

**2017-2018
6th Grade
Course Descriptions**

Required Courses

Integrated Language Arts 6 (Full Year):

Students will focus on the thinking required to make meaning of genres from a variety of media as well as craft communication effectively (orally, in writing, or multimedia), adjusting for purpose and audience. Students reflect on their own reading and writing processes throughout the year. The foundation of research, asking good questions, guides the development of student inquiry.

Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts 6 (Full Year):

The Pre-AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Students will develop an understanding of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. The middle school level Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts classes are designed to support and prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

GT Integrated Language Arts 6 (Full Year):

Students must be currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program.

Students will be guided through a challenging course that will allow for their analysis of a variety of literature genres. Students will be required to read and analyze both classic and contemporary novels as well as non-fiction selections, participate in thematic units, conduct in-depth research, complete individual and group projects, and write extensively throughout the year. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

Reading Lab (Full Year):

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level reading course and is taken in place of Study Skills.

The class focuses on equipping students with the skills and strategies necessary to build independent reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension of multiple genres. Students divide their time between independent reading, teacher-directed small group sessions, and individualized computer interaction. This course utilizes the Achieve 3000 instructional program designed for students who experience difficulty in reading, in addition to the iStation reading program. This class will provide students with additional support to help ensure success through the use of individualized, targeted instruction and interventions.

Math 6 (Full Year):

Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points at Grade 6 are using operations with integers and positive rational numbers to solve problems, understanding and applying ratios and rates and using equivalent ratios to represent proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to represent relationships in a variety of contexts, understanding data representation, and financial literacy.

Pre-AP Math 6 (Full Year):

Pre-AP Math 6 provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for Pre-AP Algebra I and other rigorous advanced course work in the future. In addition to the primary focal points of using operations with integers and positive rational numbers to solve problems, understanding and applying ratios and rates and using equivalent ratios to represent proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to represent relationships in a variety of contexts, understanding data representation, and financial literacy, the curriculum will include a rigorous problem solving component. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently.

Math Lab (Full Year):

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level math course and is taken in place of an elective.

Math Lab provides a rich, supportive curriculum to assist students in mastering foundation concepts through problem solving, reinforcement of skills, and the use of small group instruction. This class will provide students with additional support to help ensure success through the use of individualized, targeted instruction and interventions.

Science 6 (Full Year):

Grade 6 Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however much of the content focus is on physical science. The standards for Grade 6 include:

- A. Scientific investigation and reasoning- allows students to develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes scientific of inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world.
- B. Matter and energy- students concentrate on developing an understanding of elements and compounds.
- C. Force, motion, and energy- students will investigate the types of energy as well as the relationship between force and motion through a variety of means; including calculations and measurements.
- D. Earth and space- students will develop an understanding of Earth's processes, the way our solar system is organized, the role of gravity, and space exploration.
- E. Organisms and environments- students will gain an understanding of the broadest taxonomic classifications of organisms, the interdependence between organisms and their environments, and levels of organization within an ecosystem.

Social Studies 6 (Full Year):

This course is the study of people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Students will describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of various societies. Students identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. The concepts of limited and unlimited government are introduced, and students describe the nature of citizenship in various societies. Students compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of the various societies and identify different points of view about events. The concept of frame of reference is introduced as an influence on an individual's point of view. Students will use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as biographies, autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, poetry, songs, and artworks.

Physical Education 6 (Full Year):

Students in this course will acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment and continued social development through physical activity. Students will learn specialized skills and concepts that lead to confidence and competency in a variety of physical activities. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports and aerobic sports.

Technology Applications/Study Skills:

This course is designed to emphasize the use of the computer as a tool while students develop knowledge of word processing, spreadsheets, desktop publishing and presentation software. Students will learn computer-related terminology and practice keyboarding skills. Students will increase their understanding of digital safety and digital copyright. Students will alternate A/B days from Technology Applications to Study Skills. In Study Skills class they will learn how to become organized, make schedules and work with their planner. Students will check their grades and learn to be responsible for their academic needs. Students will learn specific learning styles and work on communication skills.

Elective Courses

COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE ELECTIVE AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR OMISSION DUE TO AN INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF STUDENT REQUESTS, LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO TEACH THE CLASS, OR FUNDING. THE STUDENT WILL BE PLACED IN THE NEXT ELECTIVE CHOICE ON THE SCHEDULE CARD FILLED OUT BY THE STUDENT AND PARENT.

