

2011-2012

**KELLER ISD**  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE GUIDE**



**Fossil Hill**



**Hillwood**



**Indian Springs**



**Keller**



**Timberview**



**Trinity Springs**

*“Intentionally Exceptional”*



## KELLER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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350 KELLER PARKWAY

KELLER, TEXAS 76248

PHONE: 817-744-1000

FAX: 817-741-3547

Parents and Students,

The information presented in this course guide booklet will assist you in making course selections that will meet your personal needs for the future as well as meet high school graduation requirements. Please take some time to review the information in this booklet before course selections are made for next year.

It is very important to make course selections carefully. Teacher assignments are based on student course requests made in the spring. The school reserves the right to cancel any course if a minimum student requirement is not met or if certified staff is not available to teach the course.

Please feel free to contact the Campus Counseling Center if there are any questions concerning courses, graduation requirements, scheduling, etc. Students are urged to discuss their course choices with their parents prior to course selection. The counseling staff will inform, monitor and advise students and parents regarding graduation requirements, but it is the ultimate responsibility of the student along with parent approval to select courses that are required under the appropriate graduation plan.

Sincerely,

Keller ISD Curriculum and Instruction

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## **ASSURANCE OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

Keller ISD does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sex, or disability in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

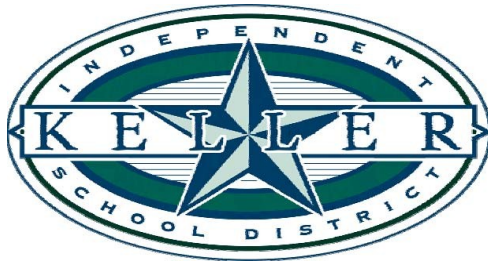
The following district staff members have been designated to coordinate compliance with these legal requirements:

- Title IX Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of sex:  
Penny Benz  
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources  
350 Keller Parkway, Keller, TX 76248  
(817) 744-1000
- Section 504 Coordinator, for concerns regarding discrimination on the basis of disability:  
Deana Lopez  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
350 Keller Parkway, Keller, TX 76248  
(817) 744-1000
- All other concerns regarding discrimination:  
Dr. James Veitenheimer  
Superintendent  
350 Keller Parkway, Keller, TX 76248  
(817) 744-1000

All complaints shall be handled through established channels and procedures beginning with the building principal, followed by appeal to the appropriate central administration contact, and finally the board of trustees, in accordance with Policy FNG.

*If you need the assistance of the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the Department of Education, the address of the OCR Regional Office that covers Texas is:*

*Dallas Office  
Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education  
1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620  
Dallas, TX 75201-6810  
Telephone: (214) 661-9600  
Facsimile: (214) 661-9587  
Email: OCR.Dallas@ed.gov*



## PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

**A Keller Independent School District graduate will be expected to:**

### **Demonstrate success in college or further study and for employment in a global society**

- Initiate independent learning
- Understand world issues and current events
- Understand and use effective learning techniques to acquire and apply knowledge

### **Demonstrate social awareness**

- Develop and maintain positive relationships
- Know and appreciate cultural and linguistic diversity
- Exhibit an appreciation of the arts and humanities
- Commitment to service

### **Exhibit strong personal qualities**

- Identify personal goals
- Demonstrate value of self
- Understand and engage in activities that promote intellectual, physical, and emotional balance
- Demonstrate integrity and take personal responsibility

### **Communicate effectively**

- Express ideas and information confidently and effectively in a variety of modes of communication
- Work in collaboration with others

### **Use technology as a tool**

- Select appropriate tools and procedures
- Use technology to access, analyze, organize, and process information

### **Exhibit critical thinking and problem solving**

- Explore ideas and issues for understanding
- Draw well-reasoned conclusions and solutions
- Analyze and evaluate thinking with a view to improve it



## **Board of Trustees**

Cindy Lotton — President  
Kevin Stevenson — Vice President  
Lara Lee Hogg — Secretary  
Craig Allen — Member  
Wendy Collins — Member  
Melody Kohout — Member  
Jim Stitt — Member

## **Superintendent**

James Veitenheimer

## **Mission Statement**

**The community of Keller ISD will educate our students to achieve their highest standards of performance by engaging them in exceptional opportunities.**

## **Middle School Directory**

### **Fossil Hill Middle School**

3821 Staghorn Circle, Fort Worth 76137  
Phone: 817-744-3050  
Fax: 817-847-6990  
Dustin Blank, Principal  
Virginia Davis, Asst. Principal  
Wes Hamilton, Asst. Principal  
Paul Higgins, Counselor  
Carol Stuart, Counselor  
Janet Thornton, Academic Associate  
Sheryl Borg, Secretary  
Mascot: Wildcat  
School Colors: Black & Gold

### **Hillwood Middle School**

8250 Parkwood Hill Blvd, Fort Worth 76137  
Phone: 817-744-3350  
Fax: 817-581-1810  
Jim Joros, Principal  
Amy Welch, Asst. Principal  
Craig Weston, Asst. Principal  
Debbie Adley, Counselor  
Denise Dulany, Counselor  
Charlie Rodriguez, Academic Associate  
Debbie Thornton, Secretary  
Mascot: Husky  
School Colors: Navy & Gold

### **Indian Springs Middle School**

305 Bursey Road, Keller 76248  
Phone: 817-744-3200  
Fax: 817-431-4432  
Sandy Troudt, Principal  
Shawn Elliott, Asst. Principal  
Brandy Johnson, Asst. Principal  
Cara Britton, Counselor  
Jeannie Mata, Counselor  
Tracy Young, Academic Associate  
Melinda Smith, Secretary  
Mascot: Eagle  
School Colors: Maroon & Gold

### **Keller Middle School**

300 N. College, Keller 76248  
Phone: 817-744-2900  
Fax: 817-337-3512  
Sandra Chapa, Principal  
Paula Cole, Asst. Principal  
Ashlee Ely, Asst. Principal  
Marsha Horder, Counselor  
Michelle Zimmerman, Counselor  
Mary Coker, Academic Associate  
Nancy Gray, Secretary  
Mascot: Comanche  
School Colors: Blue & White

### **Timberview Middle School**

10300 Old Denton Rd., Keller 76244  
Phone: 817-744-2600  
Fax: 817-744-2638  
Carrie Jackson, Principal  
Brett Stamm, Asst. Principal  
Lilia Vasquez, Asst. Principal  
Madeleine Clement, Counselor  
Kristin Lorton, Counselor  
Sydney Bramer, Academic Associate  
Sherry Utchell, Secretary  
Mascot: Hawk  
School Colors: Purple & Gold

### **Trinity Springs Middle School**

3550 Keller-Hicks Rd., Keller 76248  
Phone: 817-744-3500  
Fax: 817-741-6353  
Lindsay Anderson, Principal  
Di Nardo Bazile, Asst. Principal  
Lisa Simmons, Asst. Principal  
Julie Henson, Counselor  
Wes Upton, Counselor  
Tracy Hosek, Academic Associate  
Veronica Rojo, Secretary  
Mascot: Titan  
School Colors: Green & Gold

# Parent and Student Information

## SAVE Committee Process

Keller ISD strives to provide the highest quality education while working to be responsive to students' needs. The participation and commitment of parents and students during registration and scheduling is a major component in reaching this goal. *We ask for your help.*

Master schedules are developed in the spring prior to the upcoming year. Selections during registration determine how many teachers and sections will be needed for a course. The process allows administrators to plan to hire for optimum academic strength.

