



# EIGHTH GRADE COURSE CATALOG

Lois & Jerry Tarkanian Middle School  
2023-2024 School Year

## Required Core Classes

### PRE-ALGEBRA 8

This one-year course is designed to focus on three critical areas: 1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; 2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and 3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness, including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the mathematics requirement for eighth-grade students.

### ALGEBRA I

This one-year course provides students with the necessary knowledge and skills for further studies in mathematics. It is intended to increase mathematical fluency in problem solving, reasoning, modeling, and effective communication in the study of number, algebra, functions, and statistics. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The use of technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the Algebra I requirement and one of the mathematics credits required for high school graduation.

### GEOMETRY HONORS

This one-year course provides students with a rigorous study of Euclidean geometry including advanced topics. It incorporates problem solving, reasoning, modeling, and effective communication in the study of transformational geometry, trigonometry, measurement, and probability. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The use of mathematical tools and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills one of the mathematics credits required for high school graduation.

### ENGLISH 8

This one-year course provides instruction in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Common Core State Standards as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This course is designed to build on knowledge and skills through close reading of texts, learning combining elements of different kinds of writing in support of analysis and reflection, and class discussions. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the eighth grade English requirement.

### ENGLISH ACCELERATED 8

This one-year course provides instruction

in the English Language Arts strands identified by the Common Core State Standards as reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. This course is designated as accelerated by the enhanced instructional pacing and depth of content. This course is designed to build on knowledge and skills through close reading of texts, learning combining elements of different kinds of writing in support of analysis and reflection, and class discussions. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the eighth grade English requirement.

### SCIENCE 8

This one-year course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas from life sciences, Earth and space sciences, and the physical sciences. The topics covered in Science 8 include Forces and Interactions; Energy; Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation; Space System; Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms; Natural Selection and Adaptations; and Engineering Design. Demonstrations and lab experiences that employ proper safety techniques are essential to this course. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the eighth-grade science requirement.

### SCIENCE ACCELERATED 8

This one-year course is designed to integrate science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas from life sciences, Earth and space sciences, and the physical sciences. This course is designated as accelerated by the enhanced instructional pacing and depth of content. The topics covered in Science 8 Accelerated include Forces and Interactions; Energy; Waves and Electromagnetic Radiation; Space System; Growth, Development, and Reproduction of Organisms; Natural Selection and Adaptations; and Engineering Design. Demonstrations and lab experiences that employ proper safety techniques are essential to this course. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the eighth-grade science requirement.



### HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 8

This one-year course examines the development of the Eastern Hemisphere with an emphasis on global studies. Using appropriate technology, students develop an understanding of current world issues and

relate them to geographical, historical, political, economic, and cultural contexts. Students will develop, research, and answer compelling questions using various and cross-disciplinary source material. Students will construct organized arguments for various audiences and purposes using researched evidence and reasoning. Students will participate in rigorous academic discussions, emphasizing multiple viewpoints in which claims and evidence are acknowledged and critiqued. Students will take action on local, regional and global problems at various times and places. This course fulfills the eighth-grade social studies requirement.

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### PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8\*

This one-semester course focuses on the physical, mental, social, and emotional development of students in cooperative and competitive settings. Students develop psychomotor skills and engage in movement and lifetime fitness activities at moderate to vigorous levels for a minimum of 50% of the instructional time. Students participate in movement experiences found in team, individual, and dual sports; dance/rhythms; and lifetime recreational activities. Health and skill-related fitness concepts are explored through personal goal setting and self-evaluation. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the physical education requirement for eighth-grade students.

### HEALTH 8

This one-semester course provides students an introduction to the mental, physical, social, emotional, and environmental aspects of human wellness. Goal setting and decision making processes are the foundation of this course. Topics include wellness, nutrition and physical activity, body systems, substance use and abuse, communicable and non-communicable diseases, violence prevention, safety, and consumer health. Sex education and sexually transmitted infectious disease education, within established guidelines, is an integral part of this course. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to our society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course fulfills the health requirement for eighth-grade students.

## Elective Choices

Final curriculum and elective offerings will depend upon staffing and pupil enrollment at Tarkanian MS. Students are required to designate first, second, and third choices for electives. Students are not guaranteed an elective choice; however, every effort will be made to assign them to their first choice. Students will be required to remain enrolled in their assigned elective for the entire school year.