Beginning Band 6th (Full Year):

This course is designed to teach students the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.) The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Students will be placed into appropriate band classes upon taking an instrument test. Students are expected to practice regularly and will be required to perform in concerts throughout the year. (Instrument arrangements will be made.)

Choir 6 (Full Year):

Male and female singers will build upon music fundamentals learned in elementary school. They will learn to further develop healthy vocal technique appropriate for different styles of music. Music reading skills and confidence in performance will be developed. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year.

Beginning Orchestra (Full Year):

Beginning Orchestra (strings) is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who would like to further their musical knowledge or begin instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. No prior experience is necessary. (*Students with prior string experience read NOTE below.*) These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, all string students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. The students will also perform at one music contest. Students will be placed in classes according to instrumentation (i.e. violins/violas or cellos/basses). Prior to enrollment, a "try the instrument night" is scheduled to allow the student to have a "hands on" trial time. The director is always available to answer questions on instrument selection, instrument sizing, rentals, reconditioning of previously owned family instruments, instrument purchase and scholarship opportunities. (It is strongly recommended that parents meet with the director *prior* to purchasing an instrument.)

NOTE: Students with previous string experience or those students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano, band instrument) may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in early August for placement in Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) or Symphonic Orchestra (Level III).

Art 1 (Full Year):

Art 1 will emphasize drawing techniques and design principles while studying the elements of art and art history. Students will also have the opportunity to work with clay, paper collage, tempera paint, watercolor, pastels, wire sculpture, and other painting media.

Theater Arts 6 (Full Year):

Theater Arts 6 is designed to introduce the student to the many performing and technical aspects of theater. Acting is introduced through individual and group exercises in improvisational and memorized performances. Basic theatrical knowledge, play reading, and playwriting are emphasized. The primary objective is to develop the student's creativity and self-expression.

2017-2018 7th Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Integrated Language Arts 7 (Full Year):

Students will improve their skills in oral and written communication in four basic areas: grammar, spelling, writing and literature. The writing process is stressed throughout the year. Students will continue to improve reading skills including decoding, vocabulary building, and comprehension. Critical thinking skills are developed as an integral part of all language arts activities.

Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts 7 (Full Year):

The Pre-AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. The middle level Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts classes are designed to support and prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

GT Integrated Language Arts 7 (Full Year):

Students must be currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program.

Students will be guided through a challenging course that will allow for their analysis of a variety of literature genres. Students will be required to read and analyze both classic and contemporary novels as well as non-fiction selections, participate in thematic units, conduct in-depth research, complete individual and group projects, and write extensively throughout the year. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

Math 7(Full Year):

Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points at Grade 7 are developing fluency with rational numbers and operations to solve problems in a variety of contexts, representing and applying proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to describe relationships in a variety of contexts including geometric problems, comparing sets of data, and financial literacy.

Pre-AP Math 7 (Full Year):

Pre-AP Math 7 provides capable students with a foundation for future advanced placement coursework. In addition to the primary focal points of developing fluency with rational numbers and operations to solve problems in a variety of contexts, representing and applying proportional relationships, using expressions and equations to describe relationships in a variety of contexts including geometric problems, comparing sets of data, and financial literacy, the curriculum will include a rigorous problem solving component and exposure to Grade 8 math content. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently. Please note that enrollment in Pre-AP Algebra I in 8th Grade depends upon successful completion of an 8th Grade Credit by Examination (CBE) at the end of the 7th Grade year.

Math Lab (Full Year):

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level math course and is taken in place of an elective.

Math Lab provides a rich, supportive curriculum to assist students in mastering foundation concepts through problem solving, reinforcement of skills, and the use of small group instruction. This class will provide students with additional support to help ensure success through the use of individualized, targeted instruction and interventions.

Science 7 (Full Year):

Grade 7 Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. The strands for Grade 7 include:

- A. Scientific investigation and reasoning- allows students to develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes scientific of inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world.
- B. Matter and energy- students concentrate on developing an understanding of how matter and energy are conserved throughout living systems.
- C. Force, motion, and energy- students will investigate the ways in which force, motion, and energy are observed in living systems and the environment.
- D. Earth and space- students will explore the ways in which both natural events and human activities can impact Earth systems and the characteristics of Earth and relationships to objects in our solar system that allow life to exist.
- E. Organisms and environments- students will understand that living organisms are made up of smaller units called cells, the relationship between living organisms and their environment, and how all organisms obtain energy, get rid of wastes, grow, and reproduce.

