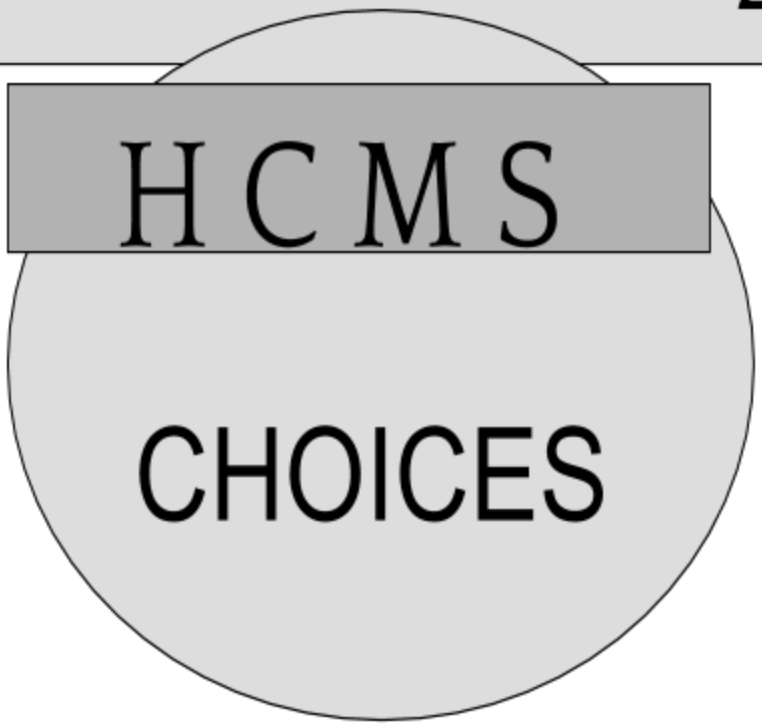
2018-2019 8th Grade



Hill Country Middle School

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Eighth Grade Course Description Guide

All eighth graders must take seven classes per day.

The required courses are:

- English Language Arts 8 or English Language Arts 8 PreAP
- Math
- Science 8 or IPC
- Social Studies/American 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 - Students read and study a variety of fiction and non-fiction, building on an understanding of reading as a process that includes analyzing and comprehending texts. Language study includes vocabulary building and learning about grammar and spelling in context. This course focuses on student writing using Writer's Notebook entries, essays, poetry, short answer responses, and original compositions. Students are exposed to several genres of literature with an emphasis on comprehension and literary analysis. Higher-level critical thinking skills are emphasized throughout the year.

English Language Arts PreAP - The independent learner and motivated student who excels in reading and writing will combine their studies of fiction and nonfiction with their literary analysis and research skills. The class will extend the study of grammar, vocabulary, literary elements, and written composition in a variety of modes, expanding on the English curriculum with a higher level of application. **Extensive** writing is required, encompassing the composition of poetry, essays, short answer responses, Writer's Notebook entries, research reports, and original compositions.

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 7, Math 6/7, Math 7 Pre-AP will be provided an opportunity to "place out" of Math 8. This assessment will be given April 24th. Students new to EANES ISD will be tested in August. For more information, go to HYPERLINK "http://eanesisd.net/departments/cia/district-syllabi/math" \t "_blank"
eanesisd.net/departments/cia/district-syllabi/math

Math 8 - 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.

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 - Prerequisite: Math 8 or Math 8 PreAP 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.

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 8 - This course focuses on earth and space science. This integrated science course is a continuation of content mastered in 6th and 7th grade, and provides the foundational knowledge necessary to be successful in all high school science courses. Students will investigate the atomic theory of matter, the theory of plate tectonics, Newton's laws of motion, theories of the universe, and general ecology. Furthermore, they will examine the cyclical movements within our solar system – its influence on global weather and climate, and its applications in everyday life.

Science 8 PreAP Integrated Physics & Chemistry - Pre-requisite: Concurrent enrollment or completion of Algebra I High school **elective** credit IPC seeks to prepare students for advanced science courses by building a substantial foundation in the concepts of both physics and chemistry through practical lab applications. Theories and concepts are covered in depth and at a rapid pace using an inquiry-based instructional model. Students will often be asked to construct their own scientific understanding based on collaborative laboratory experiences before receiving formal instruction. The nature of the course requires students to develop and apply critical thinking skills, and challenges them to use problem-solving techniques that require the use of higher-level math skills. In addition, students will not receive direct instruction of the 8th grade TEKS. An assessment of the mastery of the TEKS will be used to determine placement of this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

American History - Students will learn about the history of our country from pre-Colombian beginnings to the Reconstruction following the Civil War. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students will describe the physical characteristics of the United States and its impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America will be analyzed, along with the early years of the republic and the origins of the free enterprise system. Students will examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students will evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students will also evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Critical thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual materials will be emphasized.

