

CAREER & EDUCATIONAL PLANNING GUIDE

Raymore-Peculiar Middle Schools



RPEMS

**17509 E. State Route 58
Raymore, MO 64083
Main Office Phone: 816-388-4000
Attendance Office: 816-388-4005
Counseling Office: 816-388-4009
Counseling Office Fax: 816-388-4012**



RPSMS

**20501 S. School Road
Peculiar, MO 64078
Main Office Phone: TBA
Attendance Office: TBA
Counseling Office: TBA
Counseling Office Fax: TBA**

6th / 7th / 8th Grade

2017-2018

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Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians:

Welcome to the Raymore-Peculiar Middle Schools. In an effort to support your child through the transition to the middle school structure, this Career & Educational Planning Guide has been provided to present important information about programs and courses offered at Raymore-Peculiar Middle Schools. Students and parents should use the information in this guidebook with advice received from teachers, counselors, and administrators to make decisions about courses that provide students with the education they need for future plans. Students and parents are encouraged to keep this guidebook as a handy reference to use throughout the school year.

The middle school years provide an exciting opportunity for adolescents to explore and discover academic and elective courses and interests that are developmentally appropriate to their grade level. We look forward to the participation of your student and your family in activities and events during your child's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade years.

Raymore-Peculiar School District Mission Statement

Preparing EACH Student for a Successful and Meaningful Life

The Raymore-Peculiar School District is a community of learners partnering to:

- maximize each student's achievement,
- encourage lifelong learning
- develop productive citizens.

Raymore-Peculiar School District Vision Statement

The Raymore-Peculiar School District will be purposeful in our commitment to excellence by focusing on our students, their results and improvement.

Middle School Career & Educational Planning Guide

The Career & Educational Planning Guide describes the course offerings available to middle school students. It lists required courses that all students must take, and it contains descriptions of elective classes from which students may choose. Elective classes provide students the opportunity to explore a variety of unique programs in technology, fine and performing arts, health and wellness, foreign languages, journalism, and family and consumer sciences. The middle school emphasizes student exposure to a variety of different interest areas and students are encouraged to explore areas of personal interest. The Planning Guide is designed to be helpful to you and your student as you launch into the middle school academic program. We encourage parents and students to use this guidebook reference throughout the coming school year.

Sixth grade marks the beginning of your child's secondary education. While sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students are not eligible to earn credits towards graduation it is important to understand how courses taken at the middle level can impact 9-12 course enrollment (8th grade students do have the opportunity to earn HS credit for French I, Spanish I, or Algebra I when additional courses are taken in those areas in grades 9-12). Located at the back of the Planning Guide, you will find information related to the Panther A+ Program, RPHS graduation requirements, and the International Baccalaureate (IB) college preparatory program.

Every student's schedule will consist of seven 50 minute classes each day, and a 25 minute Advisory period. Math, English Language Arts (ELA), Social Studies and Science classes will meet everyday. Physical Education/Health and Reading (6th grade) and Academic Skills (7th & 8th grade) will alternate every other day. Sixth grade electives will meet every other day for a semester, while 7th and 8th grade electives will meet every day for a semester. The middle school schedule provides students with the opportunity to build a solid foundation in the core subject areas while providing opportunities to explore special interest areas to further academic engagement.

Middle School Team Components

Each middle school student is assigned to a team. Students work with a team of teachers for their core subjects—English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Advisory.

All of the students on a team share the same teachers. In addition, these teachers' classrooms are next to each other, and the students' lockers are located in the common area near their team's classrooms.

Teaming allows for better relationships between teachers and students. This improved relationship transforms into increased educational opportunities as teachers are more effectively able to differentiate instruction based on the needs of the students within his/her team and classroom. Interdisciplinary teaming provides increased opportunities for parental communication with a group of teachers during school hours.

Middle School Student Support Services

Raymore-Peculiar Middle Schools hosts a student support service department as a component of the total educational program. Since this is a unique developmental time for adolescents, the support service personnel provide assistance to students to work through any concerns related to their educational, personal, and social development. Support group personnel include grade-level counselors, behavior interventionist as well as administration. Together these individuals work with teachers to support students and their families.

Advisory is a period designed to provide academic support and enrichment as well as address the social and emotional needs unique to middle school students. A multitude of activities and supports will be provided to students in a small group environment built on the premise of establishing relationships with a caring adult.

Advisory occurs each school day and provides staff the opportunity to interact proactively with their students to help ensure that each child is prepared for success.

Special education teachers support the needs of qualified students under the guidelines of IDEA within each team and at each grade level. Special education personnel, in accordance with Public Law 94-142, offer a continuum of support services for students possessing or assessed as needing an Individualized Educational Program (I.E.P.). Parents should contact the building's process coordinator regarding eligibility requirements.

Guidance & Counseling

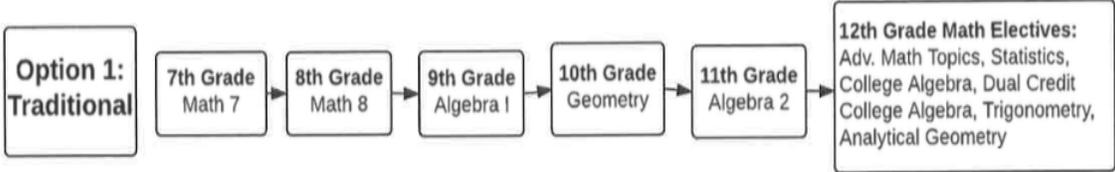
Counselors are a good resource for students and parents. They assist in academic, social and personal matters. Counselors organize and assist with individual counseling, support groups, academic support, team meetings, enrollment and career education.

A student may see a counselor in any of the following three ways: (1) students sign up electronically in the counseling office. This can be done before and after school, and during passing time. The counselor will send a pass for the student and he/she will not have to use an agenda pass. (2) With teacher permission, students may use an agenda pass and go to the counseling office. (3) When students are very upset and feel they cannot be productive in the classroom; they may go directly to the counseling office without a pass. The counseling secretary will notify the classroom teacher for attendance purposes. To avoid long waits parents are asked to schedule appointments.

