



# 8th Grade Course Descriptions 2019-2020

Eighth grade students are assigned to a team of teachers for their core classes of English, history, IND, mathematics, and science. Students will be scheduled into two explore classes and PE, which meets every other day. Explore classes are a semester in length unless indicated as yearlong. Explore classes are art, band, beginning guitar, choir, computer, FACS II, French, industrial technology, orchestra, personal finance/business and careers, production technology, Spanish, and teen issues.

## ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

GIRLS: Basketball, Cross Country, Track, Volleyball, Wrestling

BOYS: Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Track, Wrestling

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## ALGEBRA

Algebra content includes variables, formulas, real numbers, solving linear equations, polynomials, factoring polynomials, rational expressions, solving linear inequalities, graphs of linear equations and inequalities, linear systems in two variables, square roots and operations with radicals, quadratic equations, functions and graphs, and solving rational equations. **Accel math 7 is a prerequisite for this class.**

## AMERICAN HISTORY

This is a study of American History from the Pre-Revolutionary War era through Reconstruction. The interactive resource, United States History Beginnings to 1914, is used to help students with diverse learning styles experience history. This class emphasizes note taking and study skills.

## ENGLISH

In 8th grade English, Write Traits are emphasized in conjunction with literature, which includes short stories, poetry, non-fiction, drama, and several novels. Writing activities include narrative, descriptive, persuasive paragraphs and essays. Each student is required to read Accelerated Reader books as a portion of their English grade.

## IND: INTERDISCIPLINARY ENRICHMENT

This class is yearlong and meets every other day. The subject material is determined by the team teachers.

## MATH 8

This is the grade-level eighth grade mathematics course. The focus includes the following concepts: integer exponents and their properties including scientific notation, congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software, Pythagorean Theorem, proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations, analyze and solve linear equations, define, evaluate, and compare functions, volume of cylinders, cones, and spheres, relationships between quantities and investigate patterns of association in bivariate data, and classifying real numbers.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education is a yearlong required class, which meets every other day. The class exposes students to a wide variety of activities, which helps to provide the appropriate amount of vigorous physical activity that is vital for the maintenance of good health and fitness. Physical fitness testing, team sports, recreational games, rhythms, aerobics, cardiovascular training, strength enhancement, and other activities emphasize teamwork, social development, and a positive self-image. In order to participate safely, students are required to dress in appropriate P.E. attire (e.g. T-shirt, shorts, and athletic shoes). **Padlocks are furnished. \$5.00 will be charged if the lock is not returned at the end of the school year.**

## **SCIENCE**

Eighth grade science explores topics in life, physical and earth science with an emphasis on forces and interactions, energy, waves and electromagnetic radiation, heredity, biological evolution, space systems and the geological history of Earth. Science topics are discovered through virtual as well as hands-on laboratory experiences, scientific inquiry and interactive group activities.

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### **ART 2D: Advanced Art Concepts & 2D media** - 1 semester

Eighth grade art expands on concepts learned in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade art. During the semester, they will explore the theme of "Identity" by examining and creating works of art that exemplify personal qualities about their own life as the subject matter. A variety of traditional and unique art media will be used while students develop skills to visually express ideas.

### **ART 3D: Advanced Art Concepts & 3D media** - 1 semester

Eighth grade art expands on concepts learned in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade art. During the semester, they will explore the theme of "Identity" by examining and creating works of art that exemplify personal qualities about their own life as the subject matter. A variety of traditional and unique three dimensional art media will be used while students develop skills to visually express ideas.

