

H C M S

CHOICES

**Hill Country  
Middle School  
1300 Walsh Tarlton  
512-732-9220**

**Principal Kathleen Sullivan  
Counselors 512-732-9223  
Danielle Wiest (6)  
Todd Huber (7)  
Casey Davids (8)**

**Special Ed ext 31030  
Gifted & Talented ext 31310**

## **Seventh Grade Course Description Guide**

**Making the right decisions now can guarantee the very best and most satisfying education. Through careful study of the course offerings at the middle school level, you and your parents can make choices based on instructional needs, special interests, and the goals you have set for yourself.**

All seventh graders must take seven classes per day all year long. The courses are:

- English Language Arts 7 or English Language Arts 7 PreAP
- Math
- Science 7
- Social Studies/Texas History
- PE or Athletics
- Elective
- Elective

Students will select a combination of electives to complete a seven-period day both semesters.

# REQUIRED COURSES

## ENGLISH

**English Language Arts** - The course stresses the mastery of the seventh grade language and literacy objectives. Students read and study a variety of fiction and nonfiction, building on an understanding of reading as a process that includes analyzing and comprehending texts. Through varied and frequent writing assignments, students build on their understanding of writing as a process that includes drafting, revising, editing, proofreading, and publishing. The writing includes journal entries, essays, poetry, a major research project, and original compositions. Reading, spelling, vocabulary, and grammar are integrated into student writing. Higher-level critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the year.

**English Language Arts PreAP** - Highly independent and motivated students who excel in English skills will expand upon the English curriculum and integrate with extensive writing the study of fiction and nonfiction, independent writing, complex language skills, and research. Composition projects include poetry, essays, journal entries, a major research report, and original writing. Higher-level critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the year. The PreAP student should have self-discipline, be self-directed, and enjoy reading and writing.

## MATH

### Math Placement Process:

EANES ISD offers open enrollment for Pre-AP courses. Teachers recommend students for the appropriate placement. All students enrolled in Math 6 will be provided an opportunity to "place out" of Math 7. This assessment will be given in May. Students new to EANES ISD will be tested in August. For more information, go to [eanesisd.net/departments/cia/district-syllabi/math](http://eanesisd.net/departments/cia/district-syllabi/math)

**Math 7** - Math 7 is an on-grade level mathematics course guided by the Grade 7 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. The primary focus areas in Grade 7 are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students will become fluent in all operations of rational numbers. There is emphasis on algebra readiness skills to prepare for Math 8.

### **Math 8 - Prerequisite: Math 6/7 or Math 7 PreAP**

Math 8 is an on-grade level mathematics course guided by the Grade 8 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. The primary focal areas of this math course are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. The graphing calculator is introduced and used throughout the course.

### **Math 8 PreAP - Prerequisite: Math 6/7 or Math 7 PreAP**

Math 8 PreAP is an on-grade level academically advanced course designed to challenge students to understand rigorous content guided by the Grade 8 Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Math 8 PreAP is different in pace, depth, breadth, and/or complexity than Math 8 curriculum. This course is designed for the student who has demonstrated exceptional talent and inquisitiveness for the study of mathematics. The primary focal areas of this math course are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement & data. **Note: Graphing calculator required.**

**In all classes, Algebra I and beyond, the graphing calculator is used extensively as a solving tool. It is strongly recommended that students purchase a graphing calculator for daily use. The TI83/84 + is used as the instructional tool in most classes.**

### **Algebra I PreAP - Prerequisite: Math 8 or Math 8 PreAP**

PreAP math sequence focuses on teaching mathematical skills and concepts in a problem-solving environment. This course emphasizes the development of skills, techniques and applications that deal with number relations, linear equations, formulas, polynomials, graphing, systems of equations, factoring, rational expressions, data analysis, quadratic, and exponential functions. Students will learn the skills associated with the mathematical process TEKS: problem-solving, appropriate use of tools, mathematical communication, multiple representations, reasoning, proof, and justification. Successful completion of this sequence will prepare students for entry into a geometry course.