Pre-AP Science 7 (Full Year):

Pre-AP Science provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigor and depth of the Advanced Placement program. In addition to the strand foci outlined in on level courses, Pre-AP courses are differentiated through a combination of the following:

- the depth of content presentation
- greater student responsibility for his/her learning
- slightly faster pacing
- greater complexity of thought
- development of higher-level cognitive understanding, as demonstrated through discussion and essay writing

Pre-AP Science curriculum also includes a wide variety of content-focused laboratory investigations as well as a strong emphasis on expository writing in the form of lab reports. Students enrolled in Pre-AP Science 7 will also compete in the district science fair.

Texas History 7 (Full Year):

In this course students will study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. Students identify regions of Texas and the distribution of population within and among the regions and explain the factors that caused Texas to change from an agrarian to an urban society. Students describe 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. Students use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas as they identify the different racial and ethnic groups that settled in Texas to build a republic and then a state. Students analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of Texas in

various industries such as agricultural, energy, medical, computer, and aerospace.

Physical Education Courses

Students must take one PE credit

Physical Education 7 (Full Year):

Students enrolled in this course will understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students will continue to acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundations for enjoyment and continued social development through physical activity. Instruction is directed more toward encouraging the incorporation of physical activity into a daily routine and less toward fundamental skill development. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports and aerobic sports.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS (Full Year)

UIL Middle School Competitive Sports Information

Frisco ISD offers the following competitive sports to middle school students:

Football	Girls' Volleyball	Basketball
Cross Country	Track	Soccer
Tennis		

Athletic Class Period (Full Year):

UIL competition and off-season conditioning are the focus of our athletic programs. To be enrolled in the athletic class period boys must participate in either football or basketball and girls must participate in either volleyball or basketball. Participation in Cross Country, Track and Soccer will occur exclusively before or after the regular school day.

Students are required to maintain passing grades and outstanding behavior to participate in the athletic programs.

In order to meet the UIL age requirements for 7th grade athletics a student cannot have reached their 14th birthday on or prior to September 1st of the current school year.

In order to meet the UIL age requirement for 8th grade athletics a student cannot have reached their 15th birthday on or prior to September 1st of the current school year.

Tennis (Full Year):

The middle school tennis class will develop players that are proficient in executing proper stroke techniques. Proper stroke techniques will be reinforced through instruction and participation in various drills. In addition, the middle school tennis players will be instructed on the rules and procedures needed to successfully participate in matches independently. Students involved in middle school tennis will be encouraged to play additional sets/matches outside of the school day.

Strength and Conditioning (Girls and Boys - Full Year)

Students enrolled in this course will learn the importance of resistance training and conditioning without extracurricular competition. This class is offered in place of PE or Athletics. Strength and Conditioning class will provide an opportunity for development of strength and conditioning for various sports and fitness related activities. Free weights, exercise machines and conditioning activities will be incorporated to promote improvement in strength, endurance, balance, agility, and speed.

Elective Courses

COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE ELECTIVE AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR OMISSION DUE TO AN INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF STUDENT REQUESTS, LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO TEACH THE CLASS, OR FUNDING. THE STUDENT WILL BE PLACED IN THE NEXT ELECTIVE CHOICE ON THE SCHEDULE CARD FILLED OUT BY THE STUDENT AND PARENT.

Beginning Band (Full Year):

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.) The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Students will be placed into appropriate band classes upon taking an instrument test.

Concert Band (Full Year):

This course is an extension of beginning band. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

Symphonic Band (Full Year):

Symphonic Band is designed to meet the needs of the advanced band student. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

7/8 Treble Choir:

Female singers will continue to develop and master vocal technique and sight reading skills learned in previous years. Students will learn to perform more advanced music. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year, and may have the opportunity to participate in UIL or other music competitions.

7/8 Tenor/Bass Choir:

Male singers will continue to develop and master vocal technique and sight reading skills learned in previous years. Students will learn to perform more advanced music. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year, and may have the opportunity to participate in UIL or other music competitions.

Beginning Orchestra (Full Year):

Beginning Orchestra (strings) is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who would like to further their musical knowledge or begin instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. No prior experience is necessary. (Students with prior string experience read NOTE below.) These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, all string students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. The students will also perform at one music contest. Students will be placed in classes according to instrumentation (i.e. violins/violas or cellos/basses). Prior to enrollment, a "try the instrument night" is scheduled to allow the student to have a "hands on" trial time. The director is always available to answer questions on instrument selection, instrument sizing, rentals, reconditioning of previously owned family instruments, instrument purchase and scholarship opportunities. (It is strongly recommended that parents meet with the director prior to purchasing an instrument.)