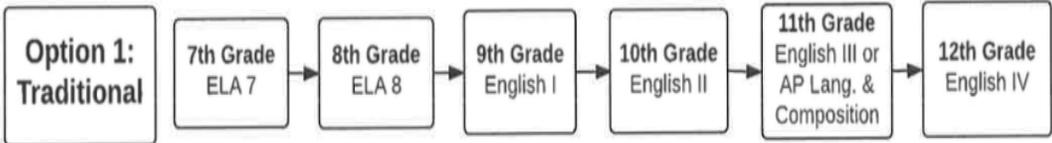
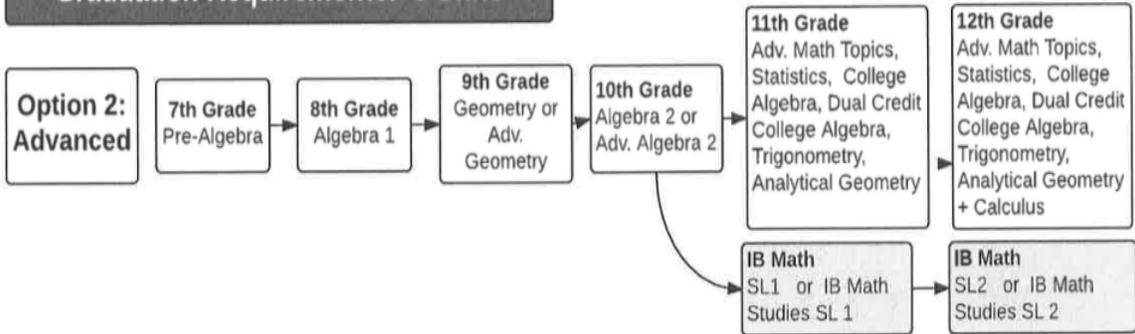
Advanced Placement General Course Description

Raymore-Peculiar Middle School students have the opportunity to enroll in advanced level Math, English Language Arts, French, and Spanish classes that have been designed to “challenge” those students who have demonstrated advanced skill levels. Advanced Math classes include 7th grade Pre-Algebra and 8th grade Algebra I. Advanced English Language Arts (ELA) will be available at both the 7th and 8th grade. Spanish I and French I are available in 8th grade only. Criteria for enrollment in Advanced Math, English Language Arts, French or Spanish courses will be: grades from the previous year, performance on local common assessments, teacher recommendation, and student and parent request. **Interested students who have not received teacher recommendation will be required to have a signed waiver by their parents. A signed waiver acknowledges that a student who experiences initial difficulty in an advanced placement course will utilize any/all building supports as a means to meet course standards.** Attempts are made to insure that students are initially enrolled in the appropriate class based upon their ability level. Academic progress will be reviewed after the first grading period. Continued placement in advanced courses will be contingent upon academic performance in current advanced courses. Students receiving a grade below a C– at the end of the first semester will be moved from the advanced placement course into the regular course for his or her grade.

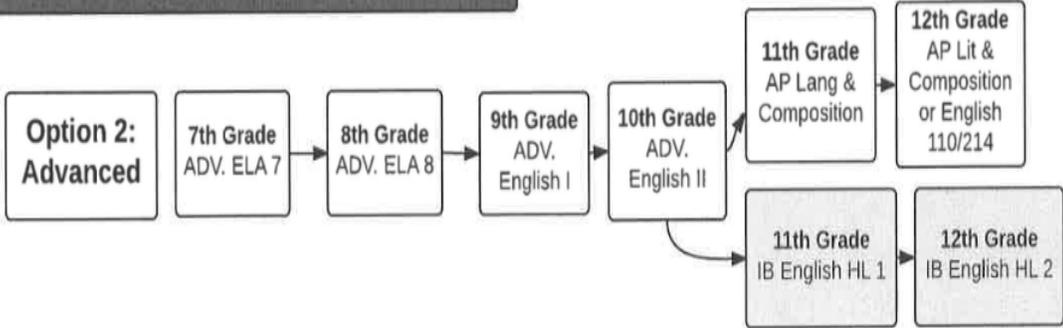
Middle School Advanced Course Offerings (7-12 Impact)



Math
Graduation Requirements: 3 Units

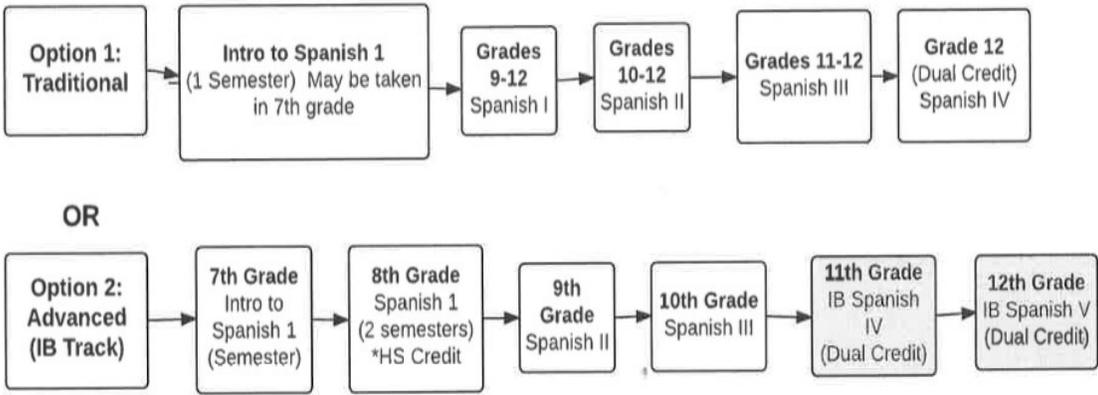


English Language Arts
Graduation Requirements: 4 Units

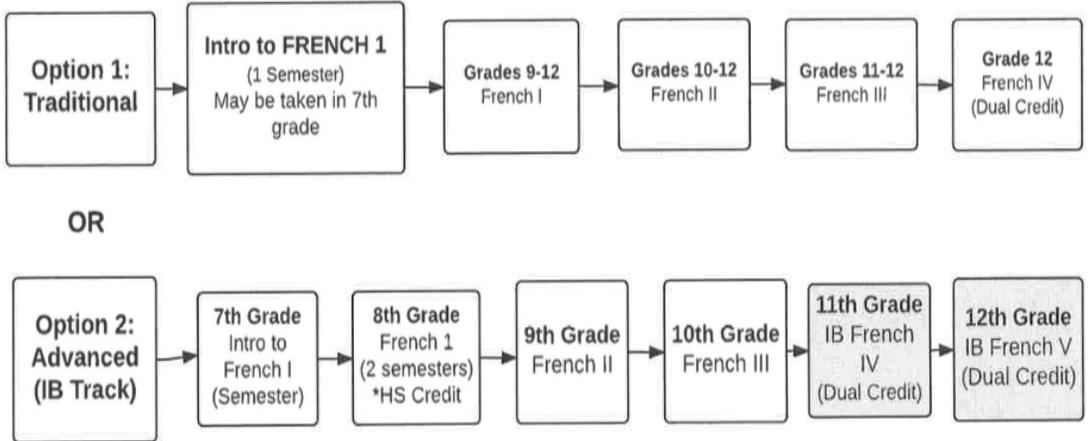


**Middle School Foreign Language
Advanced Course Offerings
(7-12 Impact)**

SPANISH



FRENCH



Foreign language courses are NOT required to graduate from Raymore-Peculiar High School but are strongly recommended or required for all four year colleges and universities

Foreign Language Advanced Placement

Students seeking advanced studies in the area of foreign language will have the opportunity to earn Spanish I or French I high school credit after completing the year long course. Interested seventh grade students are encouraged to enroll in the semester long Intro to Spanish or Intro to French course. Upon successful completion of either course (grade B- or better) and a 7th grade ELA grade of B- or better, students would be allowed to enroll in the 8th grade Spanish I / French I year-long course. Completion of the Spanish I or French I will count as a high school credit if the additional requirements are met in high school. In order to complete the high school foreign language credit, students must take two additional years of Spanish/French in high school.

