

SANTA FE  
JUNIOR HIGH



2022-2023  
COURSE PLANNING GUIDE

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# Campus Information

Principal: Dr. Flo Adkins  
Sixth Grade Assistant Principal: Kristin Lawrence  
Seventh Grade Assistant Principal: Elizabeth Davis  
Eighth Grade Assistant Principal: Gina Seyl  
A-L Counselor: Monica McCollum  
M-Z Counselor: Katie Casey

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## MISSION STATEMENT

The staff of Santa Fe Junior High commits daily to assuring the academic, emotional, and social well-being of our students in order to foster growth and confidence in conquering new challenges. We will assist and encourage all students through praise and reassurance. We will model and promote the way to becoming active, vibrant, and optimistic members of our school community to ensure that the path our students choose will leave a lasting positive footprint.

## GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Every student is required to take Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science. Two years of Physical Education is also required for students in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Athletics, PE, Dance, and Cheer all count as Physical Education. SFISD is proud to offer advanced classes in all core academic subjects for students who meet certain qualifications. General Employability Skills is a high school credit course that is required for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

<b>Sixth Grade</b>	<b>Seventh Grade</b>	<b>Eighth Grade</b>
1 ELA 1 Math 1 Science 1 Social Studies 1 PE 2 Electives	1 ELA 1 Math 1 Science 1 Social Studies 1 PE 2 Electives	1 ELA 1 Math 1 Science 1 Social Studies 1 General Employability Skills 2 Electives

## High School Credit Courses

Santa Fe Junior High School offers excellent opportunities for students to earn high school credit. Listed below are the courses available for students to earn credit toward graduation while attending junior high. Please look through the course descriptions and prerequisites to be sure your student qualifies. **\*\*All eighth grade students will earn a high school credit for General Employability Skills\*\***

For more information about High School planning, please refer to the Texas Education Agency's Graduation Toolkit. This provides you with general information about High School Endorsements and credits.

<https://tea.texas.gov/sites/default/files/E-Grad-toolkit-choices.pdf>

Course	High School Credits
Advanced Algebra 1	1 Credit/8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Advanced Art	1 Credit/8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Advanced Spanish	1 Credit/8 <sup>th</sup> grade
General Employability Skills	1 Credit/8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Money Matters	1 Credit/7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Professional Communication	1 Credit/7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> grade
Fundamentals of Computer Science	1 Credit/8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Digital Design and Media Production	1 credit/7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security	1 Credit/7 <sup>th</sup> or 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade

## Scheduling Process

During the Spring semester, students will request the courses they prefer the following year. The initial request is completed in the Spring. It is important for students to plan their choices carefully because class size and staffing decisions will be determined from their choices.

## Schedule Changes

Student course requests determine how the master schedule is built, how faculty is assigned, and how room assignments are made. Student course requests are their commitment to their courses for the school year.

After the start of school, schedule changes will only be considered based on the following circumstances:

- The student is not scheduled into an academic core class.
- The student is enrolled in the wrong level of an academic course.
- The student does not meet the entry/approval requirements for the course.

Please Note:

- During the first two weeks of school, schedules may be adjusted by administration to balance class sizes as needed.
- Schedule changes are not considered for teacher or elective preference.
- Elective course requests are not guaranteed and will depend on course availability, entry/approval requirements, and master scheduling.

## Advanced Courses

Advanced Courses (Formerly Pre-AP) are offered in all core academic classes and are designed to stimulate and challenge students to perform at an advanced academic level. Students who register for advanced courses need to carefully consider the demands of these classes.

## **Equity and Access**

Opportunities for enrollment in Advanced courses are open and made available to all junior high students. Because Advanced courses are designed as college preparation, students must have demonstrated their academic preparedness and their willingness to invest the time and effort required for success in the rigorous courses.

## **Selection Process**

In an effort to place students in appropriate level classes, admission criteria have been established for Advanced courses. The academic records of all students who register for an Advanced Course will be evaluated against the following criteria.