NOTE: Students with previous string experience or those students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano, band instrument) may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in early August for placement in Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) or Symphonic Orchestra (Level III).

Intermediate Orchestra (II) (Full Year):

Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) is open to all students (primarily 7th grade students) who would like to further their musical knowledge and continue instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. This orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills in an ensemble setting. During the year, the Intermediate Orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and public. The Intermediate Orchestra will perform as a non-varsity orchestra for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. NOTE: Students may be placed in this orchestra according to ability or scheduling conflicts rather than grade level.

Symphonic Orchestra (III) (Full Year):

Symphonic Orchestra (III) is an auditioned ensemble of serious middle school string students (mostly 8th grade students who study privately) who understand and are able to demonstrate correct bowing, hand positions, intonation, scales, shifting & sight-reading skills. Symphonic Orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills using a repertoire ranging from the classics to Broadway. The Symphonic Orchestra will perform as a varsity orchestra for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. During the year, the orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and public. NOTE: Students may be placed in this orchestra according to ability or scheduling conflicts rather than grade level.

Students with previous string experience or those students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano, band instrument) may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in early August for placement in Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) or Symphonic Orchestra (Level III).

Theater Arts I (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Theater Arts I is designed to introduce the student to the many performing and technical aspects of theater. Students will learn basic acting techniques (stage movement, developing voice, memorizing lines, etc.), improvisation, mime techniques, character development, basic scene study (group and individual monologues), script analysis and performance critiquing. In small ensembles, duets and individually, students will prepare and perform scenes in class demonstrating these skills.

Theater Arts II (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts 6 or Theater Arts 1

Theater Arts II builds upon the skills learned in Theater Arts 6. Students will continue to strengthen their acting skills in a variety of theatrical experiences, including reading and writing plays, as well as memorized and improvisational performance.

Tech Theater (Grades 7-8):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts 6 or Theater Arts 1

Students are required to complete an application and get parental consent to participate in this class as it requires a commitment different from the other theater classes. Unlike the other classes, this class requires rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours. Students will participate in set design and building as well as costumes and make-up. This comprehensive theater study will encourage artistic discipline, sensory awareness and theater appreciation.

Theater Production (Grades 7-8):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts 6 or Theater 1 and AUDITION required

Students are required to audition and get parental consent to participate in this class as it requires a commitment different from the other theater classes. Unlike the other classes, this class requires rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours. These performances include the UIL One-Act Play Competition. Building on the skills taught in Theater Arts 6, the students will further their dramatic technique through play productions implementing the roles of actor, director and technician. This comprehensive theater study will encourage artistic discipline, sensory awareness and theater appreciation.

Art I (Full Year):

Art I will emphasize drawing techniques and design principles while studying the elements of art and various artists. Students will also work with clay, paper collage and various painting media.

Art II (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Art 1

Art II will expand on the principles and elements, while spending more time on art history and techniques of drawing and painting. The focus for the first semester will be two-dimensional work and design; second semester will include ceramics, printmaking, sculpture and weaving.

Technology Offerings

Multimedia I/Video Production I (Full Year):**Multimedia I-One Semester:**

This course introduces the concepts of graphic design using Microsoft Office PowerPoint and the software Adobe Photoshop Elements. Using these software applications, students will learn how to manipulate text, graphics, create animated GIFs and other various design projects. Students will learn the techniques needed to use digital cameras and scanners in their projects. Project organization techniques and storyboarding concepts will be introduced.

Video Production I-One Semester:

This course is designed for students to investigate and increase their understanding of creating video projects from the initial planning stages to the final production phase. Scriptwriting and storyboarding concepts will be introduced. Students will learn basic video camera techniques (shot types, rule of thirds, etc.) needed for producing a quality video project. Using the software application iMovie, students will learn introductory editing techniques that will allow them to create and produce their videos.

Robotics (Full Year):

Students will learn to design, build, program, and run NXT robotic bricks using Lego Mindstorms kits. Using curriculum developed by Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy, students will learn simple machine concepts while developing an understanding of mechanical principles and related problem solving skills. In addition, students will learn how to program using Mindstorms NXT-G, a specialized software package developed by NASA scientists. This will allow them to use their imaginations to build and program unique robots for challenges such as Twister, Sumo, Charades, Soccer, Maze, Green City and Parking Bay.

Digital Graphics and Animation (Full Year):

This course is designed for students to incorporate art and technology. Students will learn basic animation and design techniques and terminology. Students will create an original character, design comic strips, study the principles and history of animation, and draw daily in a sketchbook. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of animation by using the software application Toon Boom: Flip Boom All Star. Moving on to the next level students will learn higher level animating skills using the software Animation Master, a state-of-the-art modeling, animation and rendering software program.