Note: Students who intend to pursue the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Raymore-Peculiar High School will be required to complete Spanish I or French I prior to his/her 9th grade year.

International Baccalaureate (IB) Program Overview:

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Program at Raymore-Peculiar High School will be a two-year, college preparatory program with a comprehensive curriculum designed to address the needs of academically driven, challenge-seeking students. This program officially began in the 2015-2016 school year, and was first available to students in the graduating class of 2017. Upon successful completion of the diploma program, students will earn an IB diploma, which is recognized throughout the world by universities and colleges. University and colleges often offer advanced standing, preferential admission, course credits, and financial benefits to diploma earners.

To earn a diploma, students will have to complete an extended essay, a Theory of Knowledge course, the Creativity Action and Service component, and a course in each of six academic groups: English, Foreign Language, History, Science, Math, Arts and other electives. Three of the courses must be high level (HL) and three standard level (SL), which is dictated by the curriculum. Most courses are two years in length, but all courses will require a concluding assessment. Students who wish to participate in IB but not work towards the IB diploma will be able to take individual classes for recognition via certificate. Students will be able to obtain college credit through certificates depending on how well they score on the concluding assessment and what the requirements are at the college or university they attend.

The IB program provides the knowledge and critical-thinking skills students need to compete globally. Desired outcomes of the program include students who are inquirers, knowledgeable, thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced, and reflective. To prepare for this endeavor, students should enroll in challenging classes 7th-10th grades.

Costs for registration, exams, external assessments, and miscellaneous costs for IB diploma candidates will be paid for by the school district. Certificate candidates will be responsible for paying their own fees. The registration fee for certificate candidates in 2017-2018 is \$168.00 and the cost of the external assessment for each class is \$116.00. Students who enroll in an IB class will be required to take the IB external assessment at the end of the course.

For further information on the International Baccalaureate Program, please visit www.ibo.org.

Loss of Credit (Advanced placement courses only—Algebra 1, Spanish 1, French 1)

Loss of credit Students and parents will be notified after the student's 4th absence from a class that he/she are in danger of losing credit. Students absent from a class for more than 10 periods during a semester with or without verification of the absences will not receive credit for that class.

Upon the 11th absence a student and parent will be notified of the loss of credit in that class. Within two weeks of notification of credit loss, a student may make an appointment to appeal the loss of credit to the Attendance Appeals Committee. Attendance appeal forms can be obtained from the attendance office. Until the appeal is heard, the student will continue to attend class and will be graded as usual. The decision of the appeals committee will be final. Appeals submitted after the designated two week time period will not be heard. The Appeals Committee will consist of the following: Assistant Principal, Counselor, and Middle School Teachers.

Students appealing the loss of credit may appear with parents and submit any materials they believe would be valuable in the defense of their credit. The committee will consider all extenuating circumstances before coming to a final decision. The appealing student will be notified of the committee's decision within 48 hours of the appeal. If the committee's decision is not satisfactory to the student or parents, a second appeal may be made to the building principal.

Students absent for 21 consecutive days will be dropped from the rolls of Ray-Pec Middle Schools unless parents or students contact the attendance office.

Project Lead The Way (PLTW)

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the leading provider of rigorous, relevant, and innovative Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education curricular programs in elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools (engineering; biomedical science; computer science) across the U.S.

PLTW Gateway, offered at the middle school level, exposes students to PLTW's activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, where they see range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond.

Enrollment in the following courses is encouraged, but not required, for enrollment in high school PLTW courses.

RPEMS & RPSMS PLTW Gateway Course Offerings:**Design and Modeling 7**

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Automation and Robotics 8

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

Energy and the Environment 7

Students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They use what they've learned to design and model alternative energy sources, as well as evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

Medical Detectives 8

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a "crime scene." They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

App Creators 7

This unit will expose students to computer science as a means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

Computer Science for Innovators and Makers 8

Throughout the unit, students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development, allowing students to discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects.

6th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

English Language Arts (ELA)	2 semesters
Reading	2 semesters
Math	2 semesters
Science	2 semesters
Social Studies	2 semesters
Physical Education	2 semesters
Healthy Living 6	1 semester
Digital Literacy 6	1 semester

6TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

Sixth grade students may take a total of SIX (6) semesters of electives if not enrolled in band.

Band	2 Semesters
Performance Choir 6	2 Semesters
Experiencing Music 6	1 Semester
Art 6	1 Semester
Introduction to Theatre 6	1 Semester
Introduction to STEM 6	1 Semester
Cultures & Languages Around the World 6	1 Semester
Lifetime Sports & Fitness 6	1 Semester
Core Resource ELA 6	1 Semester

Students Enrolling in Band or Performance Choir:

If either is selected, a total of FOUR (4) additional semesters of electives may be chosen.

Course Descriptions: Grade 6

Required Courses



English Language Arts 6 (2 semesters)

With the use of Missouri’s Learning Standards (MLS), this course places an emphasis on reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will advance an understanding of the writing process. Using different genres, including informational text, students will develop skills for the reading process and comprehension. Students will also become more familiar with the research process.

Reading (2 semesters)

In sixth grade reading, the focus will be on the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS) for reading, both literary (fiction) and informational (nonfiction) texts. Emphasis will be on comprehension and analysis of text, while supporting and extending skills from English Language Arts.

L.E.A.P. 6 (2 semesters)

This program is designed for students who meet the State of Missouri’s definition of gifted children — “those children who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential.” Learning experiences that are not ordinarily included in the regular curriculum will be provided. Enrollment in L.E.A.P. 6 will take the place of the student’s Reading 6 class. Student selection through referral and testing. (For further information refer to the district website.)

Math 6 (2 semesters)

Sixth grade math follows the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS), preparing students for future math courses. Students will be exposed to mathematical concepts in five domains: Ratios and Proportional Relationships; Number Sense and Operations; Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities; Geometry and Measurement; Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability. Through these practices, the students will acquire the knowledge and skills to solve real world problems.

Science 6 (2 semesters)

Sixth grade science is designed to help students understand concepts in Earth and Space Sciences. As students continue to build upon scientific knowledge from previous grades, they will participate in a variety of lab activity settings. Topics include: Solar System; Earth’s History, Materials, and Systems; Plate Tectonics; Water; Natural Resources; Human Impact on Earth’s Systems.

Social Studies 6 (2 semesters)

Social Studies at the sixth grade level begins a study of World History, focusing on specifically these civilizations: Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, China, and Japan. Within each civilization, topics will include economics, government, culture and geography, as specified in the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS).

