

** Gale Ranch Middle School * Iron Horse Middle School **

** Stone Valley Middle School * Charlotte Wood Middle School **

SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG 6TH-8TH GRADE 2009-2010

** Windemere Ranch Middle School * Los Cerros Middle School **

** Pine Valley Middle School * Diablo Vista Middle School **



SAN RAMON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome to the San Ramon Valley Unified School District. We have been very pleased with the academic success of our students as well as with the development of a positive school culture. District staff and teachers have worked diligently and creatively in order to provide what we feel is an outstanding middle school academic program.

Some of the teachers may request that extra fees be donated to help defray the cost of some consumable materials or materials taken home. These materials provide benefits or experiences to the student above and beyond the regular curriculum. Please see your student's Site Donation List.

This course catalog contains information regarding course requirements and a brief description of each class by department. We are confident that your child's middle school experience will be a successful one at the San Ramon Valley Unified School District.

CORE

6th Grade Core (English Language Arts/ Reading/ History-Social Science)

The 6th grade core curriculum is standards based and taught in a three period time block that blends the content of English Language Arts and History-Social Science. The courses are taught by one teacher and provide a transition from elementary to middle school. Through the writing process, students learn explicit strategies to help them find meaningful subjects to write about. In addition, they learn ways to structure their writing, revise, edit and publish. They also learn spelling strategies and proper conventions. Students discover meaning in literature and history by connecting their reading to personal experiences and prior knowledge. The English Language Arts program includes comprehension strategies in fiction and non-fiction and an exploration of genres. The integrated, activity-based History-Social Science curriculum begins with the study of early humans and focuses on ancient civilizations through the rise of the Roman Empire.

Schools: ALL

7th Grade Core (English Language Arts/History-Social Science)

The 7th grade core curriculum is standards based and taught in a two period time block, which blends the content of English and history-social science, reinforcing the reading, writing, and analytical-cognitive skills necessary for both. Skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening are taught in the context of literature and medieval history studies. The English curriculum includes reading comprehension, literary analysis, and instruction in several standards-based writing types, including summary, persuasive, narrative and response to literature. Spelling, vocabulary, and grammar are also included in the course of instruction. The history-social science curriculum focuses on history from the fall of the Roman Empire to the Age of Reason in the beginning of the 18th century, and includes instruction on the Roman Empire; Medieval Europe; the rise of Islam; Medieval Africa, Japan, and China; Mesoamerica; Europe during the Renaissance; the Reformation and Scientific Revolution, the Age of Exploration, and the Age of Reason.

Schools: ALL

8th Grade Core (English Language Arts/History-Social Science)

The 8th grade core curriculum is standards based and taught in a two period time block which blends the content of English and history-social science, reinforcing the reading, writing, and analytical-cognitive skills necessary to both. Course content includes a study of novels, poetry, and state writing types integrated with the study and research skills necessary for analysis. While studying historical events from the founding of the nation to World War I, students will analyze the development of Constitutional Democracy, with an emphasis on individual rights, an understanding of the political system and ways in which citizens can participate in and influence government. Students examine the gradual expansion of the US and its subsequent shaping and influence on foreign policy. Emphasis is on cause and effect, chronology, and an appreciation for how the past influences current events.

Schools: GR IH PV SV WR

ENGLISH

English

Grade: 8

The eighth grade English course emphasizes reading, writing, speaking, and analytical-cognitive skills. Course content includes a study of novels; poetry, creative writing and expository writing, integrated with the study and research skills necessary for analysis. The curriculum and presentation methods support district standards and state benchmarks.

Schools: CW DV LC

HISTORY

US History

Grade: 8

While studying the periods preceding from the founding of the nation to World War I, students will analyze the development of Constitutional Democracy, with emphasis on the importance of securing individual rights and an understanding of the political system and ways in which citizens can participate in and influence government. Students will examine the elements that led to the expansion of the existing borders of the United States and how this affected our relationship with other countries. Emphasis will be placed on cause and effect, chronology, and an appreciation for how the past influences current events.

