

Sunset Ridge Middle School

Eighth Grade Course Descriptions

2018-2019

\$ - 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.

U.S. History 8

United States History 1 includes events and issues in United States history from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics include, but are not limited to, American Indian life, European exploration and colonization, the Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, expansion, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. The standards can be taught either chronologically or thematically, but are organized into chronological periods. Periodization is an organizational tool historians use to make connections and draw distinctions. Periods are flexible ways of making meaning, and may overlap chronologically. Students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of each period’s key historic, geographic, economic, and civic concepts by applying those concepts to complete cognitively rigorous tasks. Whenever possible, students will be expected to make connections between historically significant events and current issues, helping to deepen their understanding of the context and complexity of civic life and preparing them for civic engagement.

Language Arts 8

This course, based on the 8th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for grade-level instruction reading comprehension, writing, methods of inquiry, and the processes, skills, and strategies for effective communication.

Physical Education

Intermediate Team Sports (Fitness 8)

This is a physical education course allowing students to continue participating in a variety of instructional physical activities. Experiences increase complexity in content, concept and skill development for a broad spectrum of activities. Students continue to practice skills in modified games, but increasingly participate in activities that are regulation games with more complex playing environments. This class incorporates more in-depth instruction training principles that can enhance health-related fitness as students progress in achieving personal fitness goals.

Health

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 healthy decisions. The students will explore positive lifestyles, disease prevention, emergency procedures, media literacy, and alcohol and drug abuse prevention.

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 such as: 3-D graphing and graph theory, fair division and apportionment, sets, and voting theory.

Secondary Mathematics 1 Honors

Students in Secondary Mathematics 1 Honors will deepen and extend their 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 their 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

Band 1 Woodwinds

This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the flute, oboe, clarinet or saxophone. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. An instrument is required. If available, an oboe or tenor saxophone may be rented at the school for a nominal fee. \$

Band 1 Brass

This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the cornet, trumpet, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, trombone, or tuba. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. An instrument is required. If available, a French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee. \$

Band 1 Percussion

This is a beginning band class offered for students who wish to learn to play the drums, mallet keyboard instruments, and other percussion-related instruments. Practice outside of class time and performances are part of this course. Drum sticks are required. A drum kit or mallets may also be required as per teacher request. \$

Band 2 – Concert (Concert Band)

Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor approval

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 an instrument is required. If available, an oboe, bass clarinet, bassoon, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, French horn, baritone horn, euphonium, or tuba may be rented at the school for a nominal fee. \$

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 performances are part of this course. Instruments are required. If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee. \$

Orchestra 2 - (Symphonic Orchestra)

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 requirements and will constitute a portion of the grade. Practice outside of class time with instrument is required. If available, a viola, a cello, or a string bass may be rented from the school for a nominal fee. \$

Band 3 - Symphonic (Symphonic Band)

Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor approval

This is a course open to students whose interests are in performing jazz, rock, and related musical literature. The group is designed to provide fundamental knowledge of this music through performance. 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 an instrument is required. If available, a tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, or electric bass guitar may be rented at the school for a nominal fee. \$

Choir 1 Soprano/Alto (Colle Voce & Minuet)

Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor approval

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 requirements and constitute a portion of the grade.

Choir 3 - Concert (Rhapsody)

Prerequisite: Audition/Instructor approval

This is an advanced vocal music group that is designed for students to sing advanced choral literature and build more techniques in singing. Rehearsals and performances outside of class time are part of the course requirements and constitute a portion of the grade.

Spanish 1 –Determined by SRI score

This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

French 1 – Determined by SRI score

This course is designed to teach elementary skills in listening, speaking, reading, and spelling. The curriculum covered in this course will give students the skills to communicate in culturally-appropriate ways in the target language. By the end of this course, student skill level should be at novice-mid level according to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) standards. Students will develop an appreciation for the culture of the countries where the language is spoken.

Reading 8 – Determined by SRI score

This course, based on the 8th Grade Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed for students requiring basic instruction with targeted intervention in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and reading skills, to assist striving readers with literary, informational, and functional texts.

Pre-Dance Company (Dance 2)

A course designed to develop dance techniques, flexibility, and coordination, with an emphasis on creativity and artistic composition. There will be performances outside of class time that are part of the course requirements, and they will constitute a portion of the grade. \$

Intermediate Theater (Audition - year long)

This is an intermediate course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. The course will include, but not be limited to, playwriting, characterization, monologues, scenes from plays, movement, voice projection and diction, and improvisation. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading writing, and cooperative group work.

Elective Classes – Semester

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. \$

Art Foundations 2

Prerequisite: Art Foundations 1 or Instructor approval

Art Foundation 2 provides an overview and introduction to visual arts through studying a variety of art tools and materials. This course builds on Foundations 1 with a more in-depth experience with fewer art forms. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skills, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics, with an emphasis on studio production. \$

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. \$

Sculpture 1

Sculpture is an overview of basic skills used to create 3-D works of art. Both additive and subtractive techniques will be taught. 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. \$

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 – Must provide own acoustic guitar

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. An instrument is required for class time, as well as for practicing outside of class.

Choir 2 Mixed

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

Beginning Theatre

This is an introductory course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. No previous experience is necessary. The course will include, but not be limited to, improvisation, monologues, characterization, movement, playwriting, and work with voice projection and diction. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading, writing, and cooperative group work.

Intermediate Theatre

Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre or Instructor approval

This is an intermediate course in theatre with an emphasis on performance and playwriting. The course will include, but not be limited to, playwriting, characterization, monologues, scenes from plays, movement, voice projection and diction, and improvisation. Other skills learned and developed include critical thinking, rehearsal skills, plot structure, reading writing, and cooperative group work.

Creative Writing 1

This course, based on Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Writing Standards, is designed to introduce students to imaginative composition with the writing of personal experiences, character sketches, short fiction, and poetry. Students will have the opportunity to prepare manuscripts for publication, awards, and scholarships.

Journalism

This course, based on Utah English Language Arts (ELA) Core Standards, is designed to introduce students to newspaper writing and reading, with interviewing, writing, and editing emphasized. Students will produce a class newspaper.

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. There will be performances outside of class time that are part of the course requirements, and they will constitute a portion of the grade. \$

Exploring Technology

Exploring Technology is 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. \$

FACS Foods

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). \$

FACS Sewing

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). \$

Creative Coding

A quality computer science curriculum not only engages students in interesting, collaborative learning activities using sound pedagogical strategies, but it also ensures that students are learning concepts vital to the deep and broad field of computer science. Creative Coding has been designed to achieve this goal by aligning with the CSTA K-12 Computer Science Standards. This course is primarily an introductory programming course, and units are grounded in an array of standards from the strands of computational thinking, collaboration, computing practice and programming, computer and communication devices, and community, global and ethical impacts.

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.

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 in their citizenship

French Immersion

French DLI 4H (Yearlong)

This course continues the development of speaking listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the native country and taught through reading selections. For dual immersion students only.

French DLI Culture and Media (Semester)

This course is specifically designed for students who have completed an elementary school Dual Language Immersion program. It is designed to build skills in cultural-linguistic competencies necessary for successful communication with native speakers. Students utilize media and authentic texts to learn about the diverse cultural products, practices and perspectives of countries. This course begins preparation for the Advanced Placement French exam.