition, muscular strength, muscular endurance, and a flexibility assessment.

Cheerleading

PECH7A / PECH7B

Cheer 7

PECH8A / PECH8B

Cheer 8

Prerequisite: Selection by tryouts in the spring

Cheerleaders will be required to cheer at home football and basketball games. They will also participate in pep rallies and other activities required by their instructor. Class time is devoted to conditioning exercises, building and stunt work techniques as well as cheer practice. After school practice time may be required. Students must meet UIL guidelines and a complete physical is required for all students who participate. **(Full year course; may be used as a PE credit; approximate cost \$350+ for camp, teamwear, etc.)**

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

TA1STC Investigating Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) 7/8

This course provides students with a perspective on careers and job opportunities in various engineering fields. Students will work with a variety of software and hardware applications that are used in the engineering fields, and use project based learning to learn about different areas of engineering. **(One Semester)**

PM1CMC Investigating Careers in Communications and Media Arts Science 7/8

This course will allow students the opportunity to develop technical skills in various pathways of Media Arts. The units for this course include Digital Photography, Photoshop, Audio/Video Production, Graphic Design, and Animation. Students will also be taught formal and informal presentation skills and learn about career options for this field of study. **(One Semester)**

BM1CCC College and Career Readiness 7/8

This is a course that provides students an opportunity to explore a variety of career options. Students will acquire essential skills for career planning and lifelong learning. Students will use self-knowledge along with educational and career information to set and achieve realistic career and education goals. **(One Semester)**

**BM1PCC Professional Communications
Grade 7/8 High School Credit: 0.5**

Students will learn professional standards and personal qualities needed to be employable such as oral and written communication, leadership, teamwork, appreciation for diversity, conflict management, customer service, work ethic, and adaptability. **Students enrolled earn high school credit: the course content and workload are the equivalent of a high school course. (Student receives 0.5 high school credit but the course grade is not included in high school GPA). High school expectations will be adhered to throughout the course. (One Semester)**

**TA1WCC Robotics/Web Communications
Grade 7/8 High School Credit: 0.5**

Robotics/Web Communications will foster students' creativity and innovation by presenting opportunities to design, implement, and present meaningful robotic programs through web communication using a variety of media. Students will collaborate with one another, their instructor, and various electronic communities to solve problems in designing and programming robots. Through data analysis, students will identify task requirements, plan search strategies, and use robotic concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. Students will use a web communication platform to advocate and promote Robotics and STEM. **Students earn high school credit: the course content and workload are the equivalent of a high school course. (Student receives 0.5 high school credit but the course grade is not included in high school GPA). High school expectations will be adhered to throughout the course. (One Semester)**

**BM1SMC Social Media Marketing
Grade 7/8 High School Credit: 0.5**

This course will teach students about the rise in social media, how social media is relevant to all career pathways, and the nature and scope of social media. Legalities, ethical implications, and risks associated with social media marketing will be explored. Students will learn how to create social media marketing plans and how to critically evaluate social media and digital marketing tools. **Students earn high school credit: the course content and workload are the equivalent of a high school course. (Student receives 0.5 high school credit but the course grade is not included in high school GPA). High school expectations will be adhered to throughout the course. (One Semester)**

**BM11A / BM11B Business Information Management I
Grade 8 High School Credit: 1 credit**

Students will implement personal and interpersonal skills to strengthen individual performance in the workplace and in society and make a successful transition to the work-force and post-secondary education. Students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies, create word-processing documents, develop a spreadsheet, formulate a database, and make an electronic presentation using appropriate software. **Students earn high school credit: the course content and workload are the equivalent of a high school course. (Student receives 1 high school credit but the course grade is not included in high school GPA). High school expectations will be adhered to throughout the course. (Full Year)**

TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

TA1CGC Technology Applications in Computer Graphics 7/8

This course provides an avenue for students to creatively explore various technical applications. Specifically, the students will learn basic skills in animation, photo-editing, and web design. In addition, students will develop basic skills in video, sound, and audio. **(One Semester)**

COMMUNICATIONS

CO1YBA / CO1YBB Yearbook 7/8

Prerequisite: Application Process

This class produces lasting memories in the form of the school's "Yearbook". Students will learn to take quality pictures, to design and organize the pages, and to cooperate with fellow classmates. Students must be self-disciplined, responsible and must be able to meet deadlines. Limited class size. **(Full Year)**

FINE ARTS

Courses described below are part of the standard Allen ISD Fine Arts curriculum. The number and variety of fine arts courses offered at each campus may vary slightly due to student interest and available instructors. Music courses are full year offerings. Theatre and Visual Art courses are one semester courses.