- Previous Academic Performance. Students shall have a yearly average of 90 (A) or higher in an on-level course or 80 (B) or higher in an Advanced course.
- STAAR Assessment. It is highly recommended that students achieve a “Masters Grade Level” STAAR score for entry into each Advanced course. Demonstrated academic achievement on the state assessment indicates that the student has the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the rigorous advanced course. At minimum, however, students must achieve a “Meets Grade Level” score on the exam required into an advanced course.
- Placement Appeal. Students who do not meet the criteria for admission to advanced courses may submit an appeal to the campus principal.

# ***CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES***

## **SCIENCE – Grade 6**

Students will build on prior knowledge by exploring and experiencing a variety of areas within the field of science; including life, physical, and earth sciences. Students will use reading, research, observation, discussion, and participation in individual and group projects. They will utilize the scientific research process and perform experiments to explore Scientific phenomenon. Learners who can apply themselves in inquiry-based hands-on learning can be successful in science while they continue to grow as life-long learners.

## **ADVANCED SCIENCE – Grade 6**

Students will extend beyond the regular science curriculum to build on prior knowledge by exploring and experiencing a variety of areas within the field of science including life, physical, and earth sciences. Students will use reading, research, observation, discussion, and participation in individual and group projects. They will utilize the scientific research process and perform experiments to explore scientific phenomenon. Students must be willing participants in inquiry-based hands-on learning and committed to working at an advanced level to be successful in science while they continue to grow as life-long learners.

## **SCIENCE – Grade 7**

Students will scaffold prior knowledge learned from previous grades. 7<sup>th</sup> grade science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. The vast body of changing and increasing knowledge is described by physical, mathematical, and conceptual models. These ideas transcend disciplinary boundaries and include change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale. Students will use reading, research, observation, discussion, participation in individual and group projects, and utilization of the scientific research process and experiments to explore scientific phenomenon.

## **ADVANCED SCIENCE – Grade 7**

This is a course for the student with a high interest in science. This course offers an advanced level of experience in the concepts of science. This course is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. Laboratory activities are presented as a combination of inquiry and confirmation exercises. The concepts and skills that are a part of the regular program are taught at an accelerated pace and in greater depth and complexity. Advanced level products and independent research are part of this course.

**SCIENCE – Grade 8**

Students will build on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade topics. Students will learn about matter and energy, force and motion, earth and space, and organisms and the environment. This course will emphasize scientific investigation and reasoning through hands-on experiences, inquiry labs, and group collaboration. Learners who are able to problem-solve and apply what they have learned will be successful in this course. This course will also lay the foundation for high school science classes.

**ADVANCED SCIENCE – Grade 8**

Emphasizes experimental design, critical thinking and reasoning. Students in this course will build on prior knowledge from 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade topics. The concepts and skills that are part of the regular science program will be taught at an accelerated pace and in detail and complexity. Students in advanced science will participate in outside research and projects. Learners who are able to problem-solve, think critically, and apply their knowledge will be successful in this course. This course will lay the foundation for students entering advanced level science courses in high school.

**SOCIAL STUDIES – Grade 6**

This course will explore a variety of topics surrounding World Cultures and geography. The major eras that will be taught include: The five themes of geography and World Patterns, The United States and Canada, Latin America, Europe, Russia & Eurasian Republics, Southwest Asia & North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East & Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Realm. In this course, students will analyze the major social, political, economic, religious, and geographical events of these eras and how they affected the growth of different World cultures. The focus for this class is for students to learn how to analyze various primary and secondary sources to increase their critical thinking skills while applying those skills to a variety of Social Studies topics.

**ADVANCED SOCIAL STUDIES – Grade 6**

This course will cover the same topics as 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies but with an increase in rigor. Students will be challenged to analyze various primary and secondary sources, have extended readings, and be responsible for several writing assignments throughout the year. Students will be responsible for various independent assignments, projects, and presentations that will help advance their higher-level thinking skills.

