

**Elgin ISD**



**Middle School  
Course Guide**

**2015 - 2016**



# Elgin Independent School District Middle School Course Guide

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Joseph Towns, Assistant Principal  
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Angel Martinez, Counselor (M-Z)

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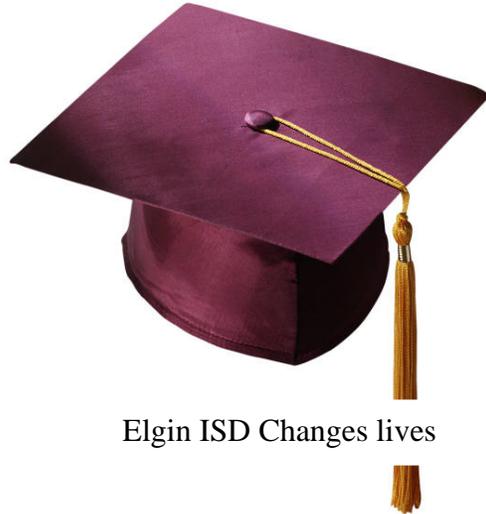
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## Mission Statement:

Elgin ISD ensures a high-quality education that guarantees a life-changing experience for all.

*Elgin Independent School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, or disability in providing education services, activities or programs. It is the intent and policy of this district to conduct its activities in compliance with all Federal and State laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, or disability.*

*El Distrito Independiente Escolar de Elgin no discrimina a base de raza, sexo, edad, religión, color, origen nacional, o incapacidad en proveer servicios educacionales, actividades, o programas. Es la intención y norma del distrito de conducir sus actividades de acuerdo con todas las leyes Federales y Estatales prohibiendo discriminación a base de raza, sexo, edad, religión, color, origen nacional o incapacidad.*



Elgin ISD Changes lives



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# General Information

## Middle School Information

Elgin ISD provides middle school students a well-balanced, rigorous curriculum that meets the requirements set forth by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

A key focus of the EISD middle school academic program is to make certain all students are prepared for the high school curriculum by focusing on the attainment of the essential skills in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

The instructional program delivered at the middle school is based on the official curriculum defined by the state, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), developed in collaboration between TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The district has also adopted the TEKS Resource System as our framework for teaching the state standards. These learning standards are designed to represent a full range of knowledge and skills that students need to succeed in entry-level college courses, as well as in a wide range of majors and careers. By implementing these required standards, our schools will advance the mission of Texas to develop college and career ready students.

In addition to certain required courses, students may choose optional courses (electives) in fine arts, languages other than English, technology education, and physical education. Elective course offerings may vary from grade to grade based upon student requests and staff availability.

## High School Credit Opportunities

The expectation of the district is that each middle school student will leave 8<sup>th</sup> grade with a minimum of 1 high school credit. High school courses offered at the middle school include Art I, PE, Theatre Arts I, Health, Algebra I, and Spanish I. Grades earned in these classes will be calculated using the high school grading guidelines and will be applied towards high school GPA and rank, if applicable.

## Alternative Credit Opportunities

### Credit by Examination for Acceleration

Students may take exams offered by the University of Texas or Texas Tech University for courses in which no prior instruction has been received. A score of 80 must be achieved in order to receive credit for the course. Test dates will be published in the student handbook. Credit by examination for acceleration may be attempted a maximum of two times in each course. Students should contact a counselor for registration information.

The following courses are approved for credit by examination for acceleration:

#### Grade 6

English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science

#### Grade 7

English Language Arts, Math, Texas History, and Science

#### Grade 8

English Language Arts, Math, US History, Science, Spanish I for High School Credit, Health for High School Credit

### Credit by Examination with Prior Instruction

A student must have had prior formal instruction in a semester course to be eligible to gain credit by examination. A score of 70 or above is required on the credit by examination, which may be attempted two times in the same course. Some fees may apply.

### Correspondence Courses

Students may use distance learning courses, including correspondence courses, as a means of earning credit in a subject or course. In order to receive credit, a student shall obtain approval from the principal or designee prior to enrollment in the course.

## Grading and Evaluation

Report cards will be issued every six weeks throughout the school year. In addition to report cards, the school will mail interim progress reports every three weeks.