Core Resources English Language Arts (ELA) (semester placement)

The core resource courses are available to students who require additional support in English Language Arts. If assigned, students receive core resource in place of one of their Reading 6 class. Core Resource English Language Arts is taken in addition to a student’s regular English Language Arts and class. Students receive small group assistance with skill development as well as organization skills and practice using a computer based program that focuses on key Missouri Learning Standards (MLS).

Enrollment in Core Resource can be an administratively directed elective intervention based on local and state administered reading and/or math performance or as an elective choice for students needing additional support in reading and/or math. Teacher, counselor, and or administrative approval recommended.

Course Descriptions: Grade 6

Required Courses



Physical Education 6 (2 semesters)

The focus of the middle school physical education curriculum is personal fitness. Middle school physical education will offer a variety of activities, including team sports, individual sports, and lifetime activities. The purpose of this course is to establish a basis for a lifetime of physical fitness, as well as promote involvement in individual and team sports. Middle school physical education is a place for learning self-control, leadership, responsibility, and lifetime fitness skills.

Healthy Living 6 (1 semester)

This course focuses on body systems and overall health and wellness. Students will learn the structures and functions of body systems, and how to prevent health issues that may affect body systems. Students will discuss social, emotional, and mental health, as well as personal skills that can impact overall health and wellness.

Digital Literacy 6 (1 semester)

Digital Literacy will give students the opportunity to interact with technology as it is used in a school setting. Emphasis will be on keyboarding, Google Applications (Mail, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Forms, Classroom, etc.), Microsoft Office Applications, and other general computer applications used in a school setting. Students will learn to practice safe legal and ethical behaviors related to technology.

Course Descriptions: Grade 6

Elective Courses



Art 6 (1 semester)

This exploratory course is designed to lay the foundation of skills in the visual arts. Students will develop skills, techniques and processes by experimenting and using different media. The student will become familiar with and use the art elements and principles. Students will also practice art criticism skills as well as investigate different artists and styles. Projects will be utilizing different media (drawing, painting, clay, fiber, and possibly printmaking).

Lifetime Sports & Fitness 6 (1 semester)

In this course, students will be introduced to individual and group activities in which they can participate throughout their lives. The goal of this course is to provide students with a variety of activities they can do throughout a lifetime with a focus on overall fitness. Activities may include, but are not limited to: pickle ball, hantis, badminton, archery, bowling, strength training, and aerobic fitness.

Performance Choir 6 (2 semesters)

Members of this group will study music from different time periods and cultures as well as languages. Sight-reading skills, proper breathing techniques and good tone production will be emphasized along with music vocabulary, which introduces terms and notations. Students need to participate enthusiastically in rehearsal and will be expected to rehearse at home with mp3s on a regular basis. No previous choral experience is necessary. ***Students will be required to participate in two evening concerts during the year.***

Experiencing Music 6 (1 semester)

This course is designed to provide a positive atmosphere for students interested in developing music skills, without the added responsibility of formal performances. Students will explore history of music, music literacy, sight reading, and choral literature through singing and listening to music. The goal is to provide students with experiences that will enhance their appreciation for music and help them relate in musical terms throughout their lifetime.

Band 6 (2 semesters)

This is a year long course designed to introduce the musical skills necessary to play an instrument. It is designed to offer students an opportunity to learn to read and appreciate music through playing a band instrument. Sixth grade band students will begin learning to play chromatic and major scales. Band students will develop the ability to play different musical elements such as meter, articulations, and rhythms while extending their range on their instruments. Students will perform different musical styles through full band literature. There will be performances and rehearsals outside of the school day, which is required as part of the student's grade.

Introduction to STEM 6 (1 semester)

In this introductory course, students will learn about STEM concepts (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), including STEM careers and how they impact the past, present, and future. Students will study the design process and measurement, and use that to guide their actions while solving problems and completing hands on activities. This course will also explore the PLTW (Project Lead The Way) course offering students can take in the future.

Cultures and Languages Around the World 6 (1 semester)

In this course, students will investigate a variety of cultures and languages around the world. Students will explore products, practices, and perspectives, as well as basic language and vocabulary of a variety of cultures.

Introduction to Theatre 6 (1 semester)

Introduction to Theatre is offered to 6th grade students interested in learning more about the art of theatre. Students will be introduced to scripted and improvisational acting, musical theatre and storytelling. Introduction to Theatre builds upon ELA learning by exploring play reading and script analysis. Students should bring an enthusiasm for learning as well as performing, since all theatre arts students are expected to regularly participate in activities and exercises in small groups and in front of their peers. High levels of participation and interaction is expected in all classroom exercises; however, students in the introductory course do not perform for the public.

7th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

English Language Arts (ELA)	2 semesters
Math	2 semesters
Science	2 semesters
Social Studies	2 semesters
Physical Education/Health	2 semesters
Academic Skills	2 semesters

7TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

Seventh grade students may take a total of FOUR (4) semesters of electives if not enrolled in band.

Band 7	2 Semesters
Performance Choir 7	1 Semester
Experiencing Music 7	1 Semester
Art 7	1 Semester
Family and Consumer Science 7	1 Semester
Theatre 7	1 Semester
Journalism 1	1 Semester
Lifetime Sports & Fitness 7	1 Semester
Intro to French 7	1 Semester
Intro to Spanish 7	1 Semester
PLTW Design & Modeling 7	1 Semester
PLTW App Creators 7	1 Semester
PLTW Energy & the Environment 7	1 Semester
Core Resource ELA 7	1 Semester

Students Enrolling in Band

If band is selected, a total of TWO (2) additional semesters of electives may be chosen.

Course Descriptions: Grade 7

Required Courses



English Language Arts 7 (2 semesters)

With the use of Missouri's Learning Standards (MLS), this course places an emphasis on reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students will advance deeper understanding of the writing process. Using different genres, including informational text, students will develop skills for the reading process and comprehension. Students will conduct research through the writing process.

Advanced English Language Arts 7 (2 semesters)

Acceptance into Advanced English Language Arts will be determined by past performance in English Language Arts 6 and teacher recommendation. In addition to following the regular English Language Arts 7 curriculum, students will dive into deeper enrichment activities and analyze higher depths of knowledge of the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS). Students will be expected to use a variety of research skills in the writing process. **NOTE: It is recommended that interested students have a minimum Lexile score of 970 or higher and/or prior grade level winter benchmark assessment score in the 75th percentile or higher.**

L.E.A.P. 7 (2 semesters)

This program is designed for students who meet the state of Missouri's definition of gifted children--"those children who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential." Learning experiences that are not ordinarily included in the regular curriculum will be provided. Enrollment in LEAP 7 will take the place of the student's Academic Skills 7 class. Student selection through referral and testing.

Math 7 (2 semesters)

Seventh grade math is an extension of skills learned in 6th grade, which follow the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS). Students will be exposed to mathematical concepts in five domains: Ratios and Proportional Relationships, Number Sense and Operations; Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities; Geometry and Measurement; Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability. Through these practices, the students will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze, and apply information highlighted in real-world situations.