### **Geometry PreAP - Prerequisite: Algebra I PreAP**

The PreAP math sequence focuses on teaching mathematical skills and concepts in a problem-solving environment. This course deals with sets of points and related properties. Sets studied include lines, angles, polygons, circles, planes and surfaces of geometric solids such as pyramids, cones, cylinders and spheres. This sequence emphasizes systematic approaches to and processes for proving and applying theorems. Algebra is utilized extensively during the second semester. Students will learn the skills associated with the mathematical process TEKS: problem-solving, appropriate use of tools, mathematical communication, multiple representations, reasoning, proof, and justification. Successful completion of this sequence prepares the students for entry into an Algebra II course. Note: Graphing Calculator required.

## **SCIENCE**

**Science 7** - focuses on life science. This course is a continuation of content mastered in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will expand their knowledge of matter & energy, by investigating organic compounds and the role of digestion in living systems, and the concepts of force & motion as it relates to work. Students will study the variety of objects that are found in our solar system, and the characteristics of a planet that support life. Additionally students will examine the living and non-living components of our planet, and study how weathering and erosion shape our planet. Lastly, utilizing a variety of activities students will study interactions between organisms and their environment, biodiversity, taxonomy, human body systems, and genetics.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Texas History** - Texas history is a course of study encompassing the stories of people, events, and institutions from the state's earliest civilizations to the modern day. These integral components of Texas history are combined with the study of geography and its themes to relate the stories of events and the relationships between people and places in all phases of the state's development. Students achieve an understanding of how and why events occurred, a comprehension of the historical significance of events, and the ability to relate past events to daily living in modern times.

## ELECTIVES

Students may select either full-year (2 semester) courses or one-semester courses to combine for a total of 6 semesters of elective courses.

### FULL-YEAR ELECTIVES

#### WORLD LANGUAGES

Each semester in Foreign Languages must be successfully completed to remain in the course and receive one high school credit. A minimum of 2 full credits in the SAME language are required for high school graduation.

#### CHINESE 7

Chinese 7 is a basic language course in which the students learn the Chinese sound system called Pinyin, the mechanics of stroke order, radicals in writing characters, class room expressions, and everyday life expressions. In addition, students will learn vocabulary and grammar to make phrases and sentences. They will learn to appreciate the rich Chinese culture, history, and tradition. A variety of language tasks will be required for students to develop their ability to read, write, listen, and speak in the Chinese language. **This is a two-year commitment for the student.** This course should be thought of as a **core academic class. Students will be held to high academic standards and will need to maintain an 80 average to be recommended for Chinese 8.** Successful completion of Chinese 7 and Chinese 8 entitles the student to one high school foreign language credit in Chinese.

#### FRENCH 7

Introduction to French with emphasis on all skills: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. This is an academic elective. Satisfactory completion of French 7 and 8 allows the student to take French II in the ninth grade and earn 1 high school credit for French 7 and 8. Students must pass each individual semester in order to continue in class. Recommended for students with a B+ average or better in English and who will devote 15 to 20 minutes to homework each night. **This is a two-year commitment for the student.** This course should be thought of as a **core academic class. Students will be held to high academic standards and will need to maintain an 80 average to be recommended for French 8.** Successful completion of French 7 and French 8 entitles the student to one high school foreign language credit in French.

#### LATIN 7

This course is a lively introduction to beginning Latin where the student reads, in Latin, entertaining stories about people in ancient Pompeii. Course work consists primarily of translation, vocabulary, and grammar. The course demands and develops language arts skills. Discussions will include a variety of linguistic and cultural topics. This course develops strengths that are applicable in English as well as most other modern languages. **This is a two-year commitment for the student.** This course should be thought of as a **core academic class. Students will be held to high academic standards and will need to maintain an 80 average to be recommended for Latin 8.** Successful completion of Latin 7 and Latin 8 entitles the student to one high school foreign language credit in Latin.