## Grade Conversion

The following numerical values will be used for letter grades transferred to the school:

A+ = 97	B+ = 87	C+ = 79	D+ = 74	F $\leq$ 69
A = 94	B = 84	C = 77	D = 72	
A- = 90	B- = 80	C- = 75	D- = 70	

## Home School/Non-Accredited Private School

A student returning to public middle school from home schooling or a non-accredited private school will need to demonstrate mastery of basic skills up to the grade level to which he/she is assigned. Students will be given a Credit by Exam assessment offered by the University of Texas or Texas Tech University.

## Promotion Policy

To be promoted from Grade 6 to Grade 7, Grade 7 to Grade 8 and Grade 8 to Grade 9, students must meet all the following criteria:

1. Earn a yearly average of 70 or above in three of the following areas: English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.
2. Earn an overall average of 70 when all subjects taken are averaged together.
3. Meet the 90 percent state-mandated requirement for attendance.
4. 8<sup>th</sup> graders must pass STAAR Math and Reading for promotion.

## State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is the criterion-referenced assessment program that has been in place since 2011-2012. STAAR includes the five high school end-of-course (EOC) assessments mandated by HB 5 in 2013 and the new grade 3–8 assessments mandated by HB 3 in 2009. The new tests are rigorous, with an emphasis on alignment to college and career readiness standards.

The following tests are required at each grade level:

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Math and Reading

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Math, Reading, and Writing

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Math\*, Reading, Science, and Social Studies



(\*Note: Students taking Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to take the corresponding EOC Math test.)

## Course Options

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

ELA

Math

Science

Social Studies

PE

Elective (1)

Computer Applications or LEGO robotics (semester)

Youth Leadership (semester)

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

ELA  
Math  
Science  
Social Studies  
PE/Athletics  
Elective (1)  
Exploring Careers (semester)  
Writing Reading Workshop (semester)

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

ELA  
Math  
Science  
Social Studies  
3 Electives

*Note: Pursuant to HB 3, all middle school students must complete at least one fine arts course while in middle school. This requirement may be fulfilled during their 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and/or 8<sup>th</sup> grade school year.*

## Physical Education Requirement

State law requires that students complete at least **four** semesters (or **two** years) of Physical Education in grades 6-8.

## Summer School

Students may attend an accredited summer school, provided that approval of the principal or counselor is obtained before enrolling. Summer school work can be used for making up work that has been failed during the regular term, or strengthening areas where a student is weak.



# Course Descriptions for Students and Parents



***Please Note:***

***Courses in this guide may not be offered in a given year. Other than required courses, courses may vary based on the number of student requests for the course.***

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



### **English Language Arts - 6161**

**Full Year**

**Grade: 6**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Students will develop an understanding for reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of the English language. Students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. In addition, students will continue to address earlier standards as needed while they attend to standards for their grade level. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis.

### **Pre-AP English Language Arts - 6160**

**Full Year**

**Grade: 6**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Pre-AP ELA curriculum serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program. Emphasis is placed on developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Summer reading will be required.

### **English for Speakers of Other Languages - 6167**

**Full Year**

**Grade: 6**

**Prerequisite:** *State and District Criteria*

ESOL is the language arts class for students for whom English is their 2<sup>nd</sup> language. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, grammar, usage, and spelling. Listening and speaking skills, composition, language usage, and visual literacy are also developed through the study of literature.

### **Mathematics - 6261**

**Full Year**

**Grade: 6**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Students develop an understanding of, and fluency with, multiplication and division of fractions (rational numbers). They use reasoning about multiplication and division to solve rate, ratio, and proportion problems. Students write mathematical expressions and equations as well as derive and use formulas to connect the learning to real-world problem solving.

### **Pre-AP Mathematics - 6260**

**Full Year**

**Grade: 6**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Pre-AP Math for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is a course designed for students that utilizes Pre-AP strategies to enhance the development of higher level thinking and problem-solving skills. Students will use reasoning about multiplication and division to solve rate, ratio, and proportion problems, write mathematical expressions and equations, and derive and use formulas to connect the learning to real-world problem solving. Special emphasis is placed on problem-solving and applying concepts learned to real-world situations. This course will compact new and aligned TEKS within the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. This class is taught at an accelerated rate. It is highly recommended that a student have passed the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Math STAAR.