Other Elective Options

Skills for Independent Living I (Full Year):

This laboratory course will enable students to investigate concepts and career areas in clusters such as: early childhood development, family and consumer sciences, hospitality, business, culinary arts, personal finances, and human services.

Yearbook (Full Year)

Application Required

Students will use school designated software to design an all-digital, state-of-the-art yearbook for the upcoming school year. Combining journalism techniques, digital photography and Macintosh computers, students will learn skills they can use in their high school years.

2017-2018 8th Grade Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Integrated Language Arts 8 (Full Year):

Students will continue to improve their skills in oral and written communication in four basic areas: grammar, spelling, composition and literature. This course is also designed to prepare students for high school English and advanced vocabulary development. Emphasis is placed on correctly using the writing process and using critical thinking skills.

Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts 8 (Full Year):

The Pre-AP course in English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of non-fiction and prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing.

The middle level Pre-AP Integrated Language Arts classes are designed to support and prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

GT Integrated Language Arts 8 (Full Year):

Students must be currently identified in the Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented program.

Students will be guided through a challenging course that will allow for their analysis of a variety of literature genres. Students will be required to read and analyze both classic and contemporary novels as well as non-fiction selections, participate in thematic units, conduct in-depth research, complete individual and group projects, and write extensively throughout the year. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. Critical thinking skills will be emphasized to prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams, which are components of the Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP).

Math 8 (Full Year):

Within a well-balanced mathematics curriculum, the primary focal points of Math 8 representing, applying, and analyzing proportional relationships; using expressions and equations to describe relationships including Pythagorean Theorem; making inferences from data; and financial literacy.

Pre-AP Math 8 (Full Year):

Pre-AP Math 8 provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for Pre-AP Algebra I and other rigorous advanced course work in the future. In addition to the primary focal points of representing, applying, and analyzing proportional relationships; using expressions and equations to describe relationships including Pythagorean Theorem; making inferences from data; and financial literacy, the curriculum will include a rigorous problem solving component. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently.

Pre-AP Algebra I (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Math 8, Pre-AP Math 8, or 80% or higher score on 8th Grade Math Credit by Examination (CBE)

Pre-AP Algebra I students will expand on concepts covered in regular Algebra I (functional relationships and problem solving in real situations, including, but not limited to the following: table building, coordinate graphing, equation writing and solving, operations on polynomials, factoring, and real number computation) with an intense focus on high level application, problem solving, and higher order thinking processes. Students will also develop strategies that prepare them for future Advanced Placement math courses.

Please note: This course will require a STAAR End of Course Exam, will count for high school credit, and the grade earned will be applied to high school GPA.

Pre-AP Geometry (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Pre-AP Algebra I

At the middle school level, Pre-AP Geometry will be taught in an on-line format. Pre-AP Geometry covers the same topics of regular geometry (deductive and inductive reasoning, lines and angles, triangles, parallel lines, quadrilaterals, area, polygons, circles, and geometric solids) with an intense focus on problem solving, formal proof, logic, and application. Students must have a strong background in algebra and be very comfortable solving equations, working with variables, solving systems of equations, and factoring. Pre-AP Geometry will include deep study of the same topics found in regular Geometry. Students will also develop strategies that prepare them for future Advanced Placement math courses.

Please note: This course will count for high school credit, and the grade earned will be applied to high school GPA.

Math Lab:

This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level math course and is taken in place of an elective.

Math Lab provides a rich, supportive curriculum to assist students in mastering foundation concepts through problem solving, reinforcement of skills, and the use of small group instruction. This class will provide students with additional support to help ensure success through the use of individualized, targeted instruction and interventions.

Science 8 (Full Year):

Science 8 is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on Earth and space science. The strands for Grade 8 include:

- A. Scientific investigation and reasoning- allows students to develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes scientific of inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world.
- B. Matter and energy- students recognize that matter is composed of atoms and examine information on the Periodic Table to recognize that elements are grouped into families.
- C. Force, motion, and energy- students experiment with the relationship between forces and motion through the study of Newton's three laws and learn how these forces relate to geologic processes and astronomical phenomena.
- D. Earth and space- students identify the role of natural events in altering Earth systems, interpret land and erosional features, learn that stars and galaxies are part of the universe, use data to research scientific theories of the origin of the universe and learn how interactions in solar, weather, and ocean systems create changes in weather patterns and climate.