**SOCIAL STUDIES – Grade 7**

This course will explore and grow on the topics they have previously learned in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. This course gives students an in-depth look at major eras that include: Natural Texas and its People, Exploration and Early Colonization of Texas, Mexican Colonization and the Empresario System, the Texas Revolution, Republic of Texas and Early Statehood, Texas during the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Cotton, Cattle, Railroads, Age of Oil, Texas during the Great depression and World War II, Civil Rights and Conservatism, and Contemporary Texas. In this course, students will analyze the major social, political, economic, religious, and geographical events of these eras and how they effected the growth and development of Texas. The focus for this class is for students to learn how to analyze various primary and secondary sources to increase their critical thinking skills while applying those skills to a variety of Social Studies topics.

**ADVANCED SOCIAL STUDIES – Grade 7**

This course will cover the same topics as 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, but with an increase in rigor. Students will be challenged to analyze various primary and secondary sources, have extended readings, and be responsible for several writing assignments throughout the year. Students will be responsible for various independent assignments, projects and presentations that will help advance their higher-level thinking skills.

**SOCIAL STUDIES – Grade 8**

Students will explore and grow on topics they have previously learned in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. This course gives students an in-depth look at major eras that include Exploration and Colonization, The road to the American Revolution, the U.S. Constitution, Early Republic, the Age of Jackson, Westward Expansion, Industrialization and Reform, Sectionalism, the Civil War and Reconstruction. In this course, students will analyze the major social, political, economic, religious, and geographical events of these eras and how they effected the growth of the United States. The focus for this class is for students to learn how to analyze various primary and secondary sources to increase their critical thinking skills while applying those skills to a variety of Social Studies Topics. At the end of the year, there will be a State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test.

**ADVANCED SOCIAL STUDIES – Grade 8**

This course will cover the same topics as 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies, but with an increase in rigor. Students will be challenged to analyze various primary and secondary sources, have extended readings, and be responsible for several writing assignments throughout the year. Students will be responsible for various independent assignments, projects and presentations that will help advance their higher-level thinking skills. At the end of the year, there will be a State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test.

**MATH – Grade 6**

Students will explore 6<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) including ratios and proportions, equations and inequalities, rational number and integer operations, geometry, measurement, data analysis, and financial literacy. Students will use problem solving skills and reasoning to build on communication skills and make connections to develop conceptual skills. This course utilizes the Carnegie Learning curriculum which integrates technology and higher order thinking skills to further students' understanding and mathematical proficiency.

**ADVANCED MATH – Grade 6**

This advanced math course combines concepts from both the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) to ensure students are on track to take Algebra 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will build on the foundational skills of ratios and proportional relationships, the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, and statistics and probability. Students will use problem solving skills and reasoning to build on communication skills and make connections to develop conceptual skills. This course utilizes the Carnegie Learning curriculum which integrates technology and higher order thinking skills to further students' understanding and mathematical proficiency.

**MATH – Grade 7**

Students will explore 7<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) including rational number operations, proportionality, expressions, equations, and inequalities, probability, multiple representations, geometry and measurement and data. Students will use problem solving skills and reasoning to build on communication skills and make connections to develop conceptual skills. This course utilizes the Carnegie Learning curriculum which integrates technology and higher order thinking skills to further students' understanding and mathematical proficiency.

**ADVANCED MATH – Grade 7**

This advanced course combines concepts from both the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) to ensure students are on track to take Algebra 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This course focuses primarily on developing skills in transformations, similarities, line and angle relationships, proportions, linear relationships, two-step equations and inequalities, functions, bivariate data, linear equations, real numbers, Pythagorean Theorem, 3-dimensional figures, probabilities, and financial interest. Students will use problem solving skills and reasoning to build on communication skills and make connections to develop conceptual skills. This course utilizes the Carnegie Learning curriculum which integrates technology and higher order thinking skills to further students' understanding and mathematical proficiency.

**MATH – Grade 8**

Students will explore 8<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) including transforming geometric objects, developing function foundations, proportions, linear relationships, patterns in bivariate data, variability, linear equations, systems of linear equations, real number system, Pythagorean Theorem, financial literacy, and volume of 3-D figures. Students will use problem solving skills and reasoning to build on communication skills and make connections to develop conceptual skills. This course utilizes the Carnegie Learning curriculum which integrates technology and higher order thinking skills to further students' understanding and mathematical proficiency.