### **Science - 6361**

**Full Year**

**Grade: 6**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

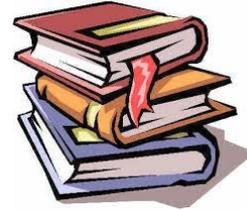
Science for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is a course designed to enhance the development of critical and creative thinking skills. Students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on physical science. Topics of study include elements, compounds and mixtures, energy resources, potential and kinetic energy, energy transformations, force and motion, solar system and space exploration, taxonomic classifications and levels of organization in ecosystems. Students will learn about safe behaviors, puberty, and the reproductive system through the “Worth the Wait” curriculum.



**Social Studies - 6461****Full Year****Grade: 6****Prerequisite:** *None*

Social Studies for 6<sup>th</sup> grade is designed to develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed for higher level thinking. Students study people, places, and societies of the contemporary world, the influence of individuals on events and the differing nature of citizenship. Students will identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. Students will compare institutions and the effects of technology on societies and identify different points of view about events. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**English Language Arts - 6171****Full Year****Grade: 7****Prerequisite:** *None*

ELA for 7<sup>th</sup> grade is a course designed to develop an understanding for reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of the English language. Emphasis is placed on developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis.

**Pre-AP English Language Arts - 6170****Full Year****Grade: 7****Prerequisite:** *None*

Pre-AP ELA curriculum serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program. Emphasis is placed on developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Summer reading will be required.

**English for Speakers of Other Languages - 6177****Full Year****Grade: 7****Prerequisite:** *State and District Criteria*

ESOL is the language class for students for whom English is their 2<sup>nd</sup> language. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, grammar, usage, and spelling. Listening and speaking skills, composition, language usage, and visual literacy are also developed through the study of literature.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics - 6271****Full Year****Grade: 7****Prerequisite:** *None*

Students develop an understanding of proportionality and ratio to describe and solve situations involving discounts, interest, taxes, and percent of increase or decrease. They compose and decompose two and three dimensional objects to create and validate formulas for surface area and volume. Students extend their learning in addition, multiplication, subtraction and division to integers and rational numbers by applying the properties of arithmetic to consider negative numbers in everyday contexts.



**Pre-Algebra - 6270****Full Year****Grade: 7****Prerequisite:** *Pre-AP 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math or demonstrated ability on Credit by Exam for Acceleration for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math*

A course of instruction leading to 8<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra and subsequent Pre-AP and AP mathematics courses at the high school, this course reviews arithmetic procedure and begins a student's investigation of algebraic concepts. Students develop fluency in number operation and quantitative reasoning, and develop and describe geometric and mathematical patterns, all leading to sustainable algebraic thinking. This class is taught at an accelerated rate.

**Science - 6371****Full Year****Grade: 7****Prerequisite:** *None*

Science for 7<sup>th</sup> grade is a course designed to enhance the development of critical and creative thinking skills. Students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on organisms and the environment. Topics of study include the flow and conservation of energy through living systems, force, motion, and energy observed in living systems and the environment, Earth and space phenomena, relationships between living organisms and their environment, genetics, plant and animal cell structures, and human body systems. Students will be engaged in relevant and rigorous hands-on laboratory investigations that emphasize process skills, such as experimental design, and use tools and technology to collect, record, and analyze data. In addition, students will learn about safe behaviors, puberty, and the reproductive system through the "Worth the Wait" curriculum. Students may choose to independently complete a science fair project based on the ARASE guidelines and to participate in the science fair competition.

**Texas History - 6471****Full Year****Grade: 7****Prerequisite:** *None*

Texas History for 7<sup>th</sup> grade develops the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed for higher level thinking. Students will study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Areas of study will include Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. Students identify the regions of Texas and describe the structure and functions of government. Students will examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens, identify different ethnic groups who contributed to Texas culture, and analyze the impact of science and technology on the development of Texas in various industries. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed in the TEKS. Students may choose to independently complete a history fair project based on the NHD guidelines and to participate in the history fair competition.