#### SPANISH 7

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language with emphasis on listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills, along with an awareness and appreciation of Spanish-speaking cultures. Sixty to 75% of the class will be conducted in Spanish. **This is a two-year commitment for the student.** This course should be thought of as a **core academic class. Students will be held to high academic standards and will need to maintain an 80 average to be recommended for Spanish 8.** Successful completion of Spanish 7 and Spanish 8 entitles the student to one high school foreign language credit in Spanish. Good study skills and homework habits, participation in class, a solid understanding of the English language, and correct spelling are critical. Perspective students need to have maintained at least a 'B' average in sixth grade Language Arts throughout the year to consider taking this course.

#### SPANISH I (in one year) Credit: 1 (This is for 8<sup>th</sup> graders only.)

This course will be offered for the first time in the 2015-2016 school year. To enroll, it is recommended the student be in **PreAP Language Arts and have maintained a 90 average in 7<sup>th</sup> grade PreAP Language Arts.** This course is a highly structured academic course. This course emphasizes the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Class participation, work completion, and good study habits are needed to form a solid language foundation. A minimum of 15-30 minutes each day is needed to complete homework. This course includes oral presentations, group work, and collaboration.

## MUSIC

Students who sign up for any of these classes will remain in the course all year. Placement in specific ensembles will be determined by the campus director and will occur in May.

**BAND:** Note: Purchase of some supplies and a uniform is required.

- **Beginning Band** requires no prior experience. Emphasis is placed on basic tone production, instrumental technique and music reading.
- **Concert Band** is the intermediate ensemble for those who have completed at least one year of beginning band. Emphasis is placed on refining ensemble playing skills and developing individual performance skills. Students are expected to participate in some pep rallies, football games, formal concerts, solo & ensemble and the Spring Trip. Students are expected to participate in a weekly help session held before or after school.
- **Symphonic Band** is the most-advanced ensemble for those who have completed at least one year of beginning band. Emphasis is placed on refining ensemble playing skills and developing individual performance skills; however, performance expectations and instruction are more rigorous than in Concert Band. In addition to the performance opportunities listed for Concert Band, these students will participate in several additional performances and are expected to audition for the TMEA All-District Band. Students are expected to participate in a weekly help session held before or after school.
- **Jazz Band** is open to any 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student who is concurrently enrolled in another band, choir or orchestra class. All instruction will take place during the class period. Students will develop technical, theoretical and improvisational skills inherent in modern jazz and pop music. Performance opportunities are dependent upon the instrumentation of the students enrolled.

**CHOIR:** All members will participate at the region level in UIL competition and are encouraged to participate in the TMEA All-Region Choir. Note: Purchase of some supplies and a choir gown or uniform is required.

- **Concert Choir** provides an in-depth study for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade **girls**. Emphasis is on vocal production, sight-reading and showmanship. Students are expected to participate in after school rehearsals and performances as well as assemblies and a competition trip.
- **Varsity Treble Choir** (by audition only) provides advanced music study for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade **girls**. Emphasis is on vocal production, sight-reading and showmanship; however, instruction and performance expectations are more rigorous than in the Concert Choir. Students are expected to participate in after school rehearsals and performances as well as assemblies and a competition trip.
- **Men's Ensemble** is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade **boys**. Emphasis is on vocal production, sight-reading and showmanship. Students are expected to participate in after school rehearsals and performances as well as assemblies and a competition trip.

**ORCHESTRA:** Note: Purchase of some supplies and a uniform is required. Placement in specific ensembles will be determined by the campus director and will occur in May.