When students are permitted to randomly change schedules, classes become overcrowded. As a result, all students are affected. Even the most effective planning is compromised. Very seldom does a one course change affect only one course. Careful selections benefit everyone. Thank you for being a crucial part of our educational team as we work together for academic excellence.

### Registration

- Parent and student informational meetings will be held during spring registration.
- Students will be guided through course selection during registration.
- Students who do not submit a registration form will have a schedule arranged for them by their counselor according to their academic needs and/or graduation plan.

### Add/Drop Date

- The first Monday in May for middle school will officially end the opportunity for schedule changes.
- Only schedule changes pertaining to graduation plans and/or computer errors will be addressed during the following school year.
- A student who does not submit a registration form by the add/drop date will not be eligible for a schedule change.

### SAVE Committee Process

- Schedule changes that are requested after the add/drop date and that affect athletics, core, and high school credit classes only will be addressed through the SAVE Committee process.
- Schedule change requests for elective classes will not be considered after the add/drop date.
- After conferencing with the student's teacher, the student and/or parents may make application with the counselor, or designated person, to request a SAVE Committee meeting.
- The SAVE Committee is chaired by the counselor and is composed of the student, the parent/guardian, the teacher whose class the student is requesting to exit, the department chair (if necessary), the assistant principal, and the counselor.

- The SAVE Committee process becomes an option on the first day of the third week of the class. Students have 7 weeks from the first day of the class to request a SAVE meeting.
- Every effort will be made to "save" the student's schedule.

## Middle School Athletics Registration Information

*\* Athletic concerns may always be addressed to the Athletic Director for a final decision. Computer errors will always be promptly addressed at the campus level.*

*\* All parents of students participating in UIL athletics or Fine Arts activities will be required to complete the "Parent Online Substance Abuse Awareness Program" before students may participate.*

At spring registration, sixth grade students will be made aware of the importance of completing the necessary paperwork for entry into seventh grade athletics. Paperwork including physical forms will be distributed and collected through the intermediate school physical education department the first week of April with a due date of the first week of May. A list of students indicating an interest in athletics on their registration form will be maintained by the middle school counseling office manager and shared with the athletic coordinator. At the due date, students with incomplete paperwork will be notified by the middle school athletic coordinators and informed that they will not be in athletics if the paperwork is not complete by the last day of school. A list of students with completed paperwork will be provided to the middle school counseling office manager by the middle school athletic coordinators by the last day of school. After the deadline, students will not be added to athletics except through the SAVE Committee process in the third week of school.

At spring registration, seventh grade students will be made aware of the importance of completing the necessary paperwork for entry into eighth grade athletics. Registration forms must have the appropriate middle school athletic coordinator's signature. A list of students with signed registration forms will be maintained by the middle school counseling office manager and shared with the athletic coordinators. Additionally, medical history forms will be distributed through the physical education department and the athletic coordinators the first week of April with a due date of the first week of May. At the due date, students with incomplete paperwork will be notified by the middle school athletic coordinators and informed that they will not be in athletics if the paperwork is not complete by the last day of school. A list of students with completed paperwork will be provided to the middle school counseling office manager by the middle school athletic coordinators by the last day of school.

## Parent and Student Information

(Athletics continued...)

After the deadline, students will not be added to athletics except through the SAVE Committee process in the third week of school.

Removal of students from athletics for issues of concern will occur at the end of a grading period when possible.

New students will be permitted to enroll in athletics and will follow the 15-day UIL rule for time permitted to obtain a physical.

### Registration

#### High School Credit and GPA:

Courses taken for high school credit while in middle school will count in the student's high school cumulative grade point average.

The attendance law states that students must have 90% attendance in a high school courses in order to receive credit in a given course. During registration parents and students will be made aware that schedule changes outside the subject area after the first ten days of a grading period will result in the need for Saturday school (s) or the equivalent in order to meet the state's attendance law for course credit.

#### Pre-AP and AP Courses:

The Keller Independent School District secondary schools offer students the opportunity to participate in College Board AP and Pre-AP courses so that they may better prepare themselves for college. Because these classes are similar to college level classes, students are challenged to be more disciplined, structured and to perform at a higher academic level.

The AP (Advanced Placement) Program is administered by the College Board of New York. It allows students to participate in college level courses and possibly earn college credit while still attending high school. Secondary schools and colleges cooperate in this program to give students the opportunity to show mastery in college-level courses by taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams in May of each school year.

The Pre-AP Program (available in middle school) is the complementary preparatory program that is designed to provide students with the necessary skills to be successful in AP courses, beginning in 10th grade. In KISD these skills together with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) comprise the syllabi for Pre-AP courses.

#### Fine Arts:

*\* All parents of students participating in UIL athletics or Fine Arts activities will be required to complete the "Parent Online Substance Abuse Awareness Program" before students may participate.*

Band, art, theater, and choir class lists will be submitted to the counseling center office manager by the instructors.

#### Credit Denied Due to Attendance:

Students will be notified in a timely manner by assistant principals that course credit has been denied due to absences. Credit denied for absences may be earned through the last day of the following grading period. (Assistant principals must submit "earned credit" forms to data processing by the third school day after the last earned credit date)

#### Final Exam Make-up Procedure:

Students must contact each teacher whose exam will be missed prior to the absence with the exception of emergencies such as personal illness or the death of a family member. Final exams must be completed within five days of the end of the course. No exams, nine-week or semester, will be given early.

#### Registration of ESL Students:

The person responsible for registration of new students will identify students who enroll and indicate a language other than English on their Home Language Survey form. The student's name must be submitted to the assistant principal who is the chairperson of the campus LPAC committee. Only one language may be selected by the family for entry into PEIMS.