**ADVANCED MATH – Grade 8**

Students will explore 8<sup>th</sup> grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) with more extensions, depth and complexity than the regular math course. The primary focal areas are transforming geometric objects, developing function foundations, proportions, linear relationships, patterns in bivariate data, variability, linear equations, systems of linear equations, real number system, Pythagorean Theorem, financial literacy, volume of 3-D figures. Students will also be able to model and analyze situations to solve a variety of problems based on our primary focal areas. Students will use problem solving skills and reasoning to build on communication skills and make connections to develop conceptual skills. This course utilizes the Carnegie Learning curriculum which integrates technology and higher order thinking skills to further students' understanding and mathematical proficiency.

**ALGEBRA – Grade 8**

*Credit: 1 High School Credit after successful completion of the course.*

Students will use prior knowledge from advanced 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade math courses that provided a foundation for the major topics including linear, quadratic and exponential functions, slope, systems of equations in 2 variables, sequences, laws of exponents, polynomials of degree one and two, and transformations to create new functions. Students will utilize the online DESMOS graphing calculator to explore and analyze real-world scenarios. This course utilizes the Carnegie Learning curriculum which integrates technology and higher order thinking skills to further students' understanding and mathematical proficiency. This is a fast paced course that will provide students with a quality stepping stone to their future high school math classes.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – Grade 6**

Students will be focusing on building the skills needed to comprehend and analyze texts in the nonfiction and fiction genres. Students will also be working towards developing their skills as a writer through grammatical practice and reflections on their experiences, various texts, and the world.

**ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – Grade 6**

This course will cover the same topics as 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA, but with an increase in rigor. In Advanced ELA courses, students will be exposed to high level reading selections, partake in discussions that encourage a deeper understanding of the texts, and move at a faster pace. Learners in Advanced courses will need to be self-motivated, organized, and hard working in order to be successful in the course.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – Grade 7**

In 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA, the students will deepen their understanding of the nonfiction and fiction genre, as well as sub-genres of each. Students will have plenty of opportunity to craft their skills as writers through frequent grammatical practice and reflections on their experiences, various texts, and the world

**ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – Grade 7**

This course will cover the same topics as 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA, but with an increase in rigor. In Advanced ELA courses, students will be exposed to high level reading selections, partake in discussions that encourage a deeper understanding of the texts, and move at a faster pace. Learners in Advanced courses will need to be self-motivated, organized, and hard working in order to be successful in the course.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – Grade 8**

In 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA, the students will continue to enhance their skills of the nonfiction and fiction genres, as well as sub-genres of each. A large focus of this course will be put toward developing inferencing skills, analyzing perspectives, and reflecting on author's craft through various texts and their own writing.

**ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS – Grade 8**

This course will cover the same topics as 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA, but with an increase in rigor. In Advanced ELA courses, students will be exposed to high level reading selections, partake in discussions that encourage a deeper understanding of the texts, and move at a faster pace. Learners in Advanced courses will need to be self-motivated, organized, and hard working in order to be successful in the course.

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# **ELECTIVES**

*Electives are available based on course requests and/or teacher availability.*

## **VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS**

### **ART I - Grades 6-7**

Art I is a comprehensive course that provides students with introductory experiences by expressing themselves inventively and imaginatively through a variety of art, media, techniques, and vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on art production incorporating the study of artists, artistic styles, and the elements of art.

### **ART II – Grades 7-8**

Art II is a comprehensive course that continues and expands on Art I experiences by allowing students to express themselves inventively and imaginatively through a variety of art, media, techniques, and vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on art production incorporating the study of artists, artistic styles, and the elements and principles of design.

### **ADVANCED ART – Grade 8**

*Credit: 1 High School Credit after successful completion of the course.*

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Art I, Art 2*

Students will be provided with extended and advanced experiences in expressing themselves inventively and imaginatively through a variety of art, media, techniques, and vocabulary. Throughout the year, students will work on art production incorporating the study of artists and styles and the elements and principles of design. The course involves significantly more commitment and is intended for students who are highly motivated and seriously committed to the study of Advanced Art is designed to prepare students for future success in the high school Advanced Art courses.

