

Sunset Ridge Middle School

Eighth Grade Course Descriptions

2012-13

\$ - School Fees, rentals, and/or supplies may be required.

Required Classes

8th Grade Core

Integrated Science 8

Eighth Grade Integrated Science focuses on the theme of "change." Physical, earth, and life science contents are integrated in a core curriculum. The standards to be taught relate to observations of chemical and physical change, changes in biological energy, forces, energy and motion, constructing machines, and changes in the Earth's crust and climate.

Language Arts 8

This course is designed to emphasize reading comprehension, writing, and methods of inquiry as found in the core. The course will focus on the processes, skills, and strategies for effective communication in all its forms.

U.S. History 8

This course covers events and issues from the Age of Exploration through post Civil War Reconstruction and the Westward movement, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to exploration, colonization, the Revolutionary War, Constitutional issues, nation building, the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Westward movement.

Physical Education

Fitness 8/Health

This is a physical education course with emphasis on skills, knowledge and participation in a variety of team sports, conditioning and recreational activities. This course develops the skills needed to improve the quality of life by helping students to cope with and solve problems, develop positive self-image, and make better decisions. The students will explore positive life styles, disease prevention, emergency procedures, media literacy, and alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

World Languages and Reading

French 1 - Determined by SRI score

This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The course content includes vocabulary for classroom and school subjects, foods, clothing, telling time, reading the calendar, weather, seasons, modes of transportation, and common locations. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Spanish 1 -Determined by SRI score

This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The course content includes vocabulary for classroom and school subjects, foods, clothing, telling time, reading the calendar, weather, seasons, modes of transportation, and common locations. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Reading 8 – Determined by SRI score

This course is designed to emphasize reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills. This course will focus on reading strategies that will assist grade-level readers with literary, informational, and functional texts.

Math – Placement is determined by current Math teacher recommendation

8th Grade Mathematics

In 8th Grade Mathematics students will focus on 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; grasping the concepts of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean theorem.

8th Grade Mathematics Honors

In 8th Grade Mathematics Honors students will focus on 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; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. The Honors course includes extra depth and additional topics.

Secondary Mathematics 1 Honors

Students in Secondary Mathematics 1 Honors will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomenon, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas are tied together. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes sense of problem situations. Honors students will represent quantities, model, and perform operations using vectors and use matrices to perform operations and solve problems.

Elective Classes – Full Year

Music

Orchestra 1

This class is for students who would like to learn to play a violin, viola, cello, or string bass. No experience necessary. Practice outside of class time and instrument required. If available, violas, cellos, and basses may be rented from the school at a nominal fee. \$

Orchestra 2

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

This is an intermediate-level orchestra class focusing on intermediate-level literature for orchestra. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required. \$

Falcon Symphony/Orchestra 3

Prerequisite: Instructor approval (Audition and/or interview possible)

This is an orchestra class focusing on advanced-level literature for orchestra. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required. \$

Band 1 Woodwinds

This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn the saxophone, flute, or clarinet. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required. \$

Band 1 Brass

This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn the cornet, trumpet, euphonium, horn, trombone, or tuba. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required. \$

Band 1 Percussion

This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn the drums, mallet keyboard instruments, and other percussion-related instruments. Practice outside of class time is required. \$

Concert Band

Prerequisite: Audition/Interview

This is an intermediate level band course that encourages increased technical and expressive musical proficiency through performance and study of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required. \$

Choir 1 Soprano/Alto

This is a vocal music course open to all students with soprano or alto vocal ranges. Two, three or four-part music is performed at various concerts. Primary consideration is given to part-singing, good vocal production, and rudiments of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade.

Choir 2 Mixed

This is a vocal music course open to all students which covers three and four-part music and review of singing fundamentals. Approval of the instructor may be required. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade.

Concert Choir

Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor approval

An advanced vocal music group designed for advanced choral literature and techniques of singing. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. \$

World Languages

French 1

This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The course content includes vocabulary for classroom and school subjects, foods, clothing, telling time, reading the calendar, weather, seasons, modes of transportation, and common locations. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Spanish 1

This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The course content includes vocabulary for classroom and school subjects, foods, clothing, telling time, reading the calendar, weather, seasons, modes of transportation, and common locations. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Reading 8 H

Prerequisite: Instructor approval

This course is designed for students who qualify for more advanced instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills. This course will focus on reading strategies that will assist above grade-level readers with literary, informational, and functional texts.