Pre-AP Science 8 (Full Year):

Pre-AP Science 8 provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigor and depth of the Advanced Placement program. In addition to the strand foci outlined in on level courses, Pre-AP courses are differentiated through a combination of the following:

- the depth of content presentation
- greater student responsibility for his/her learning
- slightly faster pacing
- greater complexity of thought
- development of higher-level cognitive understanding, as demonstrated through discussion and essay writing

Pre-AP Science 8 curriculum also includes a wide variety of content-focused laboratory investigations as well as a strong emphasis on expository writing in the form of lab reports. Students enrolled in Pre-AP Science 8 will also compete in the district science fair.

US History 8 (Full Year):

Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The content in US History 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs and principles, including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights, reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material. The students will use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as the complete text of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court, biographies, autobiographies, novels, speeches, letters, diaries, poetry, songs, and artworks.

Elective Courses

NOTE: COURSE OFFERINGS IN THE ELECTIVE AREAS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND/OR OMISSION DUE TO AN INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF STUDENT REQUESTS, LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO TEACH THE CLASS, OR FUNDING. THE STUDENT WILL BE PLACED IN THE NEXT ELECTIVE CHOICE ON THE SCHEDULE CARD FILLED OUT BY THE STUDENT AND PARENT.

Athletic Offerings

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS (Full Year)

UIL Middle School Competitive Sports Information

Frisco ISD offers the following competitive sports to middle school students:

Football	Girls' Volleyball	Basketball
Cross Country	Track	Soccer
Tennis		

Athletic Class Period (Full Year):

UIL competition and off-season conditioning are the focus of our athletic programs. To be enrolled in the athletic class period boys must participate in either football or basketball and girls must participate in either volleyball or basketball. Participation in Cross Country, Track and Soccer will occur exclusively before or after the regular school day. Students are required to maintain passing grades and outstanding behavior to participate in the athletic programs.

In order to meet the UIL age requirements for 7th grade athletics a student cannot have reached their 14th birthday on or prior to September 1st of the current school year. In order to meet the UIL age requirement for 8th grade athletics a student cannot have reached their 15th birthday on or prior to September 1st of the current school year.

Tennis (Full Year):

The middle school tennis class will develop players that are proficient in executing proper stroke techniques. Proper stroke techniques will be reinforced through instruction and participation in various drills. In addition, the middle school tennis players will be instructed on the rules and procedures needed to successfully participate in matches independently. Students involved in middle school tennis will be encouraged to play additional sets/matches outside of the school day.

Advanced Tennis (Full Year):

Pending Coach Approval

Advanced middle school tennis students participate at a higher level by playing competitively.

Strength and Conditioning (Girls and Boys - Full Year)

Students enrolled in this course will learn the importance of resistance training and conditioning without extracurricular competition. This class is offered in place of PE or Athletics. Strength and Conditioning class will provide an opportunity for development of strength and conditioning for various sports and fitness related activities. Free weights, exercise machines and conditioning activities will be incorporated to promote improvement in strength, endurance, balance, agility, and speed.

Band Offerings

Beginning Band (Full Year):

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic fundamentals of band instruments (Brass, Woodwind and Percussion.) The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Students will be placed into appropriate band classes upon taking an instrument test.

Concert Band (Full Year):

This course is an extension of beginning band. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

Symphonic Band (Full Year):

Symphonic Band is designed to meet the needs of the advanced band student. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

Choir Offerings

7/8 Treble Choir (Full Year):

Female singers will continue to develop and master vocal technique and sight reading skills learned in previous years. Students will learn to perform more advanced music. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year, and may have the opportunity to participate in UIL or other music competitions.

7/8 Tenor/Bass Choir (Full Year):

Male singers will continue to develop and master vocal technique and sight reading skills learned in previous years. Students will learn to perform more advanced music. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year, and may have the opportunity to participate in UIL or other music competitions.

Orchestra Offerings

Beginning Orchestra (Full Year):

Beginning Orchestra (strings) is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who would like to further their musical knowledge or begin instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. No prior experience is necessary. (*Students with prior string experience read NOTE below.*) These classes meet daily and focus on establishing and developing basic musical and performance skills. During the year, all string students will combine on two or more occasions to present concerts for the parents and public. The students will also perform at one music contest. Students will be placed in classes according to instrumentation (i.e. violins/violas or cellos/basses). Prior to enrollment, a “try the instrument night” is scheduled to allow the student to have a “hands on” trial time. The director is always available to answer questions on instrument selection, instrument sizing, rentals, reconditioning of previously owned family instruments, instrument purchase and scholarship opportunities. (It is strongly recommended that parents meet with the director *prior* to purchasing an instrument.)