### BEGINNING BAND\*

This one-year course is designed for any middle school student who desires to develop the ability to play a brass, wind or percussion instrument. The course involves applying the basic fundamentals of music reading to the particular technique of the instrument being studied. The course may be repeated and is considered a preparatory course for progression into Intermediate and Advanced Band. A limited number of instruments are available for loan through the school. Students are responsible for providing those instruments not available through the school. Students in band will be required to pay fees for uniforms and student workbooks. Students who use school-owned instruments must also pay a cleaning fee when checking the instrument out and pay for all repairs before returning the instrument. Beginning band classes will be divided into brass, woodwind, and percussion sections. Performances outside of the school day are mandatory.

### INTERMEDIATE BAND\*

This one-year course is designed for students who have achieved beyond the beginning band level. It includes guidance and direction in solving psychomotor problems relating to instruments and the techniques for producing and evaluating pitch, tone, rhythmic patterns, and dynamic levels within a variety of musical styles. The importance of sustained effort and practice is stressed for technical proficiency. This course may be repeated. A limited number of instruments are available for loan through the school. Students are responsible for providing those instruments not available through the school. Students in band will be required to pay fees for uniforms and student workbooks. Students who use school-owned instruments must also pay a cleaning fee when checking the instrument out and pay for all repairs before returning the instrument. Performances outside of the school day are mandatory.

### ADVANCED BAND\*

This one-year course is designed for students who have achieved beyond the intermediate band level. It includes guidance and direction in solving psychomotor problems relating to instruments and the techniques for producing and evaluating pitch, tone, rhythmic patterns, and dynamic levels within a variety of musical styles. The importance of sustained effort and practice is stressed for technical proficiency. This course may be repeated. A limited number of instruments are available for loan through the school. Students are responsible for providing those instruments not available through the school. Students in band will be required to pay fees for uniforms and student workbooks. Students who use school-owned instruments must also pay a cleaning fee when checking the instrument out and pay for all repairs before returning the instrument. Teacher recommendation is required and performances outside of the school day are mandatory. The student may be asked to pass an audition by the director.

### **BEGINNING CHORUS\***

This one-year course is designed as a study in vocal production of music fundamentals with opportunities to sing a variety of choral literature. Emphasis will be placed on providing each student with an array of performance experiences. This is an elective course for seventh and eighth grade students. Students will be required to pay uniform fees. Performances outside of the school day are mandatory.

### **INTERMEDIATE CHORUS\***

This one-year course is designed as a study in vocal production of music fundamentals with opportunities to sing a variety of choral literature. Emphasis will be placed on providing each student with an array of performance experiences. This is an elective course for seventh and eighth grade ladies having the desire and interest to sing in a choral group. Students will be required to pay uniform fees. Performances outside of the school day are mandatory.

### **ADVANCED CHORUS\***

This one-year course is designed as a study in vocal production of music fundamentals with opportunities to sing a variety of choral literature. Emphasis will be placed on providing each student with an array of performance experiences. Students will be required to pay uniform fees. Teacher recommendation is required and performances outside of the school day are mandatory. The student may be asked to pass an audition by the director.

### **BEGINNING ORCHESTRA\***

This one-year course is designed for the student who is interested in learning to play a string instrument. It includes the development of skills necessary to become independent as a musician. This course emphasizes the place of string music in the Western musical heritage. It concentrates on the development of note-reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, and tonality inherent to Western string music. The importance of sustained group and individual effort is stressed. A progression of fundamental and technical proficiency is expected. Emphasis will be placed on having a variety of performing experiences. This is an elective course that may be repeated. A limited number of instruments are available for loan through the school. Students are responsible for providing those instruments not available through the school. Students in orchestra will be required to pay fees for uniforms and student workbooks. Students who use school-owned instruments must also pay a cleaning fee when checking the instrument out and pay for all repairs before returning the instrument. Performances outside of the school day are mandatory.



### **INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA\***

This one-year course is designed for the student who has developed skills beyond those outlined in the Beginning Strings Orchestra Procedural Guide. It includes further development of those skills necessary to become independent as a musician. This course emphasizes the place of string music in the Western musical heritage. It concentrates on the development of style, articulation, dynamics, rhythmic ability, and tone inherent to string music performance. The importance of sustained group and individual effort is stressed. A progression of technical proficiency is expected. Emphasis will be placed on having a variety of performing experiences. This course may be repeated. A limited number of instruments are available for loan through the school. Students are responsible for providing those instruments not available through the school. Students in orchestra will be required to pay fees for uniforms and student workbooks. Students who use school-owned instruments

must also pay a cleaning fee when checking the instrument out and pay for all repairs before returning the instrument. Performances outside of the school day are mandatory.