Pre-Algebra 7 (2 semesters)

Acceptance into Pre-Algebra 7 will be determined by past performance in Math 6 and teacher recommendation. Pre-Algebra 7 follows a more challenging and accelerated pace of study. It is a comprehensive course that covers the same skills as Math 7, which follow the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS). Students will be exposed to mathematical concepts in the same domains as Math 7, as well as those in Math 8, but with a higher level of rigor. *Pre-Algebra 7 should be taken prior to Algebra I in 8th grade.*

NOTE: It is recommended that interested students have a prior grade level benchmark assessment score in the 75th percentile or higher.

Science 7 (2 semesters)

Seventh grade science is designed to help students understand concepts in physical science. As they continue to build upon scientific knowledge acquired in early grades, they will participate in a variety of activities and work settings. Topics include: Atomic Composition, Conservation of Mass, Kinetic Theory Model (KTM), Heat Transfer, Force and Collision, Newton's Laws, Light and Sound, Electricity and Magnetism. Scientific investigation is embedded in all topics.

Course Descriptions: Grade 7

Required Courses



Academic Skills 7 (2 semesters)

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop skills related to the core areas, including reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Students will also acquire skills related to character education, decision making, study skills and test taking strategies. Through the Missouri Connection website, students will explore their interests and how they align with the 16 career clusters, investigate careers within these clusters, and begin planning for future classes.

Social Studies 7 (2 semesters)

Social studies at the 7th grade level is an extension of the 6th grade course on World History, focusing specifically on these civilizations: Greece, Rome, Europe in the Middle Ages, and Mesoamerica. Within each civilization, topics will include economics, government, culture, and geography, as specified in the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS).

Physical Education/Health 7 (2 semesters)

The focus of middle school physical education is personal fitness, offering a variety of activities including team sports, individual sports, and lifetime activities. The purpose of this course is to establish a basis for a lifetime of physical fitness, as well as promote involvement in individual and team sports. Middle school PE is a place for learning self-control, leadership, responsibility, and lifetime fitness skills. Included in the physical education course will be a variety of health concepts: nutrition, personal skills, and overall health and wellness.

Core Resources English Language Arts 7 (ELA) (semester placement)

The core resource courses are available to students who require additional support in English Language Arts. If assigned, students receive core resource in place of one of their electives. Core Resource English Language Arts is taken in addition to a student's regular English Language Arts class. Students receive small group assistance with skill development as well as organization skills and practice using a computer based program that focuses on key Missouri Learning Standards (MLS). **Enrollment in Core Resource can be an administratively directed elective intervention based on local and state administered reading and/or math performance, or as an elective choice for students needing additional support in reading and/or math. Teacher, counselor, and/or administrative approval recommended.**

Course Descriptions: Grade 7

Elective Courses



Art 7 (Semester)

This exploratory course is designed to lay the foundation of skills in the visual arts. Students will develop skills, techniques and processes by experimenting and using different media. The student will become familiar with and use the art elements and principles. Students will also practice art criticism skills as well as investigate different artists and styles. Projects will be utilizing different media (drawing, painting, clay, fiber, printmaking).

Journalism 1 (1 semester)

In this introductory course, students will explore the influences of media in their lives, exploring the ramifications of living in a “wired” or “cyber” world, including how it impacts their lives now and in the future. Students will also explore the various aspects of newspaper and yearbook, with instruction given on the principles of journalistic writing, layout, photography and design. ****Students are encouraged to take Journalism 1 before enrolling in Journalism 2.***

Intro to French 7 (Semester)

This course serves as an introduction to the French language. An emphasis on language acquisition through vocabulary study will be the primary focus of this class. Students will also participate in games and activities, while learning how to communicate using basic phrases in French. In addition, students will learn about the cultures of several French-speaking countries.

Intro to Spanish 1 (Semester)

This course serves as an introduction to the Spanish language. An emphasis on language acquisition through vocabulary study will be the primary focus of this class. Students will also participate in games and activities, while learning how to communicate using basic phrases in Spanish. In addition, students will learn about the cultures of several Spanish-speaking countries.

Family and Consumer Science (FACS) 7 (1 semester)

This course allows students to explore Family and Consumer Sciences. Curriculum includes: Sewing, Design, Foods, Family. Students will explore the principles of design, construct a sewing project with hand sewing, participate in cooking labs, and explain their role in their family and the basics of child care such as providing a safe environment for a child while babysitting. ****Additional materials required for student sewing project.***

PLTW App Creators 7 (1 semester)

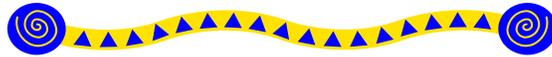
This course introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students also acquire and apply skills pertaining to the design process, problem solving, persistence, collaboration, and communication. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems.

PLTW Design & Modeling 7 (1 semester)

This course provides students opportunities to apply the design process to creatively solve problems. They work in teams to identify design requirements, research the topic, and engage stakeholders. Teams design a toy or game for a child with cerebral palsy, fabricate and test it, and make necessary modifications to optimize their design solution. Students use tools such as the design process, a dynamic mathematics software, a computer-aided design program, computer simulations, an engineering notebook, and possibly a 3D printer to design, build, and model objects.

Course Descriptions: Grade 7

Elective Courses



PLTW Energy & the Environment 7 (1 semester)

In this course, students are challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

Lifetime Sports 7 (1 semester)

In this course, students will be introduced to individual and group activities in which they can participate throughout their lives. The goal of this course is to provide students with a variety of activities they can do throughout a lifetime with a focus on overall fitness. Activities may include, but are not limited to: pickle ball, hantis, badminton, archery, bowling, strength training, and aerobic fitness.

Performance Choir 7 (1 semester)

Members of this group will study music from different time periods and cultures as well as languages. Sight-reading skills, proper breathing techniques and good tone production will be emphasized along with music vocabulary, which includes terms and notations. Students will need to participate enthusiastically in rehearsal and will be expected to rehearse at home with mp3s at home on a regular basis. No previous choral experience is necessary. ***Students will be required to participate in two evening concerts during the semester.***

Experiencing Music 7 (1 semester)

This course is designed to provide a positive atmosphere for students interested in developing music skills, without the added responsibility of formal performances. Students will explore history of music, music literacy, sight reading, and choral literature through singing and listening to music. The goal is to provide students with experiences that will enhance their appreciation for music and help them relate in musical terms throughout their lifetime.

Seventh Grade Band (2 Semesters)

This is a year long course designed to build upon musical skills learned previously. It is designed to offer students an opportunity to learn to read and appreciate music through playing a band instrument. Seventh grade band students will begin learning to play chromatic and major scales. Band students will develop the ability to play different musical elements such as meter, articulations, and rhythms while extending their range on their instruments. Students will perform different musical styles through full band literature. There will be performances and rehearsals outside of the school day, which is required as part of the student's grade.