### **BEGINNING BAND – Grade 6**

Beginning Band is designed to teach students how to play an instrument and read music. This is a comprehensive course. No previous knowledge is needed. Small classes allow for individualized instruction. This course is highly integrated with technology which is used to help them learn an instrument and will be used to create, design, record and publish their own digital music. Students will perform two concerts per year. Preparation for these performances will only take place during class. No regular after school rehearsals will be required. Band students are only required to rent/buy select instruments. Oboe, Bassoon, French Horn, Baritone and Tuba are provided by the school and are available on a limited basis.

### **CONCERT/SYMPHONIC BAND – Grades 7-8**

This class is a performing group that has its emphasis on developing fundamental instrumental and ensemble skills. This band performs at pep rallies, concerts and contests. Preparation for these performances helps to expand and refine musical fundamentals in classical, rock, jazz and pop styles of music. Preparation for these performances will require after school rehearsals.

### **CHOIR Grades – 6-8**

Students will develop intermediate singing techniques, sight-reading skills and music theory concepts. The group performs in concert three times a year. Attendance is required at all rehearsals and performances.

### **DANCE I – Grades 6-8**

*Dance Fee Required*

*This course fulfills the physical education requirement*

This course is an extension of Intro to Dance. The continuing dance curriculum emphasizes dance vocabulary, various choreography skills, kinesthetic awareness and a historical overview of dance. The opportunity to perform a variety of dance styles and techniques such as ballet, lyrical, contemporary, modern, jazz, and hip hop will be provided. Dance skills for performance will help build self-confidence using the body as an expressive instrument.

Dance shoes and costumes may be required. Out-of-school rehearsals and performance may be required.



## **INTRODUCTION TO DRILL – Grade 8**

*Dance Fee Required*

*This course fulfills the physical education requirement*

Students will learn what it takes to be a Tribal Belle. Students will learn guidelines/handbook for Tribal Belles, proper kick technique, work on flexibility and height, and a variety of basic skills/techniques used daily in Tribal Belles. The course provides dance techniques such as warm-up, cool down, conditioning stretching, and injury prevention. Students learn a variety of dance styles including ballet, lyrical, contemporary, modern, jazz, kick, and pom. Dance shoes and costumes may be required. Out-of-school rehearsals and performance may be required.

## **INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE ARTS – Grade 6**

This class is designed to introduce students to the theatre. We will research, discuss and demonstrate parts of the stage, the differences between theater and film, puppetry, scripts, improvisation, and staging.

## **THEATRE ARTS I – Grades 7-8**

This class is designed as a follow-up to the Intro Class. We will research, discuss and demonstrate different types of theatrical performances including pantomime, puppets, reader's theatre, and script memorization.

## **THEATRE ARTS II – Grade 7-8**

We will learn the 9 areas of the stage and the strengths and weaknesses of each area. We will research, discuss and demonstrate the jobs needed for each type of performance: Actor, Playwright, Director, Stage Manager, Sound Designer, Light Designer, Prop Manager, Costume Designer, Set Designer.

## **ADVANCED THEATRE – Grade 7-8**

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intro to Theatre, Theatre I*

This class is designed for the student who is interested in performing in the school productions. We will perform a stage play in the Fall and a musical in the Spring. We will need students interested in being the cast and crew for both.

## **LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH**

### **DISCOVERING LANGUAGES AND CULTURES – Grades – 6-7**

Using age-appropriate activities, students explore a variety of aspects of one or more languages and cultures and/or develop basic language learning and communicative skills. In the 21st century language classroom, students gain an understanding of two basic aspects of human existence: the nature of communication and the complexity of culture. Students become aware of multiple perspectives and means of expression, which lead to an appreciation of difference and diversity

### **ADVANCED SPANISH I – Grade 8**

*Prerequisite: 80 or higher average in ELA*

*Credit: 1 High School credit after successful completion of this course.*

This is a high school course that emphasizes listening, speaking, reading, writing, cultural studies, vocabulary, and basic grammar. Major emphasis is on conversational usage of Spanish in real life situations. Students must take the High School semester Spanish exam and the end-of-year exam.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETICS**