### Definitions

**ELECTIVE** - A course that a student chooses to take, although it is not specifically required.

**PRE-AP** - Pre Advanced Placement classes are higher level, more in-depth classes within a subject area. Successful completion of a Pre-AP level course prepares students for enrollment into high school AP (Advanced Placement) level courses.

**PREREQUISITE** - A requirement that must be met in order to take a specific course.

**REQUIRED COURSE** -A specific course that a student must take and pass to be promoted to the next grade and ultimately to graduate from high school.

**SEMESTER** - An eighteen-week segment of the thirty-six week school year. Two semesters make up the school year on the middle school level.

**SSI** - see page 13 Language Arts & page 13 Mathematics

**TAKS** - (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) The testing program mandated in 1999 by Senate Bill 103 during the 76<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas Legislature.

**TEKS** - (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) The statewide curriculum mandated by the State Board of Education.

# Grade 7



## LANGUAGE ARTS

**Language Arts, Grade 7**  
Course # 0171 PEIMS # 03200540

**Language Arts, Grade 7** instruction emphasizes reading a variety of genres, writing a wide variety of compositions, and integrating research and presentation skills in a two period block of instruction. Students learn grammar, usage, vocabulary, and other English language skills within the context of reading and writing. Integrated multi-cultural literature studies are used as stimuli or models for writing as well as to promote literary analysis skills.

**Pre-AP Language Arts, Grade 7**  
Course # 0172 PEIMS # 03200540

**Pre-AP Language Arts, Grade 7** focuses on written composition, grammar components, and the development of advanced thought processes in a two period block of instruction. Students participate in several independent and group projects. They write for a variety of audiences, in a number of formats, and for varied purposes, including to inform, to persuade, and to entertain. Compositions are emphasized in preparation for TAKS. Throughout the course, students follow the steps of the writing process and utilizing self, peer, and teacher evaluations to revise writing. Students are taught an array of elaboration strategies. Integrated multi-cultural literature studies will also be used as stimuli or models for writing. Improvement in grammar is approached by emphasizing higher level thinking for writing. Instruction includes research and listening skills.

\* See page 8 for Pre-AP course information

**ESL I — Language Arts, Grade 7**  
Course # 4570 PEIMS # 03200400

**ESL I — Language Arts, Grade 7** instruction emphasizes reading a variety of genres, writing a wide variety of compositions, and integrating research and presentation skills in a two period block of instruction. Students learn grammar, usage, vocabulary, and other English language skills within the context of reading and writing. Integrated multi-cultural literature studies are used as stimuli or models for writing as well as to promote literary analysis skills. *English language learners must be tested and/or placed in to the class with LPAC permission.*

## **Reading Styles**

Course # 0670 PEIMS # 03273420

**Reading Styles**, a full-year course, is required for students who are reading below grade level as indicated on most recent TAKS results. Students learn strategies to assist with word identification, word meaning, fluency, and reading for a variety of purposes. Instruction includes summarizing written texts and analyzing information in order to make inferences and generalizations. In preparation for the TAKS test, students practice with informational, functional, and narrative passages. In addition, students work on vocabulary development.



## MATHEMATICS

### **Mathematics, Grade 7**

Course # 0271 PEIMS # 03103000

Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points at Grade 7 are using direct proportional relationships in number, geometry, measurement, and probability; applying addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals, fractions and integers in problem solving situations; and using statistical measures to describe data.

### **Pre-AP Mathematics, Grade 7**

Course # 0273 PEIMS # 03103000

*Only students who have mastered Grade 6 mathematics should consider Pre-AP placement.*

There is a strong expectation that all of the students in a Pre-AP math program are preparing for Advanced Placement Calculus and/or Advanced Placement Statistics.

**Pre-AP Mathematics, Grade 7** compacts and accelerates the content of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade mathematics curriculum with added rigor, depth, global connections, multiple representations (verbal, algebraic, numerical, graphical, physical), and expectations of sophistication in student work.

\* See page 8 for Pre-AP course information

# Grade 7

(Mathematics, Grade 7 continues...)

## Quest , Grade 7

Course # 0680 PEIMS # 84100307

Quest, Grade 7 is designed to help students who have failed to demonstrate proficiency on the mathematics portion of the Grade 6 TAKS.

Quest, Grade 7 focuses on the TEKS-based concepts and skills tested on the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade state assessment. Concepts are presented in a variety of ways, using intervention strategies. Students experience learning at the cognitive rigor mandated by the TEKS and necessary for success on state assessments.

Students enroll in Quest, Grade 7 in addition to Mathematics, Grade 7.



## SCIENCE

### Science, Grade 7

Course # 0371 PEIMS # 03060700

**Science, Grade 7** is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. Students will experience both descriptive and experimental investigations throughout the curriculum.

### Pre-AP Science, Grade 7

Course # 0372 PEIMS # 03060700

**Pre-AP Science, Grade 7** covers the Science, Grade 7 curriculum while encouraging advanced skills, in-depth discussion, more comprehensive lab work and increased independent study. Special projects are assigned during the year, which require individual research on the Internet or at a local library. Some outside projects may be assigned for application assignments and classroom presentations are expected. **Concurrent enrollment in**

**Pre-AP Math, Grade 7 is recommended.**

\* See page 8 for Pre-AP course information



## SOCIAL STUDIES

### Social Studies, Grade 7

Course # 0471 PEIMS # 03343000

Incorporating the eight strands of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, students examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas, including the Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration through

the eras of mission-building, colonization, revolution, republic, and statehood. The focus in each of these eras is on key individuals, events, issues, and their impact. Geography skills are integrated to establish a sense of place and to analyze the factors that caused Texas to change from an agrarian to an urban society, including scientific discoveries and technological innovations. To understand the importance of patriotism, to function in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our state and nation, students study the structure and functions of municipal, county, and state governments, explain the influence of the U.S. Constitution on the Texas Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens.

### Pre-AP Social Studies, Grade 7

Course # 0472 PEIMS # 03343000

**Pre-AP Social Studies, Grade 7** includes the basic understanding of the Social Studies, Grade 7 curriculum with added rigor, depth, global connections, and expectations of sophistication in student work. Please note that there is a strong expectation that all of the students in a Pre-AP social studies program are preparing for Advanced Placement in one or more of the following: World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics, Human Geography, and European History.

