

Wasatch Junior High School

Eighth Grade Course of Study

2022-2023

REQUIRED CLASSES

Core

These classes cover the core curriculum as outlined by the Utah State Board of Education. Students will learn to take notes, participate in class discussions, develop increased reading, writing and thinking skills as well as understand the content material specific to each subject. Core classes are usually smaller and provide more individual attention.

Honors

Those students who wish to have additional rigor and a quicker pace should enroll in honors classes. Students will be encouraged to involve cross-curricular topics and engage in originality and creative thought processes to demonstrate their understanding of the advanced curriculum they have been learning. Students can expect to have more homework than in a core class.

Gifted and Talented

Students must qualify for Gifted and Talented English through GSD testing. Classes are taught by teachers who have received their GT endorsement. The emphasis is on depth, complexity, acceleration, novelty, critical analysis and problem-solving. Students should expect more complex regular homework which will be graded on a GT standard. Students do not sign up for this class on the registration form. Those who qualify will be notified and placed automatically in this class unless parents request other placement.

English 8

Students will gain skills and strategies necessary for proficient communication in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. English students will be expected to participate in class and complete a variety of reading and writing assignments.

Math 8

Students will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Math 8 Honors

In 8th Grade Mathematics Honors students will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. The honors course includes extra depth and additional topics.

Honors Secondary Math 1

****Grades for this class will appear on high school transcripts and count towards graduation.***

Students will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Honors students will represent quantities, model, and perform operations using vectors and use matrices to perform operations and solve problems. Honors students will represent quantities, model, and perform operations using vectors and use matrices to perform operations and solve problems.

Science 8

Integrated Science 8 will introduce students to the Physical Sciences, including properties of matter, atomic structure, chemical bonds and reactions, motion and forces, energy and heat, waves, light and optics, electricity and magnetism. Some attention will also be given to geology, plate tectonics, ecology, and, if time permits, astronomy.

Learning objectives also include the development of critical thinking and the application of the scientific method to analyze, test and prove hypotheses and theories.

U.S. History

This course emphasizes the time frames from the early beginnings of the United States through Reconstruction. This class will include emphasis on basic social studies skills, the responsibilities of citizenship, economic factors which have influenced historical outcomes, and on major current events.

CCA Enterprises

Learn concepts associated with College & Career Pathways through simulations and project-based learning experiences. Explore career options based on interests, abilities, and skills. Develop workplace skills while running businesses. Experience guest speaker career presentations, career field trips, and more!

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Full Year Electives:

Performing Arts

Cadet Band

This class is designed to help students develop a good foundation on their brass instruments (trumpet, horn in F, trombone, euphonium, tuba). Please consult with the teacher before choosing/purchasing an instrument.

Concert Band

This is the advanced band of the school for advanced wind and percussion players.

**Approval of instructor required*

Cadet Orchestra

This class is designed to help students develop a good foundation on their string instrument. It will be organized as a regular orchestra.

Concert Orchestra

This advanced orchestra course is designed for students who are skilled string players.

**Approval of the instructor is required.*

Jazz Band

Offers experience in playing the more intricate and complex rhythms and harmonies characteristic of the jazz idiom. Sight-reading and improvisations skills are important in this class and will be developed. *This class meets before school.*

Students must own or rent an instrument for instrumental music classes. **Approval of the instructor is required.*

Dance Company

Pre-requisite: Audition and Instructor's Approval. Dance is an expressive and physical performing art form. Students will continue to build skills and knowledge of technique, improvisation, choreography, artistic expression, and working with others in an artistic way. Out of School rehearsals and performances will be required.

Concert Choir

Prerequisite: Mixed Choir and audition

This 8th grade class is an auditioned performing choir. Students will have opportunity to sing complex choral pieces that challenge their independence as singers. Students will have several concerts and student expectations are high.

English

Yearbook

The yearbook class will put together and develop the school yearbook. Students practice language fundamentals and develop writing techniques appropriate to this genre while gaining skills in editing and proofreading. **Teacher's signature required.*

World Language: *Grades for World Language classes will appear on high school transcripts but won't be factored into their transcript GPA.*

French 1

****Grades for this class will appear on high school transcripts and count towards graduation.***

The objectives are to learn and practice skills to communicate with others of any language, understand the culture, and learn French with the immersion approach.

French 2

****Grades for this class will appear on high school transcripts and count towards graduation.***

This course continues the development of speaking, listening, and reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the native country are taught through reading selections. *Prerequisite: French 1*

Spanish 1

****Grades for this class will appear on high school transcripts and count towards graduation.***

Emphasis is placed on listening and speaking skills, though reading and writing are addressed. This course provides for the learning of dialogues, common words and expressions and basic language structure as well as oral practice of the language.