Introduction to Theatre Arts 7 (1 Semester)

Theatre 7 students will explore theatre by role playing various theatre-related careers including actor, playwright, critic, and designer. This course builds upon the skills and content learned in Introduction to Theatre 6. With an emphasis on Ancient Greek Theatre, Theatre 7 reinforces 7th grade Social Studies learning by using Greek culture and mythology as a centerpiece for many of its learning activities. As this course features many performance assignments, all students who enroll should bring artistic bravery and a strong desire to perform. Students will be speaking and acting throughout the course. All Theatre 7 students are also expected to attend a live theatrical production outside of class time and write a critique.

8th GRADE REQUIRED COURSES

English Language Arts (ELA)	2 semesters
Math	2 semesters
Science	2 semesters
Social Studies	2 semesters
Physical Education/Health	2 semesters
Academic Skills	2 semesters

8TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

Eighth grade students may take a total of FOUR (4) semesters of electives if not enrolled in band.

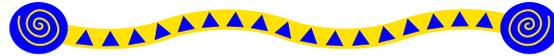
Band 8	2 Semesters
Advanced Performance Choir 8	1 Semester
Experiencing Music 8	1 Semester
Exploring Shakespeare 8	1 Semester
Musical Theatre 8	1 Semester
Art 8	1 Semester
Weights & Strength Training 8	1 Semester
Family and Consumer Science 8	1 Semester
Journalism 1	1 Semester
Journalism 2	1 Semester
PLTW Automation & Robotics 8	1 Semester
PLTW Medical Detectives 8	1 Semester
PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers 8	1 Semester
French 1	2 Semesters
Spanish 1	2 Semesters
Core Resource ELA 8	1 Semester
Student Ambassador 8	1 Semester

Students Enrolling in Band

If band is selected, a total of TWO (2) additional semesters of electives may be chosen.

Course Descriptions: Grade 8

Required Courses



English Language Arts 8 (2 semesters)

With the use of Missouri's Learning Standards (MLS), this class places an emphasis on reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students will advance deeper understanding of the writing process, with a focus on informative, narrative, and argumentative writing. Using different genres, including informational text, students will develop skills for the reading process and comprehension. Students will advance their research skills and strategies.

Advanced English Language Arts 8 (2 semesters)

This course covers the basic essentials of 8th grade English Language Arts, with increased rigor in reading and writing, following the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS). This course is taught in an in-depth and fast-paced classroom setting promoting independent analysis. Superior reading and writing skills are necessary for students enrolled in this course. Students will be expected to engage in an extensive book analysis project. **NOTE: It is recommended that interested students have a minimum Lexile score of 970 or higher and/or prior grade level winter benchmark assessment score in the 75th percentile or higher.**

LEAP 8 (2 semesters)

This program is designed for students who meet the state of Missouri's definition of gifted children --"those children who exhibit precocious development of mental capacity and learning potential." Learning experiences that are not ordinarily included in the regular curriculum will be provided. Enrollment in LEAP 8 will take the place of the student's Academic Skills 8 class. Student selection through referral and testing.

Math 8 (2 semesters)

Eighth grade math is an extension of skills learned in 7th grade, which follow the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS). Students will be exposed to mathematical concepts in five domains: Ratios and Proportional Relationships, Number Sense and Operations; Expressions, Equations, and Inequalities; Geometry and Measurement; Data Analysis, Statistics and Probability. Students will develop concepts and skills that further both thinking and reasoning abilities, and prepare them for Algebra I at the high school level. In addition, students will recognize and apply various problem-solving techniques used to investigate and understand mathematical content areas and solve real-world problems.

Algebra 1 (2 semesters)

This course is designed following the Missouri Learning Standards (MLS), with algebraic functions and applications as the focus area of the course. Traditional Algebra I topics covered: operations with integers, solving equations, ratios, proportional reasoning and statistics, percents, linear equations and graphs, operations with exponents, and systems of equations and inequalities. Students seeking enrollment into Algebra I must have demonstrated proficiency in mathematical skills during his/her 6th and 7th grade years, receive teacher recommendation, and a completed course application. Students must maintain acceptable academic standing (C- or better) to be eligible for the second semester of the course. Students who pass Algebra I with a grade no lower than a C- will be eligible to earn 1 course credit towards high school graduation after successfully completing three math credits in grades 9-11. ***Prerequisite: A grade of a B- or above in Pre-Algebra 7 and prior grade level benchmark assessment score in the 75th percentile or higher.** **NOTE: Students who earn a C- or better in the course will be expected to enroll in Advanced Geometry for their 9th grade year.**

Course Descriptions: Grade 8

Required Courses



Science 8 (2 semesters)

Eighth grade science is designed to help students understand concepts in life science. Topics include: Ecology, Man's Impact on the Environment, Foundations of Life, Human Body Systems, Adaptations for Survival, Factors Affecting Populations. Scientific investigation and lab practices will be incorporated in all topics.

Social Studies 8 (2 semesters)

This course will cover the discovery of America from the English Colonies through the time period of the Civil War and Reconstruction. It will cover the social, political, economic, and geographical history of the United States during that time. Students will use reading and note-taking skills, primary/secondary sources, geography skills, projects, and cooperative group work to enhance learning.

Physical Education/Health 8 (2 semesters)

The focus of middle school physical education is personal fitness, offering a variety of activities including team sports, individual sports, and lifetime activities. The purpose of this course is to establish a basis for a lifetime of physical fitness, as well as promote involvement in individual and team sports. Middle school PE is a place for learning self-control, leadership, responsibility, and lifetime fitness skills. Included in the physical education course will be a variety of health concepts: reproductive system, diseases, teen and societal health issues.

Academic Skills 8 (2 semesters)

This course provides students with the opportunity to develop skills related to the core areas, including reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. Students will also acquire skills related to character education, decision making, study skills and test taking strategies. Planning for future classes at the high school level, will be a focus in this class as well, with support from counselors .

Core Resource ELA 8 (semester placement)

The core resource courses are available to students who require additional support in English Language Arts. If assigned, students receive core resource in place of one of their electives. Core Resource English Language Arts is taken in addition to a student's regular English Language Arts class. Students receive small group assistance with skill development as well as organization skills and practice using a computer based program that focuses on key Missouri Learning Standards (MLS). **Enrollment in Core Resource can be an administratively directed elective intervention based on local and state administered reading and/or math performance, or as an elective choice for students needing additional support in reading and/or math. Teacher, counselor, and/or administrative approval recommended.**

Course Descriptions: Grade 8

Elective Courses



Art 8 (1 semester)

This exploratory course is designed to lay the foundation of skills in the visual arts. Students will develop skills, techniques and processes by experimenting and using different media. The student will become familiar with and use the art elements and principles in a more advanced manner. Students will also practice art criticism skills as well as investigate different artists and styles. Projects will be utilizing different media (drawing, painting, clay, fiber, printmaking).