Schools: CW DV LC

MATH

Middle School Math

Grade: 6

Prerequisite: Placement by district assessment

A grade level course designed to provide students with sufficient mathematical foundation to meet 6th grade state and district standards.

Schools: ALL

Advanced Middle School Math

Grade: 6

Prerequisite: Placement by district assessment

Designed for students who have demonstrated an exceptionally high level of understanding and proficiency of 5th grade standards. This course covers the same concepts as the grade level class but with greater depth, complexity, and pace.

Schools: ALL

Pre-Algebra

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: Completion of Middle School Math

A grade level course designed to provide students with sufficient mathematical foundation to meet 7th grade state and district standards. Successful completion of this course adequately prepares students for Algebra 1.

Schools: ALL

Advanced Pre-Algebra

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: B- or higher in Advanced Middle School Math and or teacher recommendation

Designed for students who have demonstrated an exceptionally high level of understanding and proficiency of 6th grade standards. This course covers the same concepts as the grade level class but with greater depth, complexity, and pace. Successful completion of this course adequately prepares students for Algebra I and Advanced Algebra 1.

Schools: ALL

Transition to Algebra

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: In addition to completion of Pre-Algebra, prerequisites may include district placement test, state test results, semester grades, and teacher recommendation.

A course designed to review and refine Pre-Algebra skills and introduce students to Algebraic thinking. Successful completion will result in placement in Algebra 1.

Schools: ALL

Algebra 1

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: In addition to completion of Pre-Algebra, prerequisites may include district placement test, state test results, semester grades, and teacher recommendation.

A grade level course designed to provide students with sufficient mathematical foundation to meet Algebra 1 standards. This course meets the UC/CSU criteria for first year Algebra. Successful completion will result in placement in Geometry.

Schools: ALL

Advanced Algebra 1

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: B- or higher in Advanced Pre-Algebra and or teacher recommendation

A rigorous Algebra 1 course designed to meet and exceed Algebra 1 standards. This course meets UC/CSU criteria for first year Algebra. Successful completion will result in placement in Geometry.

Schools: DV GR IH LC PV SV WR

Math Support

Grades: 6-8 (varies depending on site)

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation only

A course designed as an intervention to provide support and remediation of math concepts and skills. This course is taken in place of an elective course. Students enrolled in math support are concurrently enrolled in a grade level math course.

Schools: CW (yearlong) DV, IH, PV (7/8th grades), WR (semester)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The middle school physical education program is a comprehensive, inclusive, and sequential physical education system that will prepare every student for a lifelong commitment to physical activity, health, and well-being. It will promote an active lifestyle, improved motor skills development and better cognitive performance. Physical education is an integral part of the overall education program for every student and provides one of the few opportunities for every student to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence necessary to lead a physically active lifestyle.

PE Grade 6

The emphasis at grade 6 is on the application of movement and motor skills in lead-up or modified games along with folk and line dancing, stunts and tumbling, and fitness. The critical elements for each motor skill as well as concepts and principles related to biomechanics, motor development, motor learning, and game tactics are taught. Cognitive knowledge that supports each area will also be taught.

Schools: ALL

PE Grade 7

The emphasis at grade 7 is on multicultural dancing, individual and dual physical activities, track and field, combatives, and adventure/outdoor activities, and fitness. The critical elements for each motor skill as well as concepts and principles related to biomechanics, motor development, motor learning, and game tactics are taught. Cognitive knowledge that supports each area will also be taught.

Schools: ALL

PE Grade 8

The emphasis at grade 8 is on team activities, square dancing, and gymnastics/tumbling, and fitness. The critical elements for each motor skill as well as concepts and principles related to biomechanics, motor development, motor learning, and game tactics are taught. Cognitive knowledge that supports each area will also be taught.

Schools: ALL

SCIENCE

Science 6

The focus of sixth grade science is Earth science in accordance with California science content standards. Included in this curriculum are the earth's structures, plate tectonics, the shaping of the earth's surface and energy in the earth's system. In the study of plate tectonics and earth structure, students learn that plate tectonics accounts for important features of the earth's surface and major geologic events. Student study many phenomena on the earth's surface and in the atmosphere that are affected by the transfer of energy through radiation and convection currents. Physical science is integrated through the study of the flow of heat energy. Life science is integrated through the study of ecosystems.