- **Beginning Orchestra** is for all students who have never played a string instrument before and includes instruction on violin, viola, cello, bass or harp. The campus orchestra teacher will assist in the selection of the specific instrument.
- **Concert Orchestra** is the intermediate orchestra for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with at least one year of experience in beginning orchestra. Instruction emphasizes tone production, instrumental technique, music reading, personal responsibility and collaboration with other musicians. Students are expected to participate in concerts, assemblies, UIL contest, solo & ensemble, a spring trip and several after school rehearsals.
- **Sinfonia Orchestra** is the advanced orchestra for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with at least one year experience in beginning orchestra. Emphasis is on technique, music reading and collaboration; however, performance expectations and instruction are more rigorous than the Concert Orchestra. These students will have several performances in addition to the participation expectations listed above for Concert Orchestra members.

## **OTHER** **YEARBOOK**

Yearbook is journalistic in nature and allows students to participate in the production of the school yearbook. While working on the yearbook, students will improve their writing, design, photography, and desktop publishing skills. In addition, they must be able to work independently as well as part of a team to meet deadlines. Some outside work may be necessary and students must commit to the class for the full year. Assignments include covering and/or photograph events that take place outside the normal school day. Those who wish may have the opportunity to accept leadership positions and develop new skills as they build the yearbook. Students selected to serve as editors must be willing to work with the adviser and other editors outside of class time. **Application only.**

## **ONE-SEMESTER ELECTIVES**

### **ABOVE and BEYOND**

This one semester elective will allow students an opportunity to explore a variety of topics such as philosophy, law, and engineering, and utilize advanced critical and creative thinking skills. This course is recommended for Gifted and Talented students, but is open to all students.

### **ATHLETICS – Boys & Girls**

**There is a \$275 flat fee for the school year for participation in one or more team sports (football, volleyball, basketball, and soccer) OR there is a \$200 fee for participation in one individual sport (track, cross-country, golf, and tennis) OR a \$275 fee for participation in more than one of the individual sports. Participation fees must be paid prior to participation in the sport. (There is no fee required for off-season athletics if you do not make the team.)**

**All student athletes are required to have a physical exam and clearance from a physician before they are able to participate**

#### **Athletics - Boys**

Athletics is only for those students interested in trying out for football, basketball, or track and field. Those students trying out for these three sports will participate in an off-season conditioning program when the sport is out of season. During the first semester, boys will try out for UIL football or be in an off-season basketball class. Boys try out for the basketball team at the conclusion of the football season. **Students trying out for basketball need to sign up for both semesters of Athletics.** Seventh grade football and basketball practice begins at 7:00 a.m. and continues through first period. UIL track and field follows basketball in the spring semester. All students enrolled in the Athletics class are committed to remain through the entire semester and will participate in the “off season” program. Cross-country, golf, tennis, and soccer are available before or after school as set up by the coach. Students in these sports are not required to sign up for the Athletics class.

#### **Athletics - Girls**

This class is only for those girls who are trying out for UIL competition in volleyball, basketball, or track and field. The athletes who are not competing in volleyball in the fall semester will participate in the “off season” program, preparing for competition in basketball. This will be in the athletic period only. Basketball season follows volleyball and runs through both semesters. **Students trying out for basketball need to sign up for both semesters of Athletics.** UIL track and field follows basketball in the spring semester. Seventh grade teams start practice at 7:30 a.m. and continue through first period. All students enrolled in the Athletics class are committed to remain through the entire semester and will participate in the “off season” program. Cross country, golf, tennis, and soccer are available before or after school as set up by the coach. Students in these sports are not required to sign up for the Athletics class.

## **COMPUTER ANIMATION and GAMING**

Students will be challenged to use problem solving techniques and higher level thinking skills along with creative design to produce animations and games using a variety of programs. Skills refined within this class will enable students to be confident, efficient and successful when given technology based assignments.