Journalism 1 (1 semester)

In this introductory course, students will explore the influences of media in their lives, exploring the ramifications of living in a “wired” or “cyber” world, including how it impacts their lives now and in the future. Students will also explore the various aspects of newspaper and yearbook, with instruction given on the principles of journalistic writing, layout, photography and design. **Students are encouraged to take Journalism 1 before enrolling in Journalism 2.*

Journalism 2 (1 semester, can be repeated)

Students enrolled in this course will work with the principles of designing the Middle School yearbook and newspaper. Instruction will be given on the principles of journalistic writing, layout, photography and design while producing the school newspaper and yearbook. The focus will be on learning and practicing photography, organizing and editing photographs, as well as interviewing and writing skills, page design and layout for the yearbook. In order to meet production deadlines, students may need to work before or after school hours. **Students are encouraged to bring A Memo Notebook (3x5), a Steno Notebook (6x9) and an SD Card 8gb-32gb. *This course can be repeated for one additional semester.*

PLTW Medical Detectives 8 (1 semester)

In this course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” Students will solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

PLTW Automation & Robotics 8 (1 semester)

In this course, students trace the history, development and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers 8 (1 semester)

This course teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.

Weight/Strength Training 8 (1 semester)

In this course, students will utilize proper equipment and techniques for strength training. Students will be exposed to a variety of exercises for both strength and resistance training, while working to achieve their own personal fitness goals.

Course Descriptions: Grade 8

Elective Courses



Exploring Shakespeare 8 (1 Semester)

Exploring Shakespeare 8 is a performance course. It is designed to build upon the knowledge and performance skills learned in Theatre 7 with learning activities thematically structured around the life and works of William Shakespeare. Students will deepen their study of acting through improvisation work, acting in a reader's theatre play, and more advanced scene work. Communication skills will be strengthened by practicing impromptu speaking, oratory and debate. All students are expected to attend a live theatrical production outside of class time and write a critique. In addition, all students will present a performance piece for a public audience. Failure to meet one's performance obligations may result in a failing grade.

Advanced Performance Choir 8 (1 semester)

This choral ensemble is designed to allow students to perform more demanding choral music. Members of this group will routinely participate in performances in the community and music contest in the spring. Choral music in multiple parts will be performed and studied from different time periods and a variety of cultures. In depth sight reading skills, proper breathing techniques and good tone production will be emphasized along with music vocabulary, which includes terms and notations. ***Student audition with director is required to take this course. Students will be required to participate in two evening concerts during the semester, as well as other arranged concerts in the community.***

Experiencing Music 8 (1 semester)

This course is designed to provide a positive atmosphere for students interested in developing music skills, without the added responsibility of formal performances. Students will explore history of music, music literacy, sight reading, and choral literature through singing and listening to music. The goal is to provide students with experiences that will enhance their appreciation for music and help them relate in musical terms throughout their lifetime.

Musical Theatre 8 (1 semester)

This is a performance course. Admission is by audition only. Students will rehearse a full-scale musical during class time and perform several day and evening public performances of their show during the final weeks of the semester. All students enrolled in this course will perform roles in the musical and some will do technician or backstage work, in addition. Rehearsals are during the school day; however, students in leading roles are often required to put in extra rehearsal and preparation time outside of the regular school day. Since the coursework is driven by the end of semester performances, it is important that students are in attendance at all shows. Missing performances may result in a failing grade. This course has produced such shows as Grease, Footloose, The Music Man, Annie, Hello Dolly, and Godspell over the past several years. The vocal music and theatre teacher team teach this course together. **Admission by audition only.**

Band 8 (2 semesters)

This is a year long course designed to build on musical skills learned previously. It is designed to offer students an opportunity to learn to read and appreciate music through playing a band instrument. Eighth grade band students will learn to play chromatic, minor, and all major scales. Band students will develop the ability to play different musical elements such as meter, articulations, and advanced rhythms while extending their range on their instruments. Students will perform different musical styles through full band literature. There will be performances and rehearsals outside of the school day, which is required as part of the student's grade.

Course Descriptions: Grade 8

Elective Courses



Family and Consumer Science (FACS) 8 (1 semester)

This course is an extension of FACS 7 in which students will further explore Family and Consumer Sciences. Curriculum includes: Sewing, Design, Foods, Child Care. Students will participate in more complex cooking labs, construct a sewing project using machine sewing, further explore the principles of design, and explain the basics of child development including a safe environment for children. ****Additional materials required for student sewing project.***

French I (2 semesters)

The purpose of French I is to develop advanced thinking skills that can be applied to future study of French. French I will familiarize students with French cultures and life, and aid them in the acquisition and application of the language. Projects in this course will reinforce and develop the student's knowledge of the language and cultures around the world that use French language everyday. The study of French will enrich the student's school experiences and teach them to appreciate and value other cultures outside of their own. French I is important in the development of critical thinking skills. By the end of the year, students will be able to communicate at a basic level through speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Students must maintain acceptable academic standing (C- or better) to be eligible for the second semester of the course. Students who pass Intro to French 7 and French I with a grade no lower than a C- will be eligible to earn 1 course credit towards high school graduation after successfully completing two foreign language credits in grades 9-12. *****Prerequisite: a grade of a B- or above in Intro to French 7 and 7th grade ELA.***

Spanish I (2 semesters)

The purpose of Spanish I is to develop advanced thinking skills that can be applied to future study of Spanish. Spanish I will familiarize students with Hispanic cultures and life, and aid them in the acquisition and application of the language. Assignments in this course will reinforce and develop the student's knowledge of the language and cultures around the world that use Spanish language everyday. The study of Spanish will enrich the student's school experiences and teach them to appreciate and value other cultures outside of their own. Spanish I is important in the development of critical thinking skills. By the end of the year, students will be able to communicate at a basic level through speaking, reading, listening, and writing. Students must maintain acceptable academic standing (C- or better) to be eligible for the second semester of the course. Students who pass Spanish I with a grade no lower than a C- will be eligible to earn 1 course credit towards high school graduation after successfully completing two foreign language credits in grades 9-12. ****Prerequisite: a grade of a B- or above in Intro to Spanish 7 and 7th grade ELA.***

Student Ambassador 8 (1 semester)

Students will have the opportunity to assist staff with the daily duties of the administrative office, counseling office, and library media center. *Prerequisite: Application with teacher recommendation completed, A/B student, 95% attendance record, and exhibit characteristics of good citizenship.*

**RAYMORE-PECULIAR A+ PROGRAM
2017- 2018**

A+ schools are dedicated to the following goals:

All students will complete high school studies that are challenging and have identified learning expectations.

All students will proceed from high school graduation to college, post-secondary vocational or technical school or a job with workplace skill development opportunities.

All students will graduate from high school.

Requirements of the A+ Schools Program

Attend an A+ Designated School for 3 consecutive years leading to graduation.

Maintain a **2.5** non-weighted grade point avg. on a **4.0** scale.

Maintain a **95** percent attendance by hours over 4 years of high school.