Schools: ALL

Science 7

The focus of seventh grade science is life science in accordance with California science content standards. Included in this curriculum are cell biology, genetics, evolution and structure and function of living things. Also included are earth and life history and physical principles of living systems. In their study of cell biology, students will learn cell structure and function.

Schools: ALL

Science 8

The focus of eighth grade science is physical science in accordance with California science content standards. This course covers units including chemistry, physics, astronomy, and individual investigation and experimentation. Basic problem solving skills, scientific inquiry and the use of general laboratory equipment will be emphasized.

Schools: ALL

Environmental/Marine Studies

Grades: 7-8

This course offers students an opportunity to go deeper into science topics related to the environment. Ecology, resource conservation, interdependence of organisms, recycling, alternative energy, and the importance of biodiversity are emphasized with hands on activities. Global challenges like population growth, climate change, and extinction are among the timely topics discussed. Students will look for solutions to problems as they find out that "I can make a difference!" The study of marine habitats, conservation and adaptations is a favorite in the class. Students also enjoy planting, maintaining and experimenting in our "outdoor classroom" which includes a greenhouse, composting and hydroponics. Digital labs, speakers, games, and field trips add to the variety of learning experiences offered in this class.

School: DV (yearlong) IH (semester)

Forensic Science-Semester

Grades: 7-8

Prerequisite: Students must have completed 1st semester of Pre-Algebra with a B- or better.

In this class, emphasis is on understanding the underlying scientific theories of forensic science, with special emphasis on investigating skills such as hair analysis, DNA fingerprinting, and the casting of bite, tire, and shoe prints. The course will also feature guest speakers and the use of biotechnology equipment such as electrophoresis chambers.

School: PV

ELD

English Language Development (ELD)

Grades: 6-8

This course is for students who have been identified as English Learners based on the California English Language Development Test (CELDT). It is designed to develop skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing for everyday and academic purposes. Instruction focuses on communicative and academic skills based on the California ELD Standards.

Schools: ALL

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Resource Programs

Grades: 6-8

Resource Classes are offered to students identified as needing special education services through push-in (also referred to as co-support taught classes, when a resource specialist attends general education classes as support to resource students) or pull-out (a separate class used as a tutorial period) support. A student's special education IEP (Individual Education Plan) team determines placement in either or both resource models for each student's program.

Schools: ALL

Special Day Class

Grades: 6-8

Special Day Classes offer small group instruction of course content in the four basic academic areas (English, social studies, math, and science) and incorporate study and basic skills using general education curriculum standards, as well as objectives and goals outlined in a student's IEP. The IEP team will recommend the number of academic content courses for each individual student. Special Day Class placement in either a non-severely handicapped or a severely handicapped setting is determined by assessed need and driven by goals developed through the IEP process.

Schools: ALL

ART

Art 3

Grades: 7-8

This three-dimensional art class focuses on the application of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design expressed in a wide variety of sculptural media. Students work with varied techniques to create original works of art, cultivating an appreciation for good design, craftsmanship and creative problem solving skills. This course is aligned with the California Visual Art Standards.

Schools: CW (yearlong) DV, GR, SV, WR (semester)

Advanced Art

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Successful Completion of one year of Art

Students demonstrate a mature understanding of the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design in a rigorous series of lessons. Students increasingly incorporate their own perspectives and style as they explore creative expression. Art history and culture and aesthetic valuing form a significant part of the course. Students demonstrate an advanced level of artistic skill. A variety of 2D and 3D media will be introduced. Assignments are based on the California Visual Art Standards.

Schools: CW, SV (yearlong) WR (semester)

Art 1

Grades: 7-8

Art 1 is an exploratory skills-based, visual art course that introduces students to a variety of media, skills and tools. Students will also learn about art history and the value of art in various cultures. Students will gain skills in understanding and valuing their own art and the art of others. Class assignments are based on the California Visual Art Standards and introduce students to the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design.