**\*See page 8 for Pre-AP course information**



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Two semesters of physical education or one year of athletics is required while in middle school.**

### Athletics

**Boys Athletics:** Football, Basketball, Cross Country, Track, and Tennis

Course # 0970 PEIMS # 03823000

**Girls Athletics:** Volleyball, Basketball, Cross Country, Track, and Tennis

Course # 0870 PEIMS # 03823000

**Athletics** is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in an **extra-curricular activity through competitive sports** with a coach's signature. The Keller ISD middle school athletic program focuses on teaching fundamental skills, building positive self-image, teamwork, goal setting, discipline, and includes a comprehensive off-season program designed to give the young athlete a sturdy foundation for future athletic

## Grade 7

endeavors. Tryouts are given for each sport when necessary. **(Practices are before school and 1<sup>st</sup> period for 7<sup>th</sup> grade athletics and last period and after school for 8<sup>th</sup> grade athletics).** Those athletes whose sport is not in-season participate in an off-season conditioning program. All students enrolled in athletics must participate in at least one sport. Participants must have completed and turned in the UIL athletic participation packet during the spring prior to the upcoming school year.

Each spring, prior to registration, coaches meet with athletes and parents to discuss the Keller ISD athletic program in detail and to answer any questions about competitive athletics, district sport safety guidelines, UIL regulations, registration deadlines, academic requirements, and the athletic code of conduct.

\*See page 7 for information on entry into the athletic program.

### **Aerobics**

Course # 0706 PEIMS # 03823000

Students will learn the fundamental moves and routines used in aerobic exercise programs. Students will design and teach a program of their own to the rest of the class. The class will be designed to improve aerobic capacity to allow them to carry on a normal, healthy lifestyle.

### **Physical Education**

Course # 0705 PEIMS # 03823000

This course is designed to enable students to have a broad base of leisure activities. Emphasis is placed on lifetime activities as well as individual, dual, and team sports. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of physical fitness, history and rules of various sports, wellness behaviors, and proper social conduct. In addition, students will exhibit increased coordination, agility, flexibility, endurance, balance, speed and power.

### **Partner PE**

Course # 0790 PEIMS # 03823000

Partner P.E. is a success oriented physical education course for students with special needs and peer partners. This course can be taken for physical education credit or as an elective. Partner P.E. will enhance the existing academic schedule by offering a class that includes students with disabilities and students without disabilities working together to encourage physical activity while developing respect for one another. This course promotes physical activity, acquisition of indi-

vidual lifetime wellness skills, team sports, and recreational activities while fostering relationships and developing leadership skills in the peer partners. The goals of the Partner P.E. course are (1) to meet the physical education requirement for the students with disabilities in an environment of support and partnership, to increase their social skills, create friendships, and build self-esteem, and (2) to meet the physical education requirement for the students without disabilities, to develop leadership skills, to learn to interact and develop respect and empathy for their peers with disabilities, and to understand from first-hand experience the expectations for careers working with individuals with special needs.

### **Strength Training and Nutrition**

Course # 0707Boys #0708 Girls PEIMS # 03823000

Students will learn the fundamental concepts of weightlifting, conditioning, nutrition and other general health issues. Proper techniques in a generic weight program will be emphasized, as well as an overall body strength needed to participate in an active lifestyle.

### **Tennis (Non- competitive)**

Course # 0709 PEIMS # 03823000

Students will learn the fundamental skills and rules used in regulation tennis. The class is designed to develop skills and an appreciation for the sport. Once interest and fundamental skills have developed, students may want to advance to competition level or play tennis as a lifelong leisure activity.

## **FULL YEAR ELECTIVES**

### **AVID**

Course # 1190 PEIMS # N1290001

An elective course designed for students who are college bound. Students learn strategies to ensure success in rigorous college-preparatory course work. The AVID curriculum focuses on writing, inquiry, collaboration, and inquiry (WICR) through both teacher-led and tutor-led activities. AVID students learn to work cooperatively as a support system for each other and gain confidence in their own abilities while learning to assist their peers. Time management techniques and personal organization and study skills are also developed. (Fossil Hill Middle School only)

### **Band**

Course #1000 PEIMS# 031554101

Students will be instructed on embouchure, instrument position, hand position, posture, breathing, and articulation.

# Grade 7

(Full Year Electives, Grade 7 continues.....)

Students will learn advanced fingering, scales, vibrato, and en-harmonics. Individual practice outside of school hours is expected, and a few outside rehearsals and performances are required.

## **Choir**

Course # 1100 PEIMS# 03154301

Choir has a place for all students who enjoy singing and performing. Students will learn about correct vocal productions, proper stage presence, and music reading. All choirs will perform in concerts and contests. Solo and ensemble contest, UIL organizational contest, and All-Region auditions offer additional performance opportunities for students to participate at a more competitive level. Individual practice outside of school hours is expected, and a few outside choir rehearsals are required. Students will perform many styles of music including, traditional, folk, pop, Broadway, and rock. Choir performance attire required.

## **PALS**

Course # 3700 PEIMS # 85000301

The PALS course offers selected 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school students the opportunity to work in community service, peer and cross-age mentoring, and as trained mediators to assist other students in resolving their conflicts in a peaceful way. PALS students select and design a community service project that can be completed in the classroom with an emphasis on helping the surrounding community. Participants serve as mentors for the campus feeder schools in providing PALS students the opportunity to develop their own talents and communication skills while helping younger students who need an older positive role model, and extra attention at school. The program also provides newly enrolled with a trained student who helps them make the transition to the new campus. The course allows PALS students to work as trained peer mediators by providing 4 to 6 weeks of specialized and ongoing training in conflict mediation. The course is designed to develop leadership, communication, and interpersonal skills in PALS student. PALS student selection involves an application process in which prospective PALS students fill out an application, seek recommendations from current and former teachers, and participate in an interview with PALS trained staff members. The course is offered as a local credit elective on a 36-week schedule.

## **SEMESTER ELECTIVES**

### **Art , Level 1**

Course # 2350 PEIMS # 03503001

This course is for beginning art students, focusing on the elements of design such as line, shape, form, texture, space, value, and color. An introduction to drawing, painting, clay, and art

history will be integrated throughout the semester. Students will learn to communicate through art using a variety of mediums. This class will prepare the student for advanced art class offered at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level.

### **Career Portals– Career Development**

Course# 1294 PEIMS: 12700400

The goal of this course is to create a culture high expectation and continuous improvement that provides middle school students with a foundation for success in high school, future studies, and careers. Students explore college and career planning within specific career cluster(s). The students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment. Students use self-knowledge to explore and set realistic goals.

### **Conversational Spanish**

Course # 2550 PEIMS # 84600001

Students will be introduced to the diversity of the Hispanic culture and provided with real language experiences in listening, reading, speaking and writing. This course is not a prerequisite to Pre-AP Spanish I nor will it guarantee admission into Pre-AP Spanish I for high school credit in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Creative Writing**

Course # 2551 PEIMS # 03221200

This course will provide opportunities for students to enhance writing skills. Creative writing includes poems, plays, science fiction, publishing, literary appreciation and other forms of writing.