Class of 2015 and beyond– Must score proficient or advanced on Algebra I End of Course Exam or a higher level DESE approved EOC exam.

Perform **50** hours of tutoring/mentoring to younger students.

Exemplify good citizenship. Students earn disciplinary points for every discipline referral. No more than **20** points may be earned in any school year.

Apply for Federal Student Aid—file a FASFA form.

Register for the Selective Service if applicable.

Avoid the use of alcohol and/or unlawful drugs.

For your convenience you can now go to the Raymore-Peculiar website and print off the A+ handbook, Letter of Intent, Community Service log, Attendance Appeal and Citizenship Appeal forms. *To access the A+ page from the Raymore-Peculiar Website go to Schools/Facilities click on Secondary Schools then click on High School. Click on A+ Program.*

For any A+ questions or concerns you have on your student, please contact Mr. Eric Sclesky, A+ Coordinator at 816/892-1426 or e-mail at Eric.sclesky@raypec.org.

For any questions or concerns on the tutoring/mentoring program, please contact Mr. Matt Majors, Tutoring Coordinator at 816/892-1425 or e-mail at Matt.majors@raypec.org.

Raymore-Peculiar High School Graduation Requirements

CURRICULAR AREAS	<i>Graduation Requirements</i>
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	4 units (Must include 1 unit in a core English class for each grade 9-12)
SOCIAL STUDIES	3 units (Must include 1 unit Am. History, 1 unit World History, 1/2 unit Foundations of American Government and 1/2 unit Political Studies)
MATHEMATICS	3 units (Must include 1 unit Algebra I and 1 unit Geometry and 1 unit of Algebra II)
SCIENCE	3 units (Must include 1 unit Biology I or Pre-AP Biology I and 1 unit of a Physical Science and 1 elective unit of science)
FINE ARTS	1 unit
PRACTICAL ARTS	½ unit
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1 unit
PERSONAL FINANCE	1/2 unit
HEALTH	1/2 unit
ELECTIVES	9.5 units
Totals	26 units

Raymore-Peculiar IB Course Sequence

Group 1: Language A1

Subject	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Level of IB Testing
IB English HL	Advanced English I	Advanced English II	IB English HL1	IB English HL2	Higher Level Exam

Group 2: Second Language

Subject	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Level of IB Testing
IB Spanish SL	Spanish II	Spanish III	IB Spanish IV SL1	IB Spanish V SL2	Standard Level Exam

Group 3: Individuals and Society

Subject	Freshmen	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Level of IB Testing
History of the Americas HL	Adv.American History	AP World History	History of the Americas HL 1	History of the Americas HL 2	Higher Level Exam

Group 4: Experimental Sciences

Subject	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Level of IB Testing
IB Biology HL	Advanced Biology	Chemistry	IB Biology HL 1	IB Biology HL 2	Higher Level Exam
IB Chemistry SL1 HL	Advanced Biology	Chemistry	IB Chemistry SL1 HL1*	IB Chemistry SL2**	Standard Level Exam
IB ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS & SOCIETIES	Advanced Biology	Chemistry	IB ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS & SOCIETIES	IB ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS & SOCIETIES	Standard Level Exam

Group 5: Mathematics *Class of 2018 and Beyond **Class of 2017 only. Future classes will take the HL sequence.

Subject	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Level of IB Testing
IB Math SL	Advanced Geometry	Advanced Algebra II	IB Math SL 1	IB Math SL 2	Standard Level Exam
IB Math Studies SL	Advanced Geometry	Advanced Algebra II	IB Math Studies SL 1	IB Math Studies SL 2	Standard Level Exam

Group 6: Electives

Subject	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Level of IB Testing
IB Visual Arts SL	Elements of Art and Principals of Design	Level 3 Art Classes	Visual Arts SL 1	Visual Arts SL 1	Standard Level Exam
IB Visual Arts HL	Elements of Art and Principals of Design	Level 3 Art Classes	Visual Arts HL 1	Visual Arts HL 2	Higher Level Exam
IB Psychology			IB Psychology SL 1	IB Psychology SL 1	Standard Level Exam
IB Theater SL	Introduction to Theater or Intro to Competitive Theater	Acting or Advanced Competitive Theater	IB Theater SL 1A	IB Theater SL 1B	Standard Level Exam

IB Business Management

Subject	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Level of IB Testing
IB Business Management	Business Essentials	Marketing I	IB Business	Business Essentials	Standard Level Exam
IB Social & Cultural Anthropology			IB Social & Cultural Anthropology	IB Social & Cultural Anthropology	Standard Level Exam

Theory of Knowledge

Subject	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Special Notes
			TOK	TOK	This course spans 2nd semester junior year and 1st semester senior year

Required Curriculum by Most Four-year Colleges

English:	Four units, one of which may be in speech or debate; two units emphasizing composition or writing skills
Mathematics:	Four units, algebra I or higher
Science:	Three units (not including general science), one of which must be a lab
Social Studies:	Three units
Foreign Language:	Two units of the same language
Fine Arts:	One unit

DID YOU KNOW?

- Only one-quarter of students meet ACT's College Readiness Benchmarks in all four subjects (English, mathematics, social science, and natural science),
- Nearly one-fifth meet none of the benchmarks.
- Twenty eight percent of all incoming college freshmen are enrolled in at least one remedial course, according to federal data.
- For both sets of indicators, the achievement of African American, Hispanic, and low-income students is much lower than these averages.

What does this mean?

Students need to take college preparatory courses during all four years of high school.

First, based on ACT's decades of student performance data, they define "college readiness" as students having approximately a 75 percent chance of earning a grade of C or higher or approximately a 50 percent chance of earning a B or higher in selected courses commonly taken in the first year of college in the following subjects:

- English (English Composition);
- Mathematics (College Algebra);
- Social science (History, Psychology, Sociology, Political Science, or Economics); and
- Natural science (Biology).

Nearly 3 in 10 college students need remediation according to the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2004, *The Condition of Education 2004*

WHY ELSE SHOULD A STUDENT TAKE MORE COURSES THAN THE MINIMUM REQUIRED?

In a world where two-thirds of new jobs will require some kind of education or training after high school, all graduates need the same level of knowledge and skills, whether they enroll in a two- or four-year college, are hired for a job that offers a career path at a self-supporting wage, participate in an apprenticeship or related training, or join the military.

Employers have been sending this message for quite a while, but ACT's research offers empirical evidence to support the assertion, based on a close analysis of the following:

- Skills needed for jobs that are sufficient to support a small family, provide the potential for career advancement, and are projected to grow in the future, such as electricians, construction workers, upholsterers, and plumbers; and
- Four years of performance on ACT assessments.

To ensure that they master the knowledge and skills to succeed after high school, ACT recommends that students take a core curriculum consisting of at least:

- Four years of English;
- Three years of mathematics, including rigorous courses in Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II
- Three years of science, including rigorous courses in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics;
- Three years of social studies