ART

FA1ARC Introduction to Art 7/8

This is a hands-on, project-based course focusing on the creation of original work through a variety of methods and materials. Students will experience success through a wide-range of projects that emphasize skill development. Students will explore elements of art, principles of design, artists, cultures and art history. **(One Semester)**

FA1AIC Intermediate Art 7/8

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art

This course is a continuation of Introduction to Art: Students will work with a variety of methods and materials and will be expected to use higher level thinking skills, increased planning and improved hand-eye coordination in their work. Students will use principles of design to organize the elements of art in their projects. Students explore artists, cultures and art history. **(One Semester)**

FA1AAC Advanced Art 8

Prerequisite: Intermediate Art 7/8

The Advanced Art curriculum consists of more complex art projects that involve student choice, independent planning and extended processes. The Advanced Art class will guide students to identify their individual voice and personal connection with their art projects at a deeper level. Advanced students will continue to explore artists, cultures and art history. **(One Semester)**

BAND

FA1PRA / FA1PRB Percussion

This class focuses on the development of keyboard and snare drum skills, as well as an introduction to the accessory percussion instruments. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

FA1CBA / FA1CBB Concert Band I

Students will be placed in the appropriate level band class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an intermediate level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

FACB2A / FACB2B Concert Band II

Students will be placed in the appropriate level band class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an intermediate level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

FASB1A / FASB1B Symphonic Band I

Students will be placed in the appropriate level band class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an intermediate-advanced level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

FASB2A / FASB2B Symphonic Band II

Students will be placed in the appropriate level band class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an intermediate-advanced level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

FA1HOA / F1HOB Honor Band

This is an advanced band class available by audition only. Students will be placed in the appropriate level band class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an advanced level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

ORCHESTRA

FA1COA / FA1COB Concert Orchestra I

Students will be placed in the appropriate level orchestra class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an intermediate level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. The instruments taught in an orchestra class are: violin, viola, cello, and string bass. **(Full Year)**

FACO2A / FACO2B Concert Orchestra II

Students will be placed in the appropriate level orchestra class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an intermediate level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. The instruments taught in an orchestra class are: violin, viola, cello, and string bass. **(Full Year)**

FA1SOA / FA1SOB Sinfonia Orchestra I

Students will be placed in the appropriate level orchestra class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an intermediate-advanced level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. The instruments taught in an orchestra class are: violin, viola, cello, and string bass. **(Full Year)**

FASO2A / FASO2B Sinfonia Orchestra II

Students will be placed in the appropriate level orchestra class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an intermediate-advanced level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. The instruments taught in an orchestra class are: violin, viola, cello, and string bass. **(Full Year)**

FA1CHA / FA1CHB Chamber Orchestra

Students will be placed in the appropriate level orchestra class based on individual audition with the director and a balance of instrumentation within the ensemble.

This course provides an opportunity for students to continue instrumental development at an advanced level. Attendance at sectionals, rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. The instruments taught in an orchestra class are: violin, viola, cello, and string bass. **(Full Year)**

CHOIR

FA1BCA / FA1BCB Boys Choir 7/8

This course is for male students with beginning or intermediate skills in sight-reading and choral singing. Attendance at rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

FA1G7A / FA1G7B Girls Choir 7

This course is for 7th grade female students with beginning or intermediate skills in sight-reading and choral singing. Attendance at rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

FA1G8A / FA1G8B Girls Choir 8

This course is for 8th grade female students with beginning or intermediate skills in sight-reading and choral singing. Attendance at rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

FA1GSA / FA1GSB Girls Select Choir 8

Students will be placed in this class based on individual audition with the director.

This course is for 8th grade female students with advanced skills in sight-reading and choral singing. Attendance at rehearsals and performances beyond the school day will be required in order to meet the performance requirements outlined by the state course objectives. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(Full Year)**

THEATRE ARTS

FA1ITC Introduction to Theatre Arts 7/8

This course is designed as an introduction to the basics of theatre arts including theater etiquette, pantomime, improvisation, voice and diction, characterization, acting techniques, body control, history of theatre, and varied theatrical experience. No previous theatre experience is necessary. **(One Semester)**

FA1ATC Advanced Theatre Arts 7/8

Prerequisite: Introduction to Theatre Arts 7/8

This course continues the study of Theater Arts. It offers a more in-depth study of various acting techniques, voice work, theatre production, theatre history and varied theatrical experiences. Some of the activities at this level are considered extra-curricular. Students must maintain a 70 or better in ALL subjects in order to participate in extra-curricular activities. **(One Semester)**