### **Speech Communications**

Course # 2552 PEIMS # 03241300

This is an activity-based class that allows students to become better speakers in both formal and informal situations. The students learn to speak in front of a group, interact within a group and improve their research skills. Students will learn skills through organization, practice, delivery, self-evaluations, and technology.

# Grade 8

## Theatre, Level 1

Course # 2570 PEIMS # 03253001

This class is for students who have an interest in learning about all aspects of the theatre, from the basics to technical theatre. Students will have the opportunity to participate in various class activities while learning about various acting styles and methods of production associated with the theatre

## LANGUAGE ARTS

**Student Success Initiative:** Enacted by the 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature (1999), the Student Success Initiative (SSI) mandates new passing requirements to be phased in as follows: beginning in school year 2002-2003 for the reading test at Grade 3, beginning in school year 2004-2005 for the reading tests at Grade 5, and beginning in school year 2007-2008 for the reading test at Grade 8. As specified by these requirements, a student may advance to the next grade level only by passing these tests or by unanimous decision of his or her grade placement committee that the student is likely to perform at grade level after accelerated instruction. The goal of SSI is to support on grade level academic achievement for every student. It is also important that every student understand the Grade 8 reading Standards because many are tested in grades 8 through 11 as a graduation requirement.

## Language Arts, Grade 8

Course # 0181 PEIMS # 03200530

**Language Arts, Grade 8** concentrates on written compositions and grammar components. Instruction includes research skills, literary analysis and writing for purpose. In addition, students are required to meet specific independent reading requirements. Integrated studies and literary elements related to multi-cultural novels, drama selections, short stories and folklore are incorporated into the curriculum.

## Pre-AP Language Arts, Grade 8

Course # 0182 PEIMS # 03200530

**Pre-AP Language Arts, Grade 8** instruction emphasizes literary analysis, research projects and writing for purpose. Students read longer literary selections with special emphasis on classic and modern literature. In addition, students are required to meet specific independent reading requirements. Integrated studies related to multi-cultural novel and drama selections are incorporated into the curriculum. This challenging class prepares students for entering the Pre-Advanced Placement English program at the high school level.  
**\*See page 8 for Pre-AP course information**

## ESL II — Language Arts, Grade 8

Course # 4580 PEIMS # 03200500

**ESL II — Language Arts, Grade 8** — concentrates on written compositions and grammar components. Instruction includes research skills, literacy analysis and writing for purpose. In addition students are required to meet specific independent reading requirements. Integrated studies and literary elements related to multicultural novels, drama selections, short stories and folklore are incorporated into the curriculum. *English language learners must be tested and/or placed in to the class with LPAC permission.*

## Reading Styles

Course # 0671 PEIMS # 03273430

**Reading Styles**, a full-year course, is required for students who are reading below grade level as indicated on most recent TAKS results. Students will learn strategies to assist with word identification, meaning, fluency and reading for varied purposes. Instruction will include summarizing written texts and analyzing information in order to make inferences and generalizations. In preparation for the TAKS test, students practice with informational, functional and narrative passages. In addition, students work on vocabulary development and comprehension.

## MATHEMATICS

**Student Success Initiative:** Enacted by the 76<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in 1999, the Student Success Initiative (SSI) mandates grade advancement requirements. SSI passing requirements apply to the Grade 3 reading test, the Grade 5 reading and mathematics tests, and Grade 8 reading and mathematics tests. As specified by these requirements, a student may advance to the next grade level only by passing these tests or by unanimous decision of his or her grade placement committee that the student is likely to perform at grade level after additional instruction. The goal of the SSI is to ensure that all students receive the instruction and support they need to be academically successful in reading and mathematics.

## Mathematics, Grade 8

Course # 0281 PEIMS # 03103100

Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points at Grade 8 are using basic principles of algebra to analyze and represent both proportional and non-proportional linear relationships and using probability to describe data and make predictions.

## Grade 8

(Mathematics, Grade 8 continued...)

### **Pre-AP Algebra I (High School Credit)**

Course # 0283 PEIMS # 03100500

There is a strong expectation that all of the students in a Pre-AP math program are preparing for Advanced Placement Calculus and/or Advanced Placement Statistics.

Grade 8 Pre-AP Algebra I includes the basic understanding of the Algebra I curriculum with added rigor, depth, global connections, multiple representations (verbal, algebraic, numerical, graphical, physical), and expectations of sophistication in student work. In Pre-AP Algebra I, students build on earlier math experiences, deepening their understanding of relations and functions and expanding their repertoire of familiar linear and quadratic functions, among others. Students learn to combine functions, express functions in equivalent forms, compose functions and find inverses where possible. Pre-AP Algebra I will provide students with insights into mathematical abstraction and structure through the content strands Foundations for Functions, Linear Functions, and Quadratics and other Non-Linear Functions. Grades earned in high school courses taken in middle school are included in the high school GPA and class rank.

**\* Grade 7 and Grade 8 Math TEKS should already have been mastered prior to enrollment in Pre-AP Algebra I. This can be done either by:**

- **Successfully completing Mathematics, Grade 7 and scoring 90 or higher on each Credit By Exam for Grade 8 Math**
- **Successfully completing Pre-AP Mathematics, Grade 7**
- **Scoring 90 or higher on each Credit By Exam for Grade 7 and Grade 8 Math.**

**See your counselor for more information.**

**\* See page 8 for Pre-AP course information**

### **Quest, Grade 8**

Course # 0681 PEIMS # 85000307

Quest is designed to help students who have failed to demonstrate proficiency on the mathematics portion of the Grade 7 TAKS.

Quest, grade 8 focuses on the TEKS-based concepts and skills tested on the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade state assessment. Concepts are presented in a variety of ways, using intervention strategies. Students experience learning at the cognitive rigor mandated by the TEKS and necessary for success on state assessments.

Students enroll in Quest, Grade 8 in addition to Mathematics, Grade 8.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Science, Grade 8**

Course # 0381 PEIMS # 03060800

**Science, Grade 8** is an interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. Students will experience both descriptive and experimental investigations throughout the curriculum.

### **Pre-AP Science, Grade 8**

Course # 0382 PEIMS # 03060800

**Pre-AP Science, Grade 8** covers the **Science, Grade 8** curriculum while encouraging advanced skills, in-depth discussion, more comprehensive lab work and increased independent study. Special projects are assigned during the year, which require individual research on the Internet or at a local library. Classroom presentations are expected. **Concurrent enrollment in Pre-AP Algebra I is recommended.**

**\* See page 8 for Pre-AP course information**



## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Social Studies, Grade 8**

Course # 0481 PEIMS # 03343100

Continuing to build upon the eight strands of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. This course serves as part one of a two year study of U.S. History. The second part, completed during the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, examines U.S. History since Reconstruction to the present.