*THE FOLLOWING COURSES ALL COUNT FOR A PHYSICAL EDUCATION CREDIT*

### **CHEER TEAM PREP – Grades 6-7**

*Cheer Fee Required*

This course is designed for students who have a desire to try out for the SFJH Cheer Team. Students will learn proper jump technique, and work on flexibility and height. Students will be challenged in various methods of exercise and conditioning to prepare them for becoming a competitive cheerleader. Students will improve on stunts, tumbling, jumps, and choreography. Students may have an opportunity to perform at a school event.

### **CHEER TEAM – Grades 7-8**

This course is designed for the students who make the grade cheerleading squad. Students will work on routines, cheers, chants, and stunts to perfect their performance as a competitive squad.

### **PRE-ATHLETICS - Grade 6**

This course is designed for boys and girls who have a desire of participating in Athletics as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader. Students will have firsthand knowledge of the expectations relating to Athletics. The Pre -Athletic class will have the future athletes participating in cardiovascular workouts, agility workouts, plyometric workouts, and weight training workouts. will be held to the same standards, expectations, and discipline as the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Athletic Class. Physicals are **NOT** required for the Pre-Athletic Class.

### **BOYS ATHLETICS OR GIRLS ATHLETICS – GRADES 7-8**

*Prerequisite: Physical*

The Athletic Program at Santa Fe Junior High is designed to prepare students for the various sports programs at the high school level. Athletics class is offered to boy and girl students in the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade playing a school sport. An athlete's daily workouts will consist of, but not be limited to, cardiovascular workouts, agility workouts, plyometric workouts, and weight training workouts. Athletics is a Privilege. Inappropriate behavior and work refusal are grounds for removal from the Athletic class. Students are required to dress out properly for class daily.

### **STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING - Grades 7-8**

Students will be taught the proper techniques and safety of weight training. An emphasis will be placed on cardiovascular training to provide a balanced workout routine.

### **BOYS PE OR GIRLS PE – Grades 6-8**

Students will explore a variety of recreational sports. The fundamentals of this physical education course is to get students out to play. Various recreational sports may include flag football, soccer, kick ball, and a variety of other activities.

## **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

### **COMPUTER APPLICATIONS I – Grades 6-7**

Computer Applications I is an introduction to Microsoft computer programs with an emphasis on the development of proper typing technique. Students will learn the QWERTY keyboard, computer basics, as well as be introduced to Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Publisher.

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPUTER SCIENCE – Grade 8**

*Prerequisite: Computer Applications*

*Credit: 1 High School Credit after successful completion of the course.*

This is a beginning course in robotics. Students will learn the fundamentals of robotics and engineering, utilizing the *VEX IQ Robotics Design System*, *Autodesk Inventor* computer-aided design software, and *EasyC 4.0* programming software. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a VEX IQ robot. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing sequences, propulsion systems and binary number systems. The design process will be emphasized as the robots are developed, tested, modified and prepared to compete in a semester-ending district competition.

### **SPEECH/PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION – Grades 7-8**

*Credit: 1 High School Credit after successful completion of the course.*

This course is designed to develop leadership, personal, and business skills in young adults. The course follows the nationally recognized Teen Leadership curriculum. Students will learn to improve self-concept, personal responsibility, and their ability to create and maintain healthy relationships. Through the process of writing speeches, communicating in small and large groups, and reflections; students will gain valuable skills for a changing world.

**\*\*Credit earned in this class will be placed on the student's high school transcript.**

### **MONEY MATTERS – Grades 7-8**

*Credit: 1 High School Credit after successful completion of the course.*

In this course, students will investigate money management from a personal financial perspective. Students will apply critical-thinking skills to establish short-term and long-term financial goals through various methods such as investing, tax planning, asset allocating, risk management, retirement planning, and estate planning. \*Credit earned in this class will be placed on the student's high school transcript.