8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
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**English Language Arts - 6181****Full Year****Grade: 8****Prerequisite:** *None*

Students will develop an understanding for reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of the English language. Students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. In addition, students will continue to address earlier standards as needed while they attend to standards for their grade level. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis.

## Pre-AP English Language Arts - 6180

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

Pre-AP curriculum serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program. Emphasis is placed on developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Summer reading will be required.



## English for Speakers of Other Languages - 6187

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *State and District Criteria*

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, ESOL students continue to develop skills in listening, speaking, composition, language, literature, and visual literacy. Spelling, vocabulary, grammar, usage, and mechanics are all integral parts of the program. Emphasis is placed on the writing process and improving reading comprehension.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra - 6281

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

This course reviews arithmetic procedure and begins a student's investigation of algebraic concepts. Students will use linear equations to represent real-world situations, and develop an understanding of slope as rate of change. They will increase fluency in number, operation and quantitative reasoning; analyze two and three dimensional space and uses of statistical data; and develop and describe geometric and mathematical patterns all leading to sustainable algebraic thinking.

## Algebra I for High School Credit - 6285

Credit: (1.0) Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *Successful completion of 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra or demonstrated ability on Credit by Exam for Acceleration for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math*

Algebra I will expand students' understanding of number, operation, and quantitative reasoning; patterns, relationships, and algebraic thinking; geometry; measurement; and probability and statistics. Special emphasis is placed on problem solving and application of skills and concepts. Students will also be instructed in the use of the graphing calculator. **Upon successful completion, this course grants high school credit, which may be applied toward one of the four required high school math courses. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA and class rank.**



## Science - 6381

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

Science for 8<sup>th</sup> grade is a course designed to enhance the development of critical and creative thinking skills. Students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on earth and space science. Topics of study include properties of matter and chemical reactions; relationship between forces and motion explained by Newton's three laws; cycles within the Sun, Earth, and Moon systems (seasons, tides, lunar phases, origin of universe, plate tectonics, topographic maps, interaction of solar, weather, and ocean systems, interactions within ecosystems, and environmental changes). Students will be engaged in relevant and rigorous hands-on laboratory investigations that emphasize process skills, such as experimental design, and use tools and technology to collect, record, and analyze data. In addition, students will learn about safe behaviors, puberty, and the reproductive system through the "Worth the Wait" curriculum. Students may choose to independently complete a science fair project based on the ARASE guidelines and to participate in the science fair competition.

## U.S. History - 6481

**Full Year**

**Grade: 8**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

U.S. History for 8<sup>th</sup> grade utilizes strategies which develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed for higher level thinking. Students study the history of the United States from colonization through Reconstruction. Students analyze political, economic, religious and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges of the early Republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction. Students examine the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on how and where Americans lived, the American beliefs and principles reflected in historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution, the effects of major Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 science and technology on the development of the U.S. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed in the TEKS. Students may choose to independently complete a history fair project based on the NHD guidelines and to participate in the history fair competition.

## ELECTIVES - CONTENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Electives will be offered subject to minimum enrollment and teacher availability.**

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### FINE ARTS

**Art (Beginner) - 6970, 6980**

**Full Year**

**Grade: 7 - 8**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Beginning Art is a creative performance class designed to help develop perception, expression, historical heritage, and critical evaluation through the following activities: drawing, design, painting, sculpture, and crafts. Supplies or a supply fee may be required.

**Art (Intermediate) - 6971, 6981**

**Full Year**

**Grade: 7 - 8**

**Prerequisite:** *Beginner Art*

Intermediate Art is designed to further inventive and imaginative expression through the following activities: drawing, design, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and crafts. Intermediate Art helps develop visual judgment, critical thinking, and awareness of creative job opportunities. Supplies or a supply fee may be required.

**Art I for High School Credit - 6991**

**Credit: (1.0) Full Year**

**Grade: 8**

**Prerequisite:** *1 year of art*

Students may fulfill fine arts or elective requirements for high school graduation by successfully completing this course. Art I encompasses a wide variety of experiences, from elements and principles of art to art history. Students are exposed to a variety of media both two and three dimensional; pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, tempera, watercolor, clay, and printmaking. Some media may vary. The goal is for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of art. Supplies or a supply fee may be required.