The historical content of Social Studies, Grade 8 focuses on the political, economic, 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, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in these eras, examine democratic beliefs and principles reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents, identify the origins of the American free enterprise system, and evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Additionally, students examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society.

# Grade 8

## **Pre-AP Social Studies, Grade 8** Course # 0482 PEIMS # 03343100

Pre-AP Social Studies, Grade 8 includes the basic understanding of Social Studies, Grade 8 curriculum with added rigor, depth, global connections, and expectations of sophistication in student work. Please note that there is a strong expectation that all of the students in a Pre-AP social studies program are preparing for Advanced Placement in one or more of the following: World History, U.S. History, Government, Economics, Human Geography, and European History.

- See page 8 for Pre-AP course information



## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Two semesters of physical education or one year of athletics is required while in middle school.**

### **Athletics**

**Boys Athletics:** Football, Basketball, Cross Country, Track, and Tennis

Course # 0980 PEIMS # 03823000

**Girls Athletics:** Volleyball, Basketball, Cross Country, Track, and Tennis

Course # 0880 PEIMS # 03823000

**Athletics** is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students interested in an **extra-curricular activity through competitive sports** with a coach's signature. The Keller ISD middle school athletic

program focuses on teaching fundamental skills, building positive self-image, teamwork, goal setting, discipline, and includes a comprehensive off-season program designed to give the young athlete a sturdy foundation for future athletic endeavors. Tryouts are given for each sport when necessary. **(Practices are before school and 1<sup>st</sup> period for 7<sup>th</sup> grade athletics and last period and after school for 8<sup>th</sup> grade athletics).** Those athletes whose sport is not in-season participate in an off-season conditioning program. All students enrolled in athletics must participate in at least one sport. Participants must have completed and turned in the UIL athletic participation packet during the spring prior to the upcoming school year.

Each spring, prior to registration, coaches meet with athletes and parents to discuss the Keller ISD athletic program in detail and to answer any questions about competitive athletics, district sport safety guidelines, UIL regulations, registration deadlines, academic requirements, and the athletic code of conduct.

\*See page 7 for information on entry into the athletic program

### **Aerobics**

Course # 0706 PEIMS # 03823000

Students will learn the fundamental moves and routines used in aerobic exercise programs. Students will design and teach a program of their own to the rest of the class. The class will be designed to improve aerobic capacity to allow them to carry on a normal, healthy lifestyle

### **Physical Education**

Course # 0705 PEIMS # 03823000

This course is designed to enable students to have a broad base of leisure activities. Emphasis is placed on lifetime activities as well as individual, dual, and team sports. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of physical fitness, history and rules of various sports, wellness behaviors, and proper social conduct. In addition, students will exhibit increased coordination, agility, flexibility, endurance, balance, speed and power.

### **Partner PE**

Course # 0790 PEIMS # 03823000

Partner P.E. is a success oriented physical education course for students with special needs and peer partners. This course can be taken for physical education credit or as an elective. Partner P.E. will enhance the existing academic schedule by offering a class that includes students with disabilities and students without disabilities working together to encourage physical activity while developing respect for one another. This course promotes physical activity, acquisition of individual lifetime wellness skills, team sports, and recreational activities while fostering relationships and developing leadership skills in the peer partners. The goals of the Partner P.E. course are (1) to meet the physical education requirement for the students with disabilities in an environment of support and partnership, to increase their social skills, create friendships, and build self-esteem, and (2) to meet the physical education requirement for the students without disabilities, to develop leadership skills, to learn to interact and develop respect and empathy for their peers with disabilities, and to understand from first-hand experience the expectations for careers working with individuals with special needs.

### **Strength Training and Nutrition**

Course # 0707 Boys #0708 Girls PEIMS # 03823000

Students will learn the fundamental concepts of weightlifting, conditioning, nutrition and other general health issues. Proper techniques in a generic weight program will be emphasized, as well as an overall body strength needed to participate in an active lifestyle.

## Grade 8

(Physical Education, Grade 8 continued...)

### **Tennis (Non- competitive)**

Course # 0709 PEIMS # 03823000

Students will learn the fundamental skills and rules used in regulation tennis. The class is designed to develop skills and an appreciation for the sport. Once interest and fundamental skills have developed, students may want to advance to competition level or play tennis as a lifelong leisure activity.

### **Gateway To Technology — (High School Credit)**

Course # 1293 PEIMS # N1237200

Gateway to Technology (GTT) is a year long elective course which uses a hands-on approach to show students how technology is used in engineering to solve everyday problems, and to expose students to a broad overview of the field of technology and its related processes. The instructional units motivate students to use their imaginations, and teach them to be creative and innovative. This math, science, and technology integrated program relates technology to students' daily lives, while helping them develop skills that will enable them to be better prepared for rigorous academic high school curriculum. Units of study include: Design and Modeling, The Science of Technology, The Magic of Electrons, and Automation and Robotics. Students who successfully complete this course receive high school credit and the course is used in calculating students' high school GPA and class rank

**On grade level math and science enrollment is recommended.**

## **FULL YEAR ELECTIVES**

### **AVID**

Course # 1190 PEIMS# N1290001

An electric course designed for students who are college bound. Students learn strategies to ensure success in rigorous college-preparatory course work. The AVID curriculum focuses on writing, inquiry, collaboration, and inquiry (WICR) through both teacher-led and tutor-led activities. AVID students learn to work cooperatively as a support system for each other and gain confidence in their own abilities while learning to assist their peers. Time management techniques and personal organization and study skills are also developed. (Fossil Hill Middle School Only)

### **Band**

Course # 1000 PEIMS # 03154503

Students will be instructed on embouchure, instrument position, hand position, posture, breathing, and articulation. Students will learn advanced fingering, scales, vibrato, and enharmonics. Individual practice outside of school hours is expected and a few outside rehearsals and performances are required.

### **Choir**

Course # 1100 PEIMS # 03154504

Choir has a place for all students who enjoy singing and performing. Students will learn about correct vocal productions, proper stage presence and music reading. All choirs will perform in concerts and contests. Solo and ensemble contests, UIL organizational contest and All-Region auditions offer additional performance opportunities for students to participate at a more competitive level. Individual practice outside school hours is expected and a few outside choir rehearsals are required. Students will perform many styles of music including: traditional, folk, pop, Broadway, and rock. Choir performance attire required.