Schools: CW, SV (yearlong) DV, GR, IH, LC, PV,WR (semester)

Art 2-Semester

Grades: 7-8

Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Art 1 or by teacher recommendation

Students apply artistic processes and skills at a more sophisticated level, using a wide variety of media, to communicate meaning and intent to works of art based on the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design. Students continue to develop more advanced skills and compositional strategies based on the foundation of Art 1 to create more individualized works of art with more advanced applications.

Assignments are based on the California Visual Arts Standards.

Schools: DV GR PV SV

Art 2D-Semester**Grades: 7-8**

This two-dimensional art class explores the Elements of Art and Principles of Design with a wide variety of media and tools. Artists and cultures will be incorporated as students experiment with their own creativity in different forms and styles. Assignments are based on the California Visual Arts Standards.

Schools: SV**Crafts 1-Semester****Grades: 7-8**

Crafts is a hand-on class in which students use a wide variety of materials and develop skills to produce creative projects. Students will also learn about the importance of crafting in many cultures as they explore areas such as mask making, weaving, paper sculpture, metal repousse and book-making.

Schools: LC PV**Crafts 2-Semester****Grades: 7-8**

Explore art and create new and more in-depth two and three-dimensional projects. Work with a variety of materials and techniques individually and collaboratively. This is an advanced class that allows students to further their artistic skills learned in Crafts 1. Projects may vary according to the season.

Schools: PV**Drawing and Painting-Yearlong****Grades: 7-8**

Students will develop drawing and painting skills applying the Elements of Art and Principles of Design using a wide variety of media. Students will study various art styles through the ages and develop skills in evaluating their own art and the art of others. Assignments are based on the California Visual Art Standards.

School: CW**COMPUTERS****Computer Applications-Semester****Grades: 7-8**

Students who enroll in this class may explore in-depth digital drawing, databases, spreadsheets, desktop publishing, word processing, and multimedia software. In the yearlong course students may be exposed to web design, animation, sound, and music.

Schools: DV IH PV WR**Computer Projects/Multimedia development and design****May include:**

- **Game Development**
- **Movies**
- **Animation**
- **Robotics**
- **3D Graphic Design**

Grades: 7-8

Students who enroll in this class may explore state of the art software available today.

Schools: CW, PV, WR (yearlong) IH (semester)

Computer Technology I-Semester**Grades: 7-8**

Students will become proficient in basic/advanced word processing, digital imaging, digital editing, and multimedia authoring, internet and research skills, and information and literacy theories. Computer programs used by the students may include: AppleWorks 6, Microsoft Office, Safari, HyperStudio, Alice, ComicLife, Netscape browser, and Composer. Students will learn how to use these applications to create high quality projects and presentations.

Schools: DV IH**Computer Technology II-Semester****Grades: 7-8**

Students will explore different ways of creating multimedia projects using various forms of technology including digital images, music, and video using the iLife applications, as well as other software. Students will learn how to use these multimedia tools to create quality projects that can be used in other classes. Robotics lessons and challenges are a major component of this class where students will program and problem solve basic NXT robot control and data collection.

School: DV**Home Page/Web Design-Semester****Grades: 7-8**

Learn HTML (“the language of the Internet”) and use Dreamweaver (the leading web development tool) to create your own web pages. Students will use a variety of software to make graphics, animated images, sound, and video for their web sites. This class will give students the opportunity to design, manage, and maintain web sites. Learning to create a website can help students communicate ideas about their activities such as school, hobbies, and sports. Designing a web site is an important skill for the future in business or for personal use.

Schools: IH LC PV**Media and Graphic Design****Grades: 7-8**

The class is a hands-on introduction to the principals and techniques of graphic design for print and digital media.

School: CW (yearlong) IH, LC (semester)**DRAMA****Advanced Drama-Semester****Grades: 7-8**

This performance based class leads students through the collective process of playmaking and advanced character development. Students learn to interpret scripts dramatically, to analyze plot, genre and themes of dramatic literature. This course helps students form solid acting technique, fosters creative collaboration with fellow actors, and gives performers the unforgettable experience of an encountering an audience. This class will require some after school rehearsals and will have mandatory performances for all class members.