LEADERSHIP

EL1LDC Leadership 8

Leadership is a course whose goal is to help students realize their greatest potential by developing better critical-thinking, decision-making (including drug and alcohol prevention), and conflict-resolution skills. From self-evaluation, to team building and community service, students will have the opportunity to reinforce the three most positive qualities of leadership: learning, sharing and giving. **(One Semester)**

EL1PAA / EL1PAB PALS (Peer Assistance and Leadership) 8

Prerequisite: Application and interview

The Peer Assistance and Leadership (PALS) Program consists of students who are selected and trained to serve as peer helpers with younger students on our campus and/or with students from feeder schools. Several important roles of the PALS program include, mentoring, community service, and acclimating new students to the campus. Training for this program occurs early in the school year. The selection process occurs in the spring. **(Full Year)**

EL1PHA / EL1PHB Peer Helpers 8

Prerequisite: Application

Students are trained in the causes and characteristics of disabilities. Students are then paired with special needs students to help them succeed in educational settings. **(1 Semester or Full Year course)**

ATHLETICS

All sports teams have a try-out process with the exception of football, track, and cross country. This is an environment where an athlete competes on a team. Good sportsmanship as well as athletic skills is stressed. **A COMPLETE PHYSICAL IS REQUIRED EACH YEAR FOR ALL STUDENTS ENTERING ATHLETICS.** All students must meet UIL guidelines for eligibility. Volleyball and Basketball placement will be determined by the individual schools. Athletics may be used as a PE credit.

If students did not participate in athletics or make a team in 7th grade, they will need an Athletic Coordinator's approval to enroll into the athletic period for 8th grade and to try out for a team. If they are not enrolled in the athletic class period, they still have the opportunity to try out for a team after school. If they make the team, they would be placed in the athletic period.

Students that do not make the team for tryout sports (Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis and Golf) and are not trying out for additional sports that school year will have their schedules changed immediately.

BOYS ATHLETICS

Football

PEFB7A / PEFB7B Boys Athletics 7

PEFB8A / PEFB8B Boys Athletics 8

Football consists of learning the fundamentals of football, attending games, attending practices, and off-season training to prepare for the next year. **(Full year for students who want to play football only)**

Basketball

Basketball will begin in the fall semester.

PEBB7A / PEBB7B Boys Basketball 7

PEBB8A / PEBB8B Boys Basketball 8

Students should enroll in P.E. or athletics. Basketball try-outs will be held in late fall.

Pre-season enrollment is determined by coach approval in the spring of the 7th grade year. Basketball consists of learning the fundamentals of the game and attending games.

PEGFBA Boys Golf

Students should enroll in P.E. Try-outs will be held in the fall. (Fall Semester)

PETNBB Boys Tennis

Students should enroll in P.E. Try-outs will be held in the spring. (Spring Semester)

Track**PETB7B****Boys Track 7****PETB8B****Boys Track 7**Offered spring semester only. Participation requirements vary per campus. **(Spring Semester)****Cross Country**Offered after school only. To receive P.E. credit, student must be enrolled in a P.E. course in the spring. **(Spring Semester)****Off-Campus PE 7/8****PEOFFA (Fall)****PEOFFB (Spring)**Approval process, applications and explanations can be found on the "Athletics" homepage under "Off-Campus PE" or contact the Athletic Office. **(One Semester)****GIRLS ATHLETICS****Volleyball****PEVB7A / PEVB7B****Girls Athletics 7****PEVB8A / PEVB8B****Girls Athletics 8**The program consists of the fundamentals of volleyball, attending practices, games and off-season training. Tryouts for 7/8 grade students will be held at the first of the school year. **(Full Year)****Basketball****Basketball will begin in the fall semester.****PEBG7A / PEBG7B****Girls Basketball 7****PEBG8A / PEBG8B****Girls Basketball 8****Students should enroll in P.E. or athletics. Basketball tryouts will be held in the fall.**Pre-season enrollment is determined by coach approval in the spring of the 7th grade year. Basketball consists of learning the fundamentals of the game and attending games.**PEGFGA****Girls Golf****Students should enroll in P.E. Try-outs will be held in the fall. (Fall Semester)****PETNGB****Girls Tennis****Students should enroll in P.E. Try-outs will be held in the spring. (Spring Semester)****Track****PETG7B****Girls Track 7****PETG8B****Girls Track 8**Offered spring semester only. Participation requirements vary per campus. **(Spring Semester)****Cross Country**Offered after school only. To receive P.E. credit, student must be enrolled in a P.E. course in the spring. **(Spring Semester)****Off-Campus PE 7/8****PEOFFA (fall)****PEOFFB (spring)**Approval process, applications and explanations can be found on the AISD "Athletics" homepage under "Off-Campus PE" or contact the Athletic Office. **(One Semester)**