### **ADVANCED ORCHESTRA\***

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### **EXPLORATIONS**

This one year course will be separated into nine week rotations. Course focus may include poetry, creative writing, STEM basics, art, and math games. Course focus is subject to change based on staff availability and funding.

### **LEADERSHIP**

This one-year course will provide middle school students with the opportunity to develop leadership skills. Time will be used in and out of class for students to implement projects associated with their responsibilities. The goals of this class are to develop and demonstrate effective communication skills, increase the student's understanding of group processes, gain an understanding of managerial skills needed to plan and implement projects, increase understanding and awareness of self and one's abilities, develop skills in problem solving and develop an understanding of the importance of promoting a positive school and community climate. This course requires a minimum grade point average and satisfactory citizenship.

### **PUBLICATIONS – YEARBOOK**

This one-year course is an introduction to journalism and layout design. Concepts of journalism are applied through publication of the school newspaper and yearbook. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology and digital media are integral parts of this course. This is an elective course for eighth-grade students. This course requires a minimum grade point average and satisfactory citizenship.

### **INTERMEDIATE ART\***

This one-year course is for students who have successfully completed beginning art, and will expand skills in visual art techniques through a variety of media and subject matter. Various styles, artists and historical periods will be investigated and demonstrated. Students will continue to develop problem solving skills, creativity and originality through art making and discussion. Students will apply knowledge of principles and practices of aesthetics and critique. Through collaboration and production, connections will be made between visual art and disciplines outside of the arts. Instructional practices will incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation for all

cultures and their important contribution to our society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course will fulfill one elective credit.



### **ADVANCED ART**

This one-year course is for students who have successfully completed beginning and intermediate art and will apply advanced skills in visual art techniques through an expanded variety of media and subject matter. Diverse styles, artists and historical periods will be analyzed and incorporated into production. Students will implement creativity, originality and innovation through problem solving and art making. Students will demonstrate an extended knowledge of aesthetics and will effectively critique their own work and the artwork of others. Through collaboration and production, connections will be made between visual art and disciplines outside of the arts. Instructional practices will incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation for all cultures and their important contribution to our society. The appropriate use of technology is an integral part of this course. This course will fulfill one elective credit.

### **STUDENT AIDE 8**

This one-year course offers eighth grade students an opportunity to be a student aide for either a classroom teacher or for the main office. As a classroom aide, the student will be assisting teachers with various duties such as filing, creating bulletin boards, running errands, etc. As an office aide, the student will be assisting in a designated office by greeting adult visitors, conducting tours, using copy machines, working effectively with fellow employees and proper office etiquette. Good attendance, discipline record, citizenship, and at least a 2.5 GPA as well as teacher recommendations are required for this course.

### **STUDIO PRODUCTION**

This one-year course is designed for the study and practice of the basic elements of broadcasting technology, with a major emphasis on script writing, video recording and editing, and publication of news and other information through television and/or radio. This class may be performance-based, requiring the production of a video yearbook, morning announcements, or student-teacher created videos. This course requires a minimum grade point average and satisfactory citizenship.

Please be advised that any student who is not making adequate academic progress may be placed in Fundamentals of Reading and Writing or Fundamentals of Math as their elective class.

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF READING AND WRITING**

This one-year, one- or two-period intervention course is designed for students who need additional instruction and support to master grade-level reading and writing skills and concepts. This course provides additional instruction in conjunction with the student's required reading and English course(s) of study in grades 6, 7, and/or 8. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The appropriate use of technology and digital media are integral parts of this course. This course is a repeatable elective and does not fulfill the middle school English or reading requirement for promotion.

### **FUNDAMENTALS OF MATHEMATICS**

This one-year intervention course in mathematics is designed for students who need additional instruction and support to master necessary middle school mathematics concepts. This course provides additional instruction in conjunction with the student's required mathematics course of study in grades 6, 7, and/or 8. Instructional practices incorporate integration of diversity awareness including appreciation of all cultures and their important contributions to society. The use of manipulatives, mathematical tools, and technology, including calculators and computer software, is an integral part of this course. This course is a repeatable elective course and does not fulfill the middle school mathematics requirement for promotion.

#### **Registration Fees**

The starred (\*) courses have fees associated with their programs.

#### **Registration Fees:**

Intermediate Art - \$40  
All Chorus Classes - \$40  
All Band Classes - \$40  
All Orchestra Classes - \$40  
Physical Education Uniform - \$20  
Physical Education Lock - \$5