Schools: DV IH PV

Drama**Grades: 7-8**

Students work together collectively to create complex characters, develop well-structured storylines, augment acting skills, and give dramatic expression to their original ideas. The course focuses on structured group work, improvisation, character development, voice and speech training, analysis and interpretation of dramatic literature, and individual growth as a performer. In addition, students will explore past and present dramatic traditions and practices in various cultures and become familiar with stage terminology and acting conventions. This class may require after school rehearsals and performances.

Schools: CW (yearlong) DV, IH, PV, SV, WR (semester)

Stagecraft (Visual and Performing Arts)-Semester**Grades: 7-8**

Students will learn the principles of set construction and design, lighting, sound, costumes, make-up, publicity, and stage management using the latest technology particular to theater arts. Students will learn how to produce a clear, unified aesthetic that combines personal style and practicality for stage. As a technical theatre team, students will be entrusted with the real responsibility of planning a cohesive design for a school production. Students will work within a budget and against time constraints to realize their vision onstage. During performances, students will serve as “run crew”, operating the lighting and sound systems, taking charge backstage with scene changes and prop organization, as well as cuing actors. This class will require after school time the week before the show at dress rehearsals, and attendance at all performances to run the show.

School: IH

EXPLORATORY WHEEL**Exploratory Wheel-Yearlong****Grade: 6**

Sixth grade Exploratory Wheel is a yearlong course made up of introductions to different elective options open to students when they become 7th and 8th graders. The wheel spokes are designed to expose students to a wide-range of learning opportunities, to develop their practical, hands-on skills, and to teach them to work cooperatively with others. Each Exploratory Wheel rotates in a pre-set schedule, with the number and type of wheel spokes varying at each site. Wheel spokes may include, but are not limited to: Living Skills, Computers, Music, Art, Drama, Speech, World Languages, Technology, and Video Production. The curriculum is based on California standards wherever applicable.

Schools: ALL

LEADERSHIP

Leadership

Grades: 7-8

Leadership engages in specific school and community activities related to spirit and service. These activities offer opportunities for the student to display and exercise skills of leadership, teamwork, networking, self-evaluation, responsibility and accountability. In addition, leadership students learn the basic concepts of accounting and presentation skills. Emphasis is placed on fostering ethics and self-esteem within the class, as well as the school and community. Leadership is responsible for student body funds, dances, spirit days, and community public relations activities. Leadership representatives sit on various groups and councils.

Schools: ALL

LIVING SKILLS

Clothing 1-Semester

Grades: 7-8

This is a hands-on sewing class for students with no experience or developed sewing skills. Students will learn how to operate a sewing machine and develop basic sewing techniques used in the construction of a garment, quilt and/or craft project. Creativity is encouraged; students will select their own projects. Work on community service projects is also an option. Students are responsible for furnishing their own supplies.

School: SV WR

Foods A: Techniques and Methods-Yearlong

Grades: 7-8

This program is designed for students to acquire the basic knowledge and technique to prepare healthy, wholesome meals for a lifetime. Students begin basic stovetop techniques and develop into preparing complex menus, including a weekly Fabulous Friday Feast. A wide range of kitchen equipment will be used to develop these skills.

School: CW

Foods B: Baking-Yearlong

Grades: 7-8

Designed for all beginning bakers, students will learn all aspects of bakery from sweet desserts to yeast bread dough. They will practice cake decorating skills and dessert presentation and get to eat what they bake!

School: CW

Foods C: Breakfast-Yearlong

Grades: 7-8

Tired of starting the day without breakfast? Students of any cooking experience level will learn and practice cooking dishes that are typically served in the early part of the day. We will explore recipes and menus from around the world.

School: CW

Living Skills 1 (foods)-Semester

Grades: 7-8

This is an introductory course to food preparation and nutrition. Students will study the basic food

groups, terminology, nutritional choices, sanitation, kitchen safety, etiquette, budgeting, care and use of kitchen equipment, and laundry. This program encourages team work and self-evaluation as kitchen teams are involved in practical cooking lab experiences.