**Band I (Beginner) - 6963, 6973, 6983****Full Year****Grade: 6 - 8****Prerequisite:** *None*

This course is the beginning study of instrumental music. Students have the choice of studying one of the following instruments: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, saxophone, horn, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion. Students will learn to read music and will perform in group and solo settings up to 4 times a year. Families of students choosing Band I should meet with a band director prior to enrollment to choose an instrument.

**Band II (Intermediate) - 6974, 6984****Full Year****Grade: 7 - 8****Prerequisite:** *District recommendation*

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Band are full year courses of the study of instrumental music. There are several concert performances, parade performances, and competitions in solo and ensemble each year. These band members perform individually at concerts and may compete at the University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading Competition in the spring. Attendance at rehearsals and all after-school performances is required. The director assigns course numbers based on student ability.

**Choir I (Beginner) - 6965, 6975, 6985****Full Year****Grade: 6 -8****Prerequisite:** *None*

The primary focus of choral music is to instruct students in the basic skills of voice production, choral technique, and musicianship in order to sing as a performing group. Sight-reading, voice control, harmony, and ear training are emphasized. Choral music serves as an initial study of vocal music.

**Choir II (Intermediate) - 6976, 6986****Full Year****Grade: 7 - 8****Prerequisite:** *Beginner Choir*

The primary focus of choral music is to instruct students in the basic skills of voice production, choral technique, and musicianship in order to sing as a performing group. Sight-reading, voice control, harmony, and ear training are emphasized. Choral music serves as an initial study of vocal music.

**Choir III (Advanced) - 6977, 6987****Full Year****Grade: 7 - 8****Prerequisite:** *1 year of choir, \*\*Audition\*\**

The primary focus of Choral music is to instruct students in the basic skills of voice production, choral technique, and musicianship in order to sing as a performing group. Sight-reading, voice control, harmony, and ear training are emphasized. These choir members perform individually at concerts and may compete at the University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading Competition in the spring. Attendance at rehearsals and all after-school performances is required. The choir director assigns the course number as appropriate for the student.

**General Music - 6962, 6972****Full Year****Grade: 6 – 7****Prerequisite:** *None*

Appreciation for music can be taught many different ways. In this class, students will learn the basics of music theory, including composition, musical form, critical listening, and aural skills. Another component of the class is music history, focusing on both 'classical' and popular music history.



**Theatre Arts (Film Appreciation) - 6969**  
**Full Year** **Grade: 6**  
**Prerequisite:** *None*

Film Appreciation is a new elective at EMS designed to give students an opportunity to explore the science of cinema with brand new eyes. From the history of moving pictures to amateur movie making, we will look at it all to discover what makes a film a “good”. Space is limited and parental permission required.

**Theatre Arts (Beginner) - 6968, 6978, 6988**  
**Full Year** **Grade: 6 - 8**  
**Prerequisite:** *None*

Beginning Theatre is the first level in the EMS Theatre program. This class focuses primarily on the functions of and roles within the theatre. A great deal of time will be devoted to exploring who does what within a company and will also learn about basic body movements, vocalization and good Theatre practices. Outside participation will not be required, but is strongly encouraged.



**Theatre Arts (Intermediate) - 6979, 6989**  
**Full Year** **Grade: 7 - 8**  
**Prerequisite:** *Beginner Theatre Arts*

This class focuses primarily on Theatre History and explores the changes and similarities of theatre over time. This is a more reading-intensive course that will be both challenging and rewarding to students. In addition to studying the history of Western Theatre, we will study how acting styles have changed over the course of time.

This class will require outside participation in the spring semester, although students are encouraged to get involved in any production.