### **GENERAL EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS – Grade 8**

*Credit: 1 High School Credit after successful completion of the course.*

*This course is required for all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students.*

This course is designed to guide students in obtaining the knowledge and the needed employability skills that are transferrable among a variety of jobs and careers and are considered essential in any employment situation. Students will learn and apply basic knowledge of what is expected in the workplace.

### **DIGITAL DESIGN AND MEDIA PRODUCTION – Grade 7-8**

*Credit: 1 High School Credit after successful completion of this course.*

This course will allow students to demonstrate creative thinking, develop innovative strategies, and use communication tools in order to work effectively with others as well as independently. Students will gather information electronically, which will allow for problem solving and making informed decisions regarding media projects. Students will create digital content through the use of various devices such as video camera, digital camera, scanner, microphone, interactive whiteboard, video capture, and musical instruments. *Courses are subject to cancellation depending on student interest and availability.*

### **PRINCIPLES OF LAW, PUBLIC SAFETY, CORRECTIONS, AND SECURITY – Grade 7-8**

*Credit: 1 High School Credit after successful completion of this course.*

Principles of Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security introduces students to professions in law enforcement, protective services, corrections, firefighting, and emergency management services. Students will examine the roles and responsibilities of police, courts, corrections, private security, and protective agencies of fire and emergency services. The course provides students with an overview of the skills necessary for careers in law enforcement, fire service, protective services, and corrections. *Courses are subject to cancellation depending on student interest and availability.*

## **GENERAL ELECTIVES**

### **YEARBOOK – Grades 7-8**

*Prerequisites: Application Process*

Yearbook is a one-year elective that produces the school yearbook, which may include traditional printed books as well as multimedia. Members of the staff are expected to have a high level of maturity and the ability to work independently. This is a wonderful opportunity for members of the team to exercise their creativity, while developing new skills in computer design, photography, marketing, Adobe Photoshop, copy writing, and project management. Student must complete an application, and the student's language arts teacher must complete a recommendation form to be turned in to the yearbook teacher.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL – Grades 6-8**

*Prerequisite: Application process*

Student Council is a course for students seeking an opportunity to deepen their group and individual skills to positively impact their lives and their community. Building on collaborative skills, students will gain knowledge and expertise in leadership skills including goal setting, problem-solving, effective communication, organization, time management, and collaborative strategies. Students will solve relevant and current school and community issues by working collaboratively and independently on high level, real-world tasks such as project proposals, portfolios, and presentations.

**OFFICE AIDE – Grade 8**

*Prerequisite: Application process*

Eighth grade students can assist the various offices and teachers in daily paperwork involving alphabetizing, filing, running errands, and basic office duties. Examples include: front desk, counseling office, and department chair assistant. Sometimes students are assigned to assist with campus technology tasks such as hooking up computers and basic trouble shooting.

***OTHER PROGRAMS*****INTERVENTION CLASSES**

Based on the district analysis of students' math and reading data, and progress in classes, students may be placed in intervention classes. These courses would take the place of an elective and be in addition to students' Math and Language Arts classes. These courses are designed to meet students' needs by ability level rather than by grade-level groups. A campus may also recommend placement.

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# ATHLETIC PERMISSION FORM

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID \_\_\_\_\_

To participate in athletics, seventh and eighth grade students must meet the following requirements:

1. **All students enrolled in Athletics are expected to remain in Athletics the entire year, however continuous failures and or discipline problems will result in removal from Athletics.**
2. Student athletes will participate in the off-season program when their team is not active.
3. Student athletes will receive a grade for Athletics.
4. Santa Fe Independent School District requires that a student who participates in Athletics have a physical examination each year that he or she participates. That physical must be completed no later than the first full week of school on the SFISD athletic participation physical form.
5. All students in Athletics must participate in a sport.
6. All athletes must sign and adhere to the athletic code of conduct.
7. **Athletics is not a requirement, it is a privilege.**

Sport 1 (choose 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Football \_\_\_\_\_ Volleyball \_\_\_\_\_ Basketball

Sport 2 (choose 1) \_\_\_\_\_ Basketball \_\_\_\_\_ Track \_\_\_\_\_ Soccer

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_