### **Journalism/Yearbook**

Course # 1282 PEIMS # 03230100

This course will cover a variety of communication tools such as newspaper and yearbook preparation. Journalism introduces the students to the process involved in the production of a monthly newspaper and yearly memory book. Photography and writing skills will be utilized in this course. The class will design the school yearbook and monthly newspaper. Students will occasionally need to attend after school activities. The students will need to have a good work ethic and be willing to work toward a deadline. Only one class will be offered each year with a maximum of 20 students.

### **Middle School Art Portfolio**

Course # 1295 PEIMS # 84500301

This full year class is intended for students who have a serious interest in studying art. This course will allow students to learn advanced art concepts and explore a variety of art materials. Students complete artwork for Jr. Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE) and Pre-AP portfolio. The students will turn in a portfolio of various artworks including a drawing from observation, a value drawing, and a color drawing to their art teacher during the spring semester.

**Prerequisite:** Art, Level I

Middle School Art Teacher Recommendation

## Grade 8

### **Middle School Theatre Production**

Course # 1281 PEIMS # 84500302

This full year class is intended for students who have a serious interest in studying theatre. The goal for the course is to provide students a variety of performance and production experiences from acting to design. This involves learning lines, following directions and working with a group. Some after school rehearsals may be required.

**Prerequisite:** Theatre, Level I

Middle School Theatre Teacher Recommendation

### **PALS**

A trained student who helps them make the transition to the new campus. The course allows PALS students to work as trained peer mediators by providing 4 to 6 weeks of specialized and ongoing training in conflict mediation. The course is designed to develop leadership, communication and interpersonal skills in PALS student. PALS student selection involves an application process in which prospective PALS students fill out an application, seek recommendations from current and former teachers and participate in an interview with PALS trained staff members. The course is offered as a local credit elective on a 36-week schedule.

### **Pre-AP Spanish I – (High School Credit)**

Course # 1285 PEIMS # 03440100



This course is designed to aggressively initiate the AP student to the overall AP Foreign Language program. Students will develop skills in reading, listening,

writing and speaking and will utilize each of these skills as they are regularly tested in the AP exam format. This course is a rigorous Spanish class and should be taken by students who are anticipating taking the Advanced Placement exam during high school. Students in this course will be expected to complete a high school level of homework, class assignments and be graded using the high school standards. Upon successful completion of this course students will receive high school credit and the course is used in calculating students' high school GPA and class rank.

\* See page 8 for Pre-AP course information

## **SEMESTER ELECTIVES**

### **Academic Pentathlon**

Course # 0580 PEIMS # 85000402

The Academic Pentathlon is an exciting program that encourages academic excellence among students of all ability levels. Participants will study math, literature, essay writing,

science, and social science based on the Academic Pentathlon's current curriculum themes and topics. Students will experience the rigorous challenges which fosters a deep respect for knowledge, cooperation, and self-esteem.

### **Art, Level I**

Course # 2350 PEIMS # 03503001

This course is for beginning art students, focusing on the elements of design such as line, shape, form, texture, space, value and color. An introduction to drawing, painting, clay and art history will be integrated throughout the semester. Students will learn to communicate through art using a variety of mediums.

### **Art, Level II**

Course # 2380 PEIMS # 03503002

This advanced art course includes projects that allow students to further explore drawing, painting, clay, design, fibers and art history. **Prerequisite:** Art, Level I

### **Career Portals– Career Development**

Course# 1294 PEIMS: 12700400

The goal of this course is to create a culture of high expectation and continuous improvement that provides middle school students with a foundation for success in high school, future studies, and careers. Students explore college and career planning within specific career cluster(s). The students research labor market information, learn job-seeking skills, and create documents required for employment. Students use self-knowledge to explore and set realistic goals.

### **Conversational Spanish**

Course # 2550 PEIMS # 84600001

Students will be introduced to the diversity of the Hispanic culture and provided real language experiences in listening, reading, speaking, and writing. This course is not a prerequisite to Pre-AP Spanish I nor will it guarantee admission into Pre-AP Spanish I for high school credit in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Counselor Aide**

Course # 2000 PEIMS # 85000110

This service position requires students who are capable of working independently and following instructions. One important function of the job is to familiarize new students to the middle school. Good communication skills are vital in performing the duties of a counselor aide. Citizenship and academics will be taken into consideration.

## Grade 8 and Special Education

(Semester Electives, Grade 8 continued....)

### **Creative Writing**

Course # 2551 PEIMS # 03221200

This course will provide opportunities for students to enhance writing skills. Creative writing includes poems, plays, science fiction, publishing, literary appreciation, and other forms of writing.

### **Health – (High School Credit)**

Course # 2651 PEIMS # 13011300

Health Education enables each student to develop an understanding of the attitudes and habits that are conducive to healthful living. The Health education class will help students develop skills that will make them health-literate adults. Students will use problem-solving, research, goal-setting and communication skills to protect their health and that of the community. Students who successfully complete this course receive high school credit and the course is used in calculating students' high school GPA and class rank.

### **Library Aide**

Course # 2000 PEIMS # 85000110

The primary responsibilities of library aides include helping at the circulation desk (checking books in and out and assisting students), shelving books, keeping shelves in order and assisting with other library duties. This is a leadership position, which requires trustworthiness, a cheerful attitude, initiative and a sense of responsibility. Citizenship and academics will be taken into consideration.

### **Office Aide**

Course #2000 PEIMS # 85000110

This service position requires students who are dependable, trustworthy, and able to work closely with others and represent the school in a positive manner. The students will assist the office and administrative personnel. Duties include delivering passes, helping with attendance and general office responsibilities. Citizenship and academics will be taken into consideration.

### **Speech Communications**

Course # 2552 PEIMS # 03243630

This is an activity-based class that allows students to become better speakers in both formal and informal situations. The students learn to speak in front of a group, interact within a group and improve their research skills. Students will learn skills through organization, practice, delivery, self-evaluations and technology.

### **Theatre, Level I**

Course # 2570 PEIMS # 03253001

This class is for 7th and 8th grade students who have an interest in learning about all aspects of the theatre, from the basics to technical theatre. Students will have the opportunity to participate in various class activities while learning about various acting styles and methods of production associated with the theatre.

### **Theatre, Level II**

Course # 2581 PEIMS # 03253002

This class builds on the aspects of theatre studied in Theatre, Level I.

**Prerequisite:** Theatre, Level I

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Special education placement and individual course selections are determined by an Admission, Review and Dismissal (ARD) Committee. Placement and course selections are reviewed, at a minimum, on an annual basis. The following is a list of the courses taught by special education teachers. All students will have access to the general curriculum, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The TEKS Curriculum may be accessed through modifications, accommodations and/or prerequisite skills depending on the individual needs of the student.