Spanish 2

****Grades for this class will appear on high school transcripts and count towards graduation.***

This course continues the development of speaking, listening, and reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the native country are taught through reading selections. *Prerequisite: Spanish 1*

Chinese 1 (Mandarin)

****Grades for this class will appear on high school transcripts and count towards graduation.***

This is a beginner level Mandarin language class with an emphasis on speaking and listening skills. Students will learn standard pronunciation and tones through the Pinyin system. They will also be introduced to the basics of writing Chinese characters (simplified hanzi).

Chinese 2 (Mandarin)

****Grades for this class will appear on high school transcripts and count towards graduation.***

The second level Mandarin language class will continue the development of speaking and listening skills with increased involvement in reading and writing. Narratives and dialogues will be used to teach vocabulary and structure. Students will continue to learn common Chinese characters (simplified hanzi). *Prerequisite: Chinese 1*

Mandarin Chinese for Mandarin Speakers

****Grades for this class will appear on high school transcripts and count towards graduation.***

This course is for heritage and immersion Mandarin speakers and will focus on reading, writing, and typing Chinese characters. This class will prepare students for further Chinese courses offered at Skyline. The IB Chinese program requires reading and writing in Chinese characters. This course has a two-year curriculum; therefore, Wasatch students can attend in 7th and 8th grade to advance their Chinese skills.

Half Year Electives:

Theatre 1A (Beginning)

Emphasizes speech techniques and oral presentation. Students are exposed to characterization, acting techniques and stage production while learning to appreciate the stage and developing interpersonal communication skills.

Theatre 2A

This course emphasizes advanced speech techniques and oral presentation. Students are exposed to characterization, acting techniques and stage production while learning to appreciate the stage and developing interpersonal communication skills. The reading of plays and the history of the theatre are included. *Prerequisite: Theater 1A or 1B*

Art Foundations 1 - Beginning

Emphasis is on understanding works of art, color and design theory, and developing basic skills in drawing. Students also increase their understanding of the ways line, shape, form, texture, value and color are used to apply the principles of art (unity, balance, contrast, emphasis, variety, movement). Students experiment with such media as pencil, ink, watercolor, crayon, clay, charcoal and chalk.

Advanced Art Foundations 2

Instruction expands the concepts taught in Foundations 1 with emphasis on representative and interpretive drawing with further emphasis on color and design concepts, proportion, value, depth, and the use of creative expression as they apply to drawing landscapes, portraits, animals, cartoons, and manmade devices. Aesthetics, higher level thinking skills, divergent production, and art criticism are addressed as well. *Prerequisite: Art Foundations 1*

Dance 1A (Beginning)

This course builds dance knowledge and skills in technique, improvisation, choreography, artistic expression, performance, history, culture and life skills as well as injury prevention. Out of school rehearsals and performances may be required. No dance experience required. ***This course is a prerequisite for other dance courses.***

Dance 1B (Beginning 2)

This course builds on dance knowledge and skills acquired in Dance 1A. Students will learn more choreographic elements in individual, partner, and group activities. Out of school rehearsals and performances may be required. Some dance experience required.

Dance (PE Credit)

This is a beginning dance class that will focus on flexibility, strength, motor skills and movement patterns. We will look at moving safely and efficiently while discovering the components needed to maintain a healthy level of fitness.

Physical Education – ½ year

This class focuses on the development of advanced techniques in dual team activities. Students learn the terminology and benefits related to the elements of physical fitness through a variety of fitness activities including walking.

Film Making

This class will explore the world of film and photography. Students will learn beginning skills in film making and create finished products for school wide viewing.

FACS - Sewing

This course introduces student to basic sewing and pressing equipment, textiles, and introductory level project construction techniques. Units on interior design, architecture and entrepreneurship will also be covered.

FACS - Foods

This course integrates the knowledge of nutrition and healthy lifestyle principles with food preparation. Units on entrepreneurship and interpersonal relationships and childcare will also be covered.

Exploring Technology 1

This is an activity-oriented course integrating math, science, and technology. Students will study engineering design, communications technologies and aerospace engineering. This is an exciting course that helps students relate technology to their lives in a project-based learning environment.

Manufacturing Technology

“How are things made? How to take raw resources and turn it into a finished product? How do you follow instructions and drawing to do so?” You will learn how to do this in manufacturing. Toys, electronics, homes and roads all use the technology you will learn in manufacturing.

Mixed Chorus

This is a choir class for everybody. Students will learn the fundamentals of music and how it applies to choral singing. Students will have the opportunity to participate in at least one concert.

Guitar I

Learn to play the guitar by learning note reading and tablature. At the end of the course, you will be ready to perform with the class at an evening concert.

Guitar II

Build on concepts learned in guitar one. Must have some guitar experience or have taken Guitar I.

Reading Skills

Students will develop skills and strategies that will help them improve their reading comprehension.