Elective Classes - Semester

Fine Arts

Art Foundations 1

Art Foundations 1 provides an overview of visual arts while studying a broad variety of art tools and materials. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics.

Ceramics 1

Ceramics develops basic skills in the creation of 3-D forms and pottery from clay. Techniques in hand building, wheel throwing, basic glazing, and firing are taught. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. \$

3-D Design 1

Prerequisite: Art Foundations 1, or Instructor approval

3-D Design provides an overview and introduction to fine crafts, their media, and the cultures they represent. Students will work with mixed media (macramé, batik, hooking, soft sculpture, wood carving, stained-glass, etc.) to create art objects that have a utilitarian purpose. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills and art-related technology skills with an emphasis on studio production. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. \$

Drawing 1

Drawing focuses on black and white or monochromatic rendering from life, pictures, masterworks, and imagination. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking and art-related technology skills with an emphasis on studio production. Some experiences in art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. \$

Painting 1

Painting 1 includes wet and dry color media with processes such as transparent and opaque painting focusing on the properties of color. Techniques with color media mixing and application will be covered. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills and art-related technology skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. \$

Guitar 1

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a guitar. Emphasis will be placed on: playing position, tone production, fundamental technique, simultaneous playing and singing, reading music, and composing songs/lyrics. Knowledge and skills will include experiences in singing, playing, listening, and connecting to cultures. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required. \$

Choir 1 Soprano/Alto

This is a vocal music course open to all students with soprano or alto vocal ranges. Two, three or four-part music is performed at various concerts. Primary consideration is given to part-singing, good vocal production, and rudiments of music. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade.

Concert Choir

Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor approval

An advanced vocal music group designed for advanced choral literature and techniques of singing. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirement and constitute a portion of the grade. \$

Beginning Theatre

This is an introductory course in theatre with an emphasis on performance. No previous experience is necessary. The course will include pantomime, improvisation, mono acts, characterization, and scenes from plays, play reading, and work with voice projection and diction.

Dance 1

This course offers basic dance techniques, fitness fundamentals, movement qualities, and rhythm with an emphasis on creativity, sequencing, and problem solving. \$

Dance 2

Prerequisite: Dance 1 or Instructor approval

A course designed to develop dance techniques, flexibility, and coordination, with an emphasis on creativity and artistic composition. \$

Career and Technical Education

Exploring Technology

Exploring Technology is an action-based course that introduces students to the technological systems of two or more of the following areas: energy-power technologies, information and communications technologies, transportation technologies, manufacturing technologies, and construction technologies. The course is designed around exploration in cooperative and individualized activities rather than project and skill development. (Local schools can determine the areas of emphasis from the above curricula where multiple sections may be offered.) \$

FACS Exploration

This Family and Consumer Science course provides students with essential life skills. The course allows students to develop skills in two or more of the following areas: food and nutrition, childcare and safety, interior design and care of a home, clothing construction and style, consumerism, family relationships, personal responsibility, and job-related skills. (Local schools can determine the areas of emphasis from the above curricula where multiple sections may be offered.) \$

Math Elective

Mathematics Lab

This is a course designed to give students additional time to study mathematical concepts.

Students will be taking this course based on their CRT score and teacher recommendation.

Misc. Electives

Aide Teacher

This is a full year or semester course that offers students a unique experience working with teachers. This position provides an opportunity to observe and model an adult at work. It provides a wide range of learning opportunities in areas such as life skills, human development, and career exploration. Teacher aides experience the opportunity to practice reliable citizenship and social skills as they interact with peers, school staff and the general public.

- Student must have at least a 2.5 GPA with no Ns or Us

Study Skills

This course is a course in which students learn and apply social and academic skills and strategies. This class may cover the following areas: Organization, time management, stress management, reading strategies, test taking strategies, study strategies, note taking, academic tracking, team work, communication and goal setting, learning and interest assessments.