Schools: DV GR IH LC PV SV WR

Living Skills 2 (foods)-Semester

Grades: 7-8

This is a hands-on food preparation course that builds on skills learned in Foods 1. Students will study nutrition, meal planning, etiquette, consumer economics, and advanced cooking techniques.

Students will also have the opportunity to plan and prepare individual courses as well as meals.

Schools: DV IH PV SV WR

MUSIC

Advanced Orchestra-Yearlong

Grades: 7-8

Prerequisite: Successful Completion of Audition Process

This class is open to 7th and 8th grade students who play violin, viola, cello or string bass. We play a variety of music with an emphasis on classical literature. Audition may be required. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances in mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

School: WR

Beginning Band-Yearlong

Grades: 6-8

Beginning band is for students who missed the opportunity to start an instrument in elementary school. The class will provide an opportunity to learn all band and string instruments. No previous experience is required. Students will be encouraged to rent their own instrument. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

School: CW

Cadet Band-Yearlong

Grade: 6

Cadet Band is our beginning-level woodwind, brass and percussion ensemble. Most students will begin the class on basic instruments such as the flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone and percussion. In an effort to expand our instrumentation students will have the opportunity to begin oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor/baritone saxophone, baritone/euphonium and tuba. This course will review the basics of musicianship including rhythm and note reading that were learned in elementary school, then progress to include the more advanced concepts of dynamics, tempo, articulation, blend, balance and intonation. Students will learn music in a variety of genres. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: ALL

Concert Band-Yearlong**Grades: 7-8**

Concert Band is our intermediate-level woodwind, brass and percussion ensemble. Students will perform music of all styles and will continue to hone fundamental skills while continuing to grow into more advanced players. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: CW DV GR IH PV SV WR

Full Orchestra-Yearlong**Grades: 7-8**

Full orchestra is open to 7th and 8th grade students by teacher selection. It is restricted to traditional orchestral instrumentation which includes strings, specific woodwinds, brass, and percussion, with one piano position. Students will perform primarily classical literature mixed with some popular styles.

Emphasis is on technique and performance in preparation for the high school program. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

School: PV

Guitar-Yearlong**Grades: 6-8**

This class is open to all students who would like to learn the basics of guitar -- note reading, chords, and fundamentals of music. Students will be responsible for individual practice and performance during class, in addition to group instruction. Students must provide their own acoustic guitar. We will perform evening recitals in December and May.

School: CW

Jazz Band-Yearlong**Grades: 7-8**

Jazz band is open to 7th and 8th grade musicians who have prior playing experience and who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, piano, bass or drums. Students will learn about different styles of jazz and jazz history. Improvisation is another key component to the jazz experience. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: CW DV GR IH LC SV WR

Orchestra-Yearlong**Grades: 6-8**

String Orchestra is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who play violin, viola, cello or string bass. We play a variety of music with an emphasis on classical literature. Beginners are welcome and there is no audition required. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: CW DV GR IH WR

Symphonic Band-Yearlong**Grades: 7-8**

Symphonic Band is our advanced wind band. Students will perform advanced literature of all styles. Emphasis will focus on technique and performance in order to prepare students for the high school ensemble. Participation in regularly scheduled co-curricular performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: CW DV GR IH LC SV WR

Boys Chorus-Yearlong**Grades: 6-8**

Open to all boys who are interested in learning how to sing. Auditions are not required and no prior experience is necessary. Boys will learn basic techniques to improve their voices, note and rhythm reading, performance skills, and self-confidence. A wide variety of music based on the changing voice will be performed. Participation in regularly scheduled performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: CW DV, LC (7th/8th grade only)

Chorus 6-Yearlong**Grade: 6**

This class is primarily for incoming 6th grade girls. Auditions are not required and no prior experience is necessary. Students will learn basic techniques to improve their voices, note and rhythm reading, performance skills, and self-confidence. A wide variety of music will be performed. Participation in regularly scheduled performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: CW