NOTE: Students with previous string experience or those students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano, band instrument) may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in early August for placement in Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) or Symphonic Orchestra (Level III).

Intermediate Orchestra (II) (Full Year):

Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) is open to all students (primarily 7th grade students) who would like to further their musical knowledge and continue instruction on violin, viola, cello or bass. This orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills in an ensemble setting. During the year, the Intermediate Orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and public. The Intermediate Orchestra will perform as a non-varsity orchestra for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. NOTE: Students may be placed in this orchestra according to ability or scheduling conflicts rather than grade level.

Symphonic Orchestra (III) (Full Year):

Symphonic Orchestra (III) is an **auditioned** ensemble of serious middle school string students (mostly 8th grade students who study privately) who understand and are able to demonstrate correct bowing, hand positions, intonation, scales, shifting & sight-reading skills. Symphonic Orchestra meets daily and focuses on continuing the development of musical skills using a repertoire ranging from the classics to Broadway. The Symphonic Orchestra will perform as a varsity orchestra for adjudication at the Spring UIL Contest. During the year, the orchestra will combine on two or more occasions with other performing groups to present concerts for the parents and public.

NOTE: Students may be placed in this orchestra according to ability or scheduling conflicts rather than grade level. Students with previous string experience or those students with previous musical experience (i.e. piano, band instrument) may elect to study privately during the summer and audition in early August for placement in Intermediate Orchestra (Level II) or Symphonic Orchestra (Level III).

Theater Offerings

Theater Arts I (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Theater Arts I is designed to introduce the student to the many performing and technical aspects of theater. Students will learn basic acting techniques, (stage movement, developing voice, memorizing lines, etc.), Improvisation, mime techniques, character development, basic scene study, (group and individual monologues), script analysis and performance critiquing. In small ensembles, duets and individually, students will prepare and perform scenes in class demonstrating these skills.

Theater Arts II (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts 6 or Theater Arts I

Theater Arts II builds upon the skills learned in Theater Arts I. Students will continue to strengthen their acting skills in a variety of theatrical experiences, including reading and writing plays, as well as memorized and improvisational performance.

Theatre Arts III (Grades 8) (Full Year)

Tech Theater (Grades 7-8):

Prerequisite: Theater Arts 6 or Theater Arts 1

Students are required to complete an application and get parental consent to participate in this class as it requires a commitment different from the other theater classes. Unlike the other classes, this class requires rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours. Students will participate in set design and building as well as costumes and make-up. This comprehensive theater study will encourage artistic discipline, sensory awareness and theater appreciation.

Theater Production (Grades 7-8) (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Theater 6 or Theater I and AUDITION required

Students are required to audition and get parental consent to participate in this class as it requires a commitment different from the other theater classes. Unlike the other classes, this class requires rehearsals and performances outside of regular school hours. These performances include the UIL One-Act Play Competition. Building on the skills taught in Theater I, the students will further their dramatic technique through play productions implementing the roles of actor, director and technician. This comprehensive theater study will encourage artistic discipline, sensory awareness and theater appreciation.

Art Offerings

Art I (Full Year):

Art I will emphasize drawing techniques and design principles while studying the elements of art and various artists. Students will also work with clay, paper collage and various painting media.

Art II (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Art I

Art II will expand on the principles and elements, while spending more time on art history and techniques of drawing and painting. The focus for the first semester will be two-dimensional work and design; second semester will include ceramics, printmaking, sculpture and weaving.

Art III (Full Year):

Prerequisite: Art II

Art III will follow the general outline of Art II except that difference projects will be assigned and different artists will be studied. Also, perspective drawing and art criticism will be taught in depth. Higher order thinking skills will be emphasized. Students need to be mature with the ability to work independently.

Foreign Language Offerings**High School Spanish I (Full Year):**

Spanish I works on the development of the four basic language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. This is accomplished through the use of oral drills, vocabulary building, simple composition and reading assignments, dialogue, and creative writing. The course also stresses cultural awareness and understanding of the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on the United States. This is a high school credited course. High school credit and grade points are awarded by semester. Students who elect to take this high school level course, designed to provide a solid foundation for success in Spanish II, should expect high standards and rigor, and an additional time requirement. Students may not retake Spanish I in high school if they receive credit for Spanish I in middle school. This course will follow high school grading and retest regulations.

