

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 8TH GRADE 2005-2006

REQUIRED COURSES (English, History, Math, Science, Health and PE is required of every 8th grader)

ENGLISH 8: All 8th graders are required to complete this course.

ENGLISH 8 HONORS: This class will fulfill the 8th grade English requirement and requires a teacher signature.

UNITED STATES HISTORY: All 8th graders are required to complete this course.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 8: A basic science foundation course including life and earth science. Required of all 8th graders.

PREALGEBRA: Basic algebra concepts are taught preparing the student for Algebra 1. An introduction to Algebra 1.

ELEMENTARY ALGEBRA: Basic algebra course. Algebra Prep or Algebra 1 Is required of all 8th graders.

GEOMETRY: A study of the properties of plane and solid geometric figures.

HEALTH: Students will learn the importance of healthy living in this one-semester class.

INTERMEDIATE SKILLS FITNESS (PE): Basic physical education course required of all 8th graders.

RESOURCE AND LIFE SKILLS CLASSES: Students must meet state guidelines for these special services before they can be placed in the program. Qualifying tests must be given and additional IEP meetings with the resource staff are necessary for inclusion into this program.

ELECTIVES

ART FOUNDATIONS 1: This course is an extension of the elementary core with emphasis on drawing, color, and design objectives. Some emphasis may be given to skill development in drawing. It is a pre-requisite to all other art courses. If taken in 8th grade, may not be repeated in 9th grade.

CHORUS CLASSES: These full-year classes provide opportunities for students to learn proper vocal production, musical notation and terms, sight-singing skills, team spirit and responsible rehearsal habits. Music of varying styles is learned and performed. Students will perform together and have opportunities for solo singing if they desire.

PERFECT HARMONY: This full-year class is open to all 8th and 9th grade students by audition. The class is limited to 50 students. Singers learn and perform challenging music. In addition to performing at PJHS choir concerts, Perfect Harmony is often asked to perform at community functions and always participates in the UVSC Jr. High Choral Festival. Perfect Harmony auditions are held before students need to hand in registration materials for the following school year.

BAND 8: Technical training in all aspects of playing an instrument to enable performance of Grade II band literature.

ORCHESTRA 8: Technical training in all aspects of playing an instrument to enable performance of Grade II string orchestra literature.

INTRO BAGPIPES: Students will learn about the history of bagpipes, the different parts of bagpipes, the uniform parts, and how to play the bagpipes. They will start by learning songs on the practice chanter. After successful completion of this class, students will be able to try out for the high school or community pipe band. Students will need to buy a practice chanter.

DRAMA: Students will explore various areas of theater such as acting, voice and speech, improvisation, pantomime, monologues, and scenes. Students will perform all final projects in class for a live audience at the end of each study unit.

ANIMAL SCIENCE: This class is offered for students who want to find out more about how to care for and the responsibilities of owning pets and livestock. FFA Club optional.

READING OPTION: This class is for students who are interested in improving their reading skills, and for those who enjoy reading.

CREATIVE WRITING FOR PUBLICATION HONORS: This class is for the highly motivated and talented writer who wishes to refine his/her writing skills and learn the methods of becoming published. Students will be required to independently prepare several major pieces for submission to publishers, as well as participate in class work and discussions aimed at the improvement and critique of writing. Teacher's signature required.

SCIENCE FICTION/FANTASY: This class focuses on reading science fiction/fantasy novels and mythological stories. Students will also study the elements and themes of these stories and work on writing stories of their own in this genre.

KEYBOARDING 1: Basic keyboarding course. Students will learn proper keyboarding techniques and stroking, speed and accuracy, basic letters, tables and centering. This course is for students who do not know the keyboard or have correct fingering skills.

SPANISH 1, FRENCH 1, GERMAN 1: Basic language courses. Pre-requisite to 2nd year language courses.

HOME ECONOMICS FOODS 8: An introduction to nutrition, basic methods of food preparation, table setting and etiquette, party planning, and nutritional snacks. There will be lab experiences where students will receive hands-on practice in meal preparation.

SEWING 1 (SPORT SEWING): An introduction to sewing. Reading patterns will be taught and simple projects, such as bags, aprons, p.j. pants, stuffed animals and quilt blocks will be made.

STRENGTH TRAINING/CONDITIONING: This class will study the muscular and cardiovascular systems. Students will develop a workable fitness plan with the help of their instructor. They will train on a variety of weight training and fitness equipment to build their muscular strength and cardiovascular endurance.

INTRO TO MANUFACTURING (METAL SHOP): A basic knowledge of metal working will be taught through the construction of small projects.

CAREER EXPLORATION: An introduction to careers and the world of work. Importance of job preparation, resumes, applications, and personal relationships will be taught.

STUDY HALL: A class for students who want to work during school on homework, reading and other assignments.

PEER TUTOR: This class requires a teacher signature.

TEACHER ASSISTANT: This class requires a teacher signature.