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 8 - Continuation of 7th grade Chinese with emphasis on all skills: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. This is an academic elective. Satisfactory completion of Chinese 7 and 8 earns one high school credit and allows the student to take Chinese II in the ninth grade. Students must pass each individual semester in order to continue in class. Students must be prepared to devote 15 to 20 to 20 minutes to homework each night.

FRENCH 8 - Continuation of 7th grade French with emphasis on all skills: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. This is an academic elective. Satisfactory completion of French 7 and 8 earns one high school credit and allows the student to take French II in the ninth grade. Students must pass each individual semester in order to continue in class. Students must be prepared to devote 15 to 20 to 20 minutes to homework each night.

LATIN 8 - Continuation of 7th grade Latin with emphasis on grammatical forms and translation skills. This is an academic elective. Students must pass each individual semester in order to continue in class. Students who successfully complete Latin 7 & 8 earn one high school credit and may take Latin II in ninth grade. Students must be prepared to devote 15 to 20 minutes to homework each night.

SPANISH 8 - Continuation of 7th grade Spanish with emphasis on all skills: speaking, listening, writing, and reading. This is an academic elective. Satisfactory completion of Spanish 7 and 8 earns one high school credit and allows the student to take Spanish II in the ninth grade. Students must pass each individual semester in order to continue in class. Students must be prepared to devote 15 to 20 minutes to homework each night.

SPANISH I (in one year) Credit: 1 Grade: 8
This course will be offered for the first time in the 2015-2016 school year. To enroll, the student must be in **PreAP Language Arts and have maintained a 90 average in 7th 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.

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 7th and 8th 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 7th and 8th 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 7th and 8th 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 7th and 8th 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 7th and 8th 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

PLAY PRODUCTION "Hill Country Players"

Play production is a hands-on approach to theatre where students develop a full-scale musical or dramatic production to present to the student body. Building on the basics of theatrical performance such as characterization, stage presence and vocal production, students in Play Production can further their on-stage dramatic skills as well as practice some elements of technical theatre including costume, set, sound and lighting design. Play Production is open to all 8th graders, only**. Auditions required.**

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

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.** Eighth grade football and basketball practice begins in eighth period and continues until 5:00 p.m. 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. Eighth grade teams start practice in eighth period and continue until 5:00 p.m. 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, Flash, In-Design and will include basic HTML used in designing web sites. 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 multi-faceted 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.

INTRODUCTION TO APP DEVELOPMENT

This course is designed to help students build a solid foundation in programming fundamentals using Swift and/or Java as the language. Students will get practical experience with the tools, techniques, and concepts needed to build basic iOS/Android app from scratch. Students will also learn user interface design principles, which are fundamental to programming and making great apps. Prior programming experience is not required for this course. If you have programming experience, you can move through the early lessons quickly as you continue to learn about software development tools, concepts, and best practices that go beyond programming fundamentals. *Pre-Requisite: Computer Animations & Gaming or Computer Graphics & Webdesign or Design & Technology or Robotics I.

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.

HEALTH

The course includes information on decision-making, nutrition, positive life style, human sexuality, drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. Successful completion of this course will give the student the required .5 high school credit. Students must pass an end of the course evaluation. This is an academic elective.

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.

PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION (Speech)

This course is designed to help students learn how to: prepare & deliver outstanding presentations, interact with different types of people, improve image & voice, work in groups efficiently, manage conflicts smoothly, and more. It is an exciting class with many opportunities for partner & group work in a fun, relaxed setting with minimal homework required. This will count as .5 high school elective credit.

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.

Robotics 2:

This STEM course provides students the opportunity to expand their basic knowledge and skills into a competition format. The class is designed to develop deeper understand of syntax based coding and advance building with minor fabrication. This class utilizes Vex EDR hardware. Prerequisites for Robotics 2 are completion of Robotics 1, or prior school club competitions.

STUDENT AIDES

Only 8th grade students may be a teacher, office, library, or counselor aide. Students should be in good standing both academically (passing all courses) and behaviorally to sign up for this class. This is a one semester elective only.
Application only.

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!

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TEEN SKILLS

Teen Skills is a hands-on course offered to both 7th and 8th 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 7th grade and again in the 8th grade. There will be a $15 supply fee for consumables for this 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 $15.00 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.

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. 6, 2018 for Fall and Dec. 14, 2018 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.