Technology Offerings**Multimedia I/Video Production I (Full Year):****Multimedia I-One Semester**

This course introduces the concepts of graphic design using Microsoft Office PowerPoint and the software Adobe Photoshop Elements. Using these software applications students will learn how to manipulate text, graphics, create animated GIFs and other various design projects. Students will learn the techniques needed to use digital cameras and scanners in their projects. Project organization techniques and storyboarding concepts will be introduced.

Video Production I-One Semester

This course is designed for students to investigate and increase their understanding of creating video projects from the initial planning stages to the final production phase. Scriptwriting and storyboarding concepts will be introduced. Students will learn basic video camera techniques (shot types, rule of thirds, etc.) needed for producing a quality video project. Using the software application iMovie, students will learn introductory editing techniques that will allow them to create and produce their videos.

Multimedia II/Video Productions II (8th grade) (Full Year)

Robotics (Full Year):

Students will learn to design, build, program, and run NXT robotic bricks using Lego Mindstorms kits. Using curriculum developed by Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy, students will learn simple machine concepts while developing an understanding of mechanical principles and related problem solving skills. In addition, students will learn how to program using Mindstorms NXT-G, a specialized software package developed by NASA scientists. This will allow them to use their imaginations to build and program unique robots for challenges such as Twister, Sumo, Charades, Soccer, Maze, Green City and Parking Bay.

Robotics Level II:

Robotics Level II (Full Year): With skills learned in the pre-requisite course Robotics Level I, students will use the Lego Mindstorm EV-3 kits to explore advanced hardware/software concepts such as data logging, EV3 IR Beacon/Sensor, Bluetooth communication, advanced sensor techniques and more. Using curriculum developed by Carnegie Mellon Robotics Academy and lessons created by FISD teachers, students will create innovative projects while increasing their knowledge in real-world engineering and programming processes.

Broadcast (Full Year): APPLICATION REQUIRED

Prerequisite: Multimedia I/Video Production I

Students must apply for admission to this course.

In this course, students will use the software applications Adobe Photoshop Elements and Final Cut Express to learn how to integrate digital graphics and video segments to create their projects. Students will be responsible for producing a campus broadcast that will be presented to the students, staff and community. Higher level movie editing techniques will be introduced, and students will have the opportunity to learn quality journalism techniques such as interviewing, camera presence and script writing.

Digital Graphics and Animation (Full Year):

This course is designed for students to incorporate art and technology. Students will learn basic animation and design techniques and terminology. Students will create an original character, design comic strips, study the principles and history of animation, and draw daily in a sketchbook. Students will be introduced to the basic concepts of animation by using the software application Toon Boom: Flip Boom All Star. Moving on to the next level students will learn higher level animating skills using the software Animation Master, a state-of-the-art modeling, animation and rendering software program.

Other Elective Options

Skills for Independent Living I (Full Year):

This laboratory course will enable students to investigate concepts and career areas in clusters such as: early childhood development, family and consumer sciences, hospitality, business, culinary arts, personal finances, and human services.

Yearbook (Full Year)

Application Required

Students will use school designated software to design an all-digital, state-of-the-art yearbook for the upcoming school year. Combining journalism techniques, digital photography and Macintosh computers, students will learn skills they can use in their high school years.

Student Aide (Full Year):

Application Required

Office aides are responsible for completing office tasks that are assigned to them. Some of these assignments could include delivering items to students/teachers, filing, stuffing envelopes, giving new students tours, making copies, sorting mail and other assigned tasks from the front office staff.

Library Aide (Full Year):

Application Required

The duties for a Library Aide include a wide variety of tasks that help us maintain and run the library. Tasks include checking books in and out, shelving books and materials, straightening bookshelves, unpacking and processing new books, watering plants, cleaning AV equipment, moving furniture, running errands, laminating materials, designing bulletin boards and special displays, and assisting with special library events like the book fair or author visits.

Health and Teen Leadership (Full Year Course Paired together as 1):**Health Education (One Semester):**

Students enrolled in this course will develop knowledge and skills to address adolescent health issues. Students gain a better understanding of the knowledge and behavior they use to safeguard their health, particularly pertaining to health risks. Major areas of study will include fitness, nutrition, mental/emotional health, substance abuse, and interpersonal relationships. High school credit (.5) and high school GPA points will be awarded.

Teen Leadership (One Semester):

Teen Leadership is a program in which students develop leadership, personal, and business skills. They learn to develop a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and learn to understand the concept of personal responsibility. Students will develop skills in public speaking and communication and an understanding of personal image. They will also develop an understanding of the effects of peer pressure and will develop skills to counteract those effects. Finally, they will develop an understanding of the need for vision in goal setting, both personally and professionally.