## **COMPUTER GRAPHICS and WEB DESIGN**

This course is designed to introduce students to some of the more sophisticated programs such as Photoshop, In-Design and will include basic HTML used in designing web sites. In Computer Graphics and Web Design students will learn to use tools from a variety of applications to create detailed graphic designs, manipulate photographic images, create web pages and incorporate HTML effects. This class will help students develop multifaceted computer skills and, in addition, prepare them to make more informed choices when selecting high school courses.

## **DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY**

This hands on, project based course allows students to get creative in the classroom while developing problem-solving skills. This class uses STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics) based activities to develop critical thinking skills and collaboration amongst the students. Students will explore areas of Coding, Mechanical Engineering, Computer Aided Design and Drafting, and Digital Electronics.

## **FILM**

Lights, Camera, Action! Attention future Spielberg's – Have a passion for film, or just really enjoy making home movies? Well, this is a one-semester introductory level class that will study films and how to make them. We will be working on several short film projects including special effects, stop motions, music videos, and commercials.

## **HCTV - NEWS PRODUCTION**

Come join the Hill Country TV/news team next year! This is a semester course offering instruction in writing, directing, producing, anchoring, technical directing, and much more. Students will write, direct, and star in the TV news program. The course includes an introduction to the principles, practices, procedures, and equipment utilized to produce broadcast quality news and interviews. In addition, news segments and information may be published on the [school website](#).

## **METHODOLOGY FOR ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL SUCCESS I – M.A.P.S. I**

This course focuses on the skills and strategies necessary for students to be successful in their academics. Students will also explore options available in high school, post-secondary education, and post-secondary employment. Essential knowledge and skills include: learning and communication skills; self-discipline, attitude, and resilience; time management, organization and study skills; leadership and character; academic and career exploration.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Students who are not interested in UIL athletics but are interested in staying fit and having fun should sign up for this course. Units of study include physical fitness and its components, weight lifting, cooperative games, and field trips. The emphasis will be on lifetime sports that students can participate in for years to come. Short written assignments, research, and lessons on health and wellness will also be emphasized. This is a great opportunity to get in shape and explore the many wonderful activities that Austin has to offer.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - AEROBIC ACTIVITY**

This course is designed to teach life- long movement skills including running, rhythmic movement and a variety of aerobic activities. Stretching, simple yoga and Pilates-like movements will also be included. No prerequisites required.

## **ROBOTICS**

### **Robotics 1:**

This STEM course provides students with the opportunity to explore the content areas of mechanical engineering and computer science through curriculum based challenges. Students will engage in basic coding processes to help develop logic and sequential processing, as well as, developing knowledge utilizing the engineering design process. This course will utilize Vex IQ and Lego EV3 hardware. This course is meant to scaffold for Robotics 2 and further participation in high school robotics.

## **STUDENT PARTNERS**

This is a semester course for seventh and eighth grade students who have a desire to learn about various developmental and physical disabilities. They will work with students with disabilities during the school day and may be paired with these students in academic courses, P.E., or lunch. Activities may include assisting with games in P.E., reading to students, having students read to them, or working on computer software together. Student Partners must be motivated, responsible, and self-disciplined. **Application only.**

## **TECHNICAL THEATRE DESIGN**

Come explore the backstage! We'll be designing and creating the sets, costumes, makeup, and props for the Hill Country Player shows. You'll also learn to use sound, lighting, and media to help enhance the theatre experience. When you've completed Tech Design you will find that with something as small as duct tape you can walk away with a wearable work of art!

## **TEEN SKILLS**

Teen Skills is a hands-on course offered to both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This course equips students with the skills needed for a healthy/successful life. Students learn basic cooking techniques, including the preparation of a variety of foods, principles of good nutrition, food safety and sanitation, meal planning, and consumer skills such as determining the best buy, understanding calories and food labels. Basic hand and machine sewing skills are taught through the construction of clothing and accessories. Students enjoy an introduction to the Elements and Principles of Design in addition to a study of clothing selection and care, fabrics, notions, as well as the importance of making a good first impression. Teen Skills may be taken in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and again in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be a \$10 supply fee for consumables for this class.