### **Basic Reading, Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 4030 / 4031 PEIMS #9MS00001

Basic Reading is a modified TEKS curriculum designed to address the individual learning of special need students which focuses on basic reading skills derived from the student's IEP (Individual Education Plan) goals, objectives and based on TEKS. **Prerequisite:** ARD decision

### **Basic English, Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 4040 / 4041 PEIMS: 9MS00002

Basic English is a modified TEKS curriculum designed to address the individual learning of special need students which focuses on basic English skills derived from the student's IEP (Individual Education Plan) goals, objectives and based on TEKS.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

# Special Education

## **Basic Mathematics, Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 4010 / 4011 PEIMS: 9MS00003

Basic Math is a modified TEKS curriculum designed to reinforce math operations using a variety of practical, real life situations that facilitate the understanding of using mathematics in daily living exercises. This course focuses on the basic math skills derived from the student's IEP (Individual Education Plan) goals, objectives and based on TEKS.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

## **Basic Reading Styles, Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 4050 / 4051 PEIMS: 9MS00004

Basic Reading Styles, a full-year course, is required for students who are reading below grade level as indicated by the ARD committee decision derived from the student's IEP. Students learn strategies to assist with word identification, word meaning, fluency, and reading for a variety of purposes. Instruction includes summarizing written texts and analyzing information in order to make inferences and generalizations. Students practice with informational, functional, and narrative passages. In addition, students work on vocabulary development.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

## **Basic Math Quest, Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 4060 / 4061 PEIMS: 9MS00005

Basic Math Quest, a full-year course, is required for students who are below grade level in math as indicated by the ARD committee decision derived from the student's IEP. Students learn strategies to assist with place value, math facts, patterns, probability, word problems, measurement, and geometry.

Instruction targets student specific areas of remediation.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

## **LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

### **Communications (English), Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 6005 PEIMS # 91MS0005

Communications will assist students in developing skills in the areas of expressive, receptive, written and representations of language. Attention is given to the ability to communicate effectively, within the range of student's abilities. Students will integrate language in order to understand oral, written and or symbolic communication. Oral and written language will be used to express ideas, demands and needs and to make inquiries. Communication will be examined in regards to social appropriateness, environmental cues and, prompts, understanding generalizations in real life context, the responsibilities of independent living and skills related directly to employment.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

**Communication 7:** Course work will focus on expressive receptive language in oral and written communication.

**Communication 8:** Course work will focus on expansion of language skills and basic written formal communication.

### **Consumer Economics (Mathematics), Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 6030 PEIMS # 91MS0007

These courses are designed to reinforce math operations using a variety of practical, real life situations that facilitate the understanding of using mathematics in daily living exercises. Emphasis is on applying mathematics in the use of money, personal financial situations and solving home and work problems by using the concepts of fundamental mathematics. Students practice these strategies within the context of simulation designed to reinforce the understanding of basic operations, as well as the application of these operations within technological tools that enhance understanding and accuracy.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

**Consumer Economics 7:** Instruction will focus on consumer awareness of basic math skills and how it relates to community and independent needs.

**Consumer Economics 8:** Instruction will focus on consumer application in the use of money, problem solving and fundamental skills.

## Special Education

### **Personal/Social Skills (Science), Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 6040 PEIMS # 92MS0003

Personal/Social Skills courses study science-based concepts that are related specifically to independent daily living and employment. Attention is given to relation of science to home and job practices that foster the understanding of student's roles and responsibilities in the care and operation of both facilities.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

**Personal/Social Skills 7:** Science related to home, school and community will be investigated through the use of activity based studies.

**Personal/Social Skills 8:** Science related to home and independent living will be investigated through the use of activity based studies

### **Community Citizenship (Social Studies), Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 6020 PEIMS # 925MS006

Community Citizenship courses will enable the student to define their rights, privileges and responsibilities within the school, community and employment settings. Concepts include voting, laws and consequences of unlawful behavior, honesty, integrity, community volunteerism, rules and regulations. Students are instructed on how to be productive and safe in a variety of community situations including employment. Students will become familiar with the basic concepts of personal responsibility related to employability and being a productive, contributing member of a business, community and/or organization. History studies will provide a survey of the history and development of our world's areas and cultures with emphasis on social, cultural, economic and political developments of the United States of America.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

**Citizenship 7:** Instruction will focus on the student's home and school. Map skills will be introduced and developed through the use of a variety of activities.

**Citizenship 8:** Instruction will focus on the student's community and state with emphasis on laws affecting personal safety and behavior.

### **Applied Arts, Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 6045 PEIMS # 935MS001

The Applied Arts course will introduce to the student the basic skills and concepts which will enable the student to explore life around them in new ways. Through the applied arts, the students will increase their problem-solving skills, sharpen their communication skills and participate in cooperative learning activities.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

### **Life Skills Electives**

#### **Activities for Daily Living, Grade 7 & 8**

Course # 6040 PEIMS # 95MS0001

This course is developed to integrate the domestic, recreation, leisure, school and community domains. Students investigate through activity based sessions, a variety of activities associated with the daily living experience. Organizing a daily routine and schedule will serve the students in their process of taking charge of independent living. Students will study areas of cooking, safety, leisure, chores, duties, responsibilities, budget, time management, first-aid and communication. Personal safety and responsibility will be examined in response for taking care of one's self, others and/or pets. Health care, transportation, telephone skills and appropriate recreation activities are addressed in the context of developing a full capacity living experience. Students will develop strategies to respond to potential emergencies that may appear in the process of daily living.

**Prerequisite:** ARD decision

## Schedule Planning Grid

### Grade 7 Fall Semester

Language Arts, Grade 7
Language Arts, Grade 7
Mathematics, Grade 7
Science, Grade 7
Social Studies, Grade 7
(Physical Education) _____
(Elective) _____

### Grade 7 Spring Semester

Language Arts, Grade 7
Language Arts, Grade 7
Mathematics, Grade 7
Science, Grade 7
Social Studies, Grade 7
(Physical Education) _____
(Elective) _____

### Grade 8 Fall Semester

Language Arts, Grade 8
Mathematics, Grade 8
Science, Grade 8
Social Studies, Grade 8
(Elective) _____
(Elective) _____
(Elective) _____

### Grade 8 Spring Semester

Language Arts, Grade 8
Mathematics, Grade 8
Science, Grade 8
Social Studies, Grade 8
(Elective) _____
(Elective) _____
(Elective) _____

### Important reminders for both grade 7 and grade 8

- Two semesters of physical education or one year of athletics is required while in middle school.
- Additional courses of Reading Styles and/or Math Quest will be required if TAKS scores indicate. The student's schedule will be changed to meet this requirement.