Girls Chorus-Yearlong**Grades: 7-8**

Open to all 7th/8th grade girls who are interested in learning how to sing. Auditions are not required and no prior experience is necessary. Students will learn basic techniques to improve their voices, note and rhythm reading, performance skills, and self-confidence. A wide variety of music will be performed. Participation in regularly scheduled performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

School: CW DV LC

Mixed Chorus**Grades: 7-8 (also available to 6th graders at IH and WR)**

This class is open to all students who are interested in learning how to sing. Auditions are not required and no prior experience is necessary. Students will learn basic techniques to improve their voices, note and rhythm reading, performance skills, and self-confidence. A wide variety of music will be performed. Participation in regularly scheduled performances is mandatory and formal performance attire is required.

Schools: IH (semester) PV, SV, WR (yearlong)

PUBLICATIONS**Publications/Yearbook-Yearlong (by application only)****Grades: 7-8**

The focus of this year long elective course is the production of the school yearbook. The class is open to students who complete an application process. The student staff is responsible for all aspects of the yearbook, including writing, photography, layouts, production, and distribution. Producing the yearbook involves careful planning, teamwork, writing, digital photography, and use of advanced technology. When the yearbook is completed, spring publications projects may include school calendar, photography techniques, movies, and various projects extending publication expertise. Homework is not regularly assigned, although students work under pressure of deadlines and must be able to work independently and as a team.

Schools: ALL

Journalism-Yearlong (by application only)

Grades: 7-8

This course is designed to give students instruction and experience in journalistic writing skills. Editing and proofreading skills will be stressed and students will work on photography and layout as they produce the school newspaper.

School: SV

SPEECH AND DEBATE

Speech and Debate-Semester

Grades: 7-8

Public speaking is a tool to help students better understand effective communication. Critical thinking, thesis development and dynamic delivery skills are the foundation of all public communication. Students will learn audience analysis, and become equipped with the tools necessary to speak effectively in a number of formats. In Debate, students will gain confidence through learning the art of argument. Students will set aside biases and emotionalism that undermine effective arguments, examine issues systematically, and identify the merits of respective positions.

Schools: IH PV WR

STUDY HALL

Study Hall-Semester (Students are limited to taking this course only one semester each year.)

Grades: 7-8

Prerequisite: A minimum GPA of 3.00

This course allows students to work independently on their homework in a quiet classroom. It is designed for students that will come into the room, sit down, and start working on their homework independently for a full 45 minute class period.

Schools: PV

STUDY SKILLS

Study Skills-Semester (administrative placement only)

Grades: 7-8

This intervention class is designed to support academically at-risk students. Students cannot self select this course. Curriculum for this course may include suggestions for organizational skills, goal setting, note taking, listening strategies, and independent study strategies for short and long-term assignments. This class will also support students in completion of assignments during the school day. Students may be required to be prepared with reading material in class each day.

Schools: DV IH LC PV WR

TEACHER/OFFICE AIDE

Teacher/Office/Media/Peer Support Aide

Grades: 8

Students work in the classroom or office to assist teachers or office staff in various duties. See each school site for specific descriptions and requirements.

Schools: ALL

VIDEO/INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Advanced Tech I

Grades: 7-8

This school-to-career class is designed to give seventh and eighth grade students a broad exposure to current and emerging technologies and careers. Because of the wide variety of hands-on, project-based modules to choose from, this class has appeal for both boys and girls. Students will rotate through various projects throughout the semester. Examples of possible modules may include: digital photography, robotics/Lego Mindstorms, claymation, engineering, plastics, and CNC mill, Forensics/CSI.

Schools: CW (yearlong) GR, IH, PV, WR (semester)

Advanced Tech II-Semester

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: At least one semester of Advanced Tech I and teacher recommendation

This unique class is designed to allow students to work on a variety of technology and career related independent projects. Under the guidance of the technology teacher, students will choose and purchase projects to work on in class. These projects can be an expansion of what is learned in Advanced Technology I or from another field of interest.