## **THEATRE ARTS**

Theatre Arts is the second level of drama. This class is designed to bring out the actor in any middle school student. We'll explore acting techniques, improvisation, and live performances. It's a great way to share your many talents, boost your confidence, and have a great time. Students who take Theatre Arts are also eligible to sign up for HC Players, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade production class.

## **VISUAL ART**

This 7th and 8th grade art studio course concentrates on the art techniques of both two dimensional and three Dimensional art. Students will explore a LARGE variety of ideas and creative expression drawn from the imagination, art history ,art careers, and various cultures. This Visual Art class will take the student from drawing to painting, printmaking, perspective, three-dimensional works, computer graphics, and textiles. New technologies are enthusiastically explored with each project. When creating art, students will rely on their perceptions of the environment to develop an increased visual awareness and sensitivity to their surroundings, memory, imagination, and life experiences. The environment of this class is one of cooperative learning, a high level of creative activity and personal responsibility. The course may be repeated as the curriculum is different each semester, offering a wide range of creative learning. This course develops the skill of making informed judgments and evaluations on works of art. Visual Art is a way of encouraging a creative approach to life necessary for invention and problem solving in a variety of situations. Art teaches creative thinking. Students will be expected to acquire and keep a sketchbook. There will be a \$10.00 supply fee for consumables for this class.



## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **CLASS SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Schedule changes will be considered only for incorrect class placement, instructional needs or to balance class size. A schedule change request should be submitted in writing to the student's grade level counselor. Requests for electives other than those requested as first choice or an alternate will not be considered.

### **READING SEMINAR**

This class is for students who exhibit characteristics associated with dyslexia or reading disability and need small-group, intensive, multi-sensory methods in order to succeed in the areas of reading and writing. The Wilson Language Program is the primary intervention used in this class. Placement in the course should result from the Student Support Team recommendation, dyslexia specialist recommendation or counselor consultation. The student should expect to be enrolled in the program a minimum of one year and may be enrolled for three years if needed. Reading Seminar replaces one of the student's elective choices. This class is not a substitute for an English class.

### **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Students in special education will be placed by an ARD (admission, review, dismissal) committee decision.

### **GIFTED AND TALENTED**

The focus of the GT program is to serve students who have instructional needs due to exceptional potential in both intellectual and creative abilities. If you are new to the district or wish to be considered for the program, a formal assessment is required by EISD. This takes place at the beginning of each year. GT students will be served through the social studies classes in each grade level.

### **P.E. WAIVER**

If students participate in an extensive sports program outside school hours, a waiver may be requested to fulfill the yearly P.E. requirement. A letter from the participating agency and/or coach documenting the information stated below must be attached to the application.

There are two types of waivers granted:

**Category 1:** Student must be participating in a program that leads to Olympic level of participation and/or competition for a minimum of fifteen hours per week of highly intense, professionally supervised training. The student may be dismissed from school one period of the school day.

**Category 2:** The student must be participating in a program that is of high quality, well supervised by appropriately trained instructors, and consisting of a minimum of five hours per school week. Student can receive a P.E. credit, but may **not** leave campus for any portion of the school day and will select an elective to take the place of this required course. The P.E. Waiver application can be found on the HCMS Counselors website. Applications with required documentation should be submitted to Kathleen Sullivan for approval.

**The DEADLINE for P.E. Waiver applications is Aug. 4, 2017 for Fall and Dec. 15, 2017 for Spring.**

**Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.**

Students who participate in HCMS Cheerleading or HCMS Cross-Country qualify for a Category 2 P.E. Waiver.

P.E. Waivers will not be granted mid semester.

**Please note that there must be proof that the hours have been completed to receive credit.**

**HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT COURSES** - All high school credit courses will be reflected on the high school transcript but will not be calculated in the grade point average.