### **BAND** – yearlong

Eighth grade students get their first taste of marching band fundamentals and perform with Horizon Middle School in the UNK Band Day parade. Another highlight of the year is our annual Elementary Tour promoting music and the band program at all of the elementary schools that feed into Sunrise. Band students join the Kearney High School band at both a football and basketball pep band over the course of the year. Students are encouraged to supply their own instrument (we have a limited number available to rent from the school for those that qualify). The **Tradition of Excellence Book 2**, and reeds (if playing a single or double reed instrument) are supplied by the student. Band members are strongly encouraged to attend the summer marching band camp. **Students are required to perform in 3 Sunrise band concerts, as well as multiple combined events with the KHS and HMS bands throughout the school year.**

### **BEGINNING GUITAR** - 1 semester

Beginning Guitar is an introductory music course designed for people with no prior music experience, but welcomes anyone with a musical background! Students learn how to count rhythms, read notes on the staff, and basic music vocabulary. Students will be introduced to notes on the strings in first position, basic chords and tablature, picking, and strumming patterns. Guitars and method books are provided by the school, but cannot be taken home. No practice time is required outside of school, but all course material is available online for those students wanting to practice at home. Students work through the method book and learn the chords to one song as a class, but are also given time to learn a song of their choice throughout the semester. In partnership with Yanda's Music, upon completion of the course, guitar students are offered two student-model guitars at a slight discount if they would like to purchase an instrument to continue playing!

### **CHOIR** - yearlong

This class offers students the opportunity to develop their voices through singing. Part-singing and sight-reading skills are stressed. Students have the opportunity to audition for Singing Youth of Nebraska as well as regional, state or national honor choirs. **Concert performance is required.**

### **COMPUTERS/MULTIMEDIA APPLICATIONS** - 1 semester

This class is designed to further develop skills in word processing, spreadsheets, presentation and Internet search engines, preparing the students for high school. In addition, students will develop skills in video capture and editing, and all aspects of producing videos for the Hawk Talk video program. Students will create and edit graphics, sound, and special effects to be incorporated into video productions. Students will be required to work independently and in small teams to produce commercials, public service announcements, and short features. Students will create storyboards, write and rewrite shooting scripts, record and edit projects.

### **FCS II** - 1 semester

This class is a continuation of 7<sup>th</sup> grade FACS I class where students are involved in individual learning modules emphasizing real life application and hands-on experience. Modules include Foods and Nutrition, Consumer Awareness, Family Relations, Conflict Resolution, Cooking, Sewing, Laundry Care, Interior Design, Time & Money Management, and Child Care. Students participate in a specific module for 9 days.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY** - 1 semester

Students have the opportunity to explore different areas of Industrial Technology. Areas of study include manufacturing, energy-power, and transportation. **Power tools and saws are used in this class. A parent permission sheet is sent home and must be signed before using any equipment.**

### **PERSONAL FINANCE AND CAREERS** - 1 semester

This class is designed to teach students the foundations of personal finance. Students will develop skills in saving and budgeting, credit and debit, education, careers, and entrepreneurship. Students will also learn about investing, insurance, identity theft, global economics, marketing, and consumerism. The students will use the Dave Ramsey Curriculum, Foundation in Personal Finance Middle School Edition. Students will also explore various fields of work in a career educational model. Students will develop educational and career goals using the Nebraska Career Education Model. Once they learn about the job, students will participate in an activity that relates to the job to create a greater understanding of the jobs available and its various responsibilities.

### **ORCHESTRA** – yearlong

Eighth grade orchestra students will begin refining their ensemble playing through daily rehearsals. Students will be introduced to more challenging music and additional opportunities to perform. Students are highly encouraged to provide their own instruments and accessories. Students are required to participate in three concerts throughout the school year, as well as the Strictly Strings Festival in Grand Island and the Spring Elementary School Tour. Students must have previous string experience. For more information, visit our website at [www.kpsorchestra.org](http://www.kpsorchestra.org).

### **SPANISH I** – yearlong

Spanish I is the equivalent to Spanish I at the high school. Level I is an important first step in second language acquisition. Students will learn basic knowledge of the language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. An integrated, hands-on curriculum is used to introduce vocabulary and sentence structure necessary in building beginning conversational skills. The course also emphasizes the study of Hispanic countries, customs and cultures. **Suggested prerequisites for success: C or better in 7th grade Spanish Introduction class, English, and Reading.**

### **TEEN ISSUES** - 1 semester

In this class, students learn about a variety of family life topics such as self-esteem, different types of families, peer & family relationships, dating, sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases, and the consequences of early sexual experimentation. Student expectations are to watch videos, complete projects, take notes and tests as part of the class requirements.