School: IH WR

Robotics (Advanced Tech II)-Semester

Grades: 7-8

This class will explore the exciting field of robotics. This program focuses on applied inquiry, motivated design, communications, technology, scanning, mapping, and more. Students will be able to experience the hands-on program while progressing through activities designed to teach programming, behaviors, systems, control sensors, and feedback. They will also address key technology and science standards.

School: GR LC SV

Technical Arts-Semester

Grades: 7-8

This fun exploratory elective course provides students with hands on experiences in the basic principles of design, engineering, architecture, construction, and model making. Group and individual projects in bridge construction and testing will be developed. The EGG DROP PROJECT will provide students with real world challenges to design and construct a container that will protect the egg when dropped from the top of the gym. Students will be utilizing eLAB Renewable Energy Sets. The eLAB allows students to investigate the concepts of energy, sources of energy, electricity and the environment. Each set includes 49 activities which allow students to explore, investigate and problem solve.

School: LC

Video Production

Grades: 7-8

Prerequisite: application, teacher recommendations as well as possible interview and sample of student writing

The main goal of this class is to provide for school wide communication through a school news show that features announcements and clips of middle school life. In this hands-on class, students will learn the basics of television production, use of camera equipment, script writing, editing video/video effects/video graphics, designing and organizing both live and recorded programs. This is a fast paced class for students who are willing to work as a team in a professional manner to make a daily and/or

weekly show happen. This is a class that asks the student to be responsible, use initiative, and be willing to pitch in and help wherever needed. The work may involve some time outside of class, before, after, and during school.

Schools: CW, DV, GR, LC (yearlong) IH, SV, WR (semester)

WORLD LANGUAGES

Exploratory Foreign Language & Cultures-Yearlong

Grades: 6-8

This yearlong class is filled with activities to promote foreign language learning and an appreciation of different cultures. All those interested in foreign language study are encouraged to take this course.

Schools: CW (6th grade only) WR

World Languages

Grades: 7-8

These two middle school courses are designed to introduce the student to everyday communication skills in a world language and culture. The 1A and 1B courses together are equivalent to the first year of high school world language.

World Language 1A-Yearlong

Grade: 7

It is strongly recommended that students who wish to take World Language 1A are achieving at least a B- in their 6th grade core class and/or teacher recommendation. In this course, students will be introduced to the World Language and culture using a communicative approach. Students will learn a World Language through a variety of formats, for example: reading, writing, speaking, listening, singing, playing games, performing skits, watching videos, doing projects, and experiencing cultural activities. Please be advised that this is an academic elective and students will have quizzes, exams, and daily homework. Promotion to World Language 1B will be open to students with a B- or above and/or teacher recommendation.

Schools: ALL

World Language 1B-Yearlong

Grade: 8

This course is the second of a two-year middle school program. World Language 1B is open to students with a B- or above and/or teacher recommendation. In this course, students will build upon prior knowledge of the World Language and World Language culture using a communicative approach. Students will continue to learn a World Language through a variety of formats, for example: reading, writing, speaking, listening, singing, playing games, performing skits, watching videos, doing projects, and experiencing cultural activities. Please be advised that this is an academic elective and students will have quizzes, exams, and daily homework. Promotion to World Language 2 in high school will be open to students with a B- or above and/or teacher recommendation.

Schools: ALL

Spanish/Jr. High-Yearlong**Grade: 8****Prerequisite: Motivated learner. It is highly recommended that students have an overall GPA of 3.0 or higher in history, English, math, and science.****Meets UC and CSU “e” requirement.**

This is an accelerated program designed to cover two years of middle school Spanish in one academic year. The course is an introduction to the four basic language skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will also learn cultural information about the Spanish-speaking world. Students will purchase two workbooks for personal use in the course. Please be advised that this is an academic elective and students will have quizzes, exams, and daily homework. Students completing Spanish 1/Jr. High with a C+ average or better, and receiving a teacher recommendation, will be placed in Spanish II as a freshman in high school. Successful completion of this course satisfies one year of the two-year minimum foreign language requirement for high school graduation.

School: PV