**Theatre Arts I for High School Credit - 6990**  
**HS Credit: (1.0) Full Year** **Grade: 8**  
**Prerequisite:** *1 year of theatre arts, \*\*Audition\*\**

This course is considered an advanced Theatre class at the middle school level. The fall semester is devoted to acquiring and applying broad technical theatrical knowledge through Student Production Projects that will test the students’ skill and know-how. At the end of the semester, students should have a firm grasp of the work required to put on full-scale productions. The spring semester is devoted solely to the application of broad theatrical knowledge through the use of a full-scale spring production and a student production project. At the end of the semester, students should have participated in and mounted their own theatrical productions successfully.

Theatre I will require participation outside of class throughout the semester, especially in the spring as we approach our One Act Play contests and student productions. Accommodations can be made for students who are involved in other extracurricular activities.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Athletics - Boys: 6770, 6780** **Girls: 6771, 6781**  
**Full Year** **Grade: 7 - 8**  
**Prerequisite:** *None*



This course may include football, basketball, volleyball, track and field, golf, and tennis for UIL competition. **Students must have a physical examination by a medical doctor to participate in competitive athletics.** Students will try out for each sport. Those who are placed on a team will be required to attend before or after school practice on a regular basis. These students also participate in strength and conditioning activities during off-season to enhance their opportunities for success in seasonal competition.

Tennis and cross country are sports offered on an outside-of-school basis and those students are not required to be in the athletic period. Attendance at all practices and competitions is required.

**Physical Education - Boys: 6762, 6772**

**Girls: 6763, 6773**

**Full Year**

**Grade: 6 - 8**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Students will continue to improve and develop their fitness knowledge and level through a variety of individual and team sports and activities. All activities are designed to improve their personal fitness level and acquire health and fitness information necessary to become healthy and active adults. State fitness testing will also be included in this course. Students are required to dress out in campus specific fitness attire. Grades are based on participation, skills, and written tests.

**Foundations of Personal Fitness for High School Credit - Boys: 6788**

**Girls: 6789**

**Credit: (1.0) Full Year**

**Grade: 8**

**Prerequisite:** *Two years of PE*

Foundation of Personal Fitness provides students with a range of knowledge and skills that will enable them to understand the importance of an active lifestyle and to design effective and appropriate fitness programs throughout their lives. This course will include a wide range of individual, team, outdoor and recreational activities and sports.

## HEALTH

**Health for High School Credit - 6685**

**Credit: (.5) Semester**

**Grade: 7 - 8**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Health is a study of the care of the body and its systems, as well as the relationship of personal behavior to wellness. Some topics covered are consumer health, nutrition, sex education for family living, use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, and growth and development. Community health, environmental studies, disease, fitness, first aid and safety are also studied.



## AVID

**Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) - 6082**

**Full year**

**Grade: 7 - 8**

**Prerequisite:** *Prior approval required*

The AVID elective class accelerates students into more rigorous course selections. Students receive the academic and motivational support to succeed by a trained AVID teacher. During the AVID class, students are coached by college tutors and work in collaborative groups using a curriculum focused on writing and inquiry. Other days are devoted to reading, writing, and math preparation for college entrance and placement exams. Special study skills, note-taking techniques, and notebook organization are required. Students receive motivational presentations by guest speakers and field trips to colleges and universities. Enrollment is contingent upon acceptance into the program.

## CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

**Exploring Careers - 6076**

**Semester**

**Grade: 7**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

This course is an activity-based career development course which provides linkages between classroom experiences, community resources, and career choices to real-world outcomes. Opportunities to develop and/or improve self-awareness in relation to career opportunities and options and related education, training and lifelong learning, and success in all adult roles will be provided through classroom activities and job shadowing experiences in the community. Opportunities to explore a variety of career options within a specific career concentration will be provided to all participants. Each student will begin the process of developing a graduation plan in alignment with House Bill 5 requirements.



## LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### **Accelerated Math Strategies - 6266, 6276, 6286**

**Full Year** **Grade: 6 - 8**

**Prerequisite:** *Campus recommendation*

The course is in addition to the grade level mathematics course. It is designed to assist students who have not performed well on the mathematics portion of STAAR. The course provides targeted instruction and includes reviewing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; decimals; perfect squares; integers; mental math skills; estimation skills; and analysis of word problems. Placement in this course is by campus recommendation.



### **Accelerated Reading Strategies - 6168, 6178, 6188**

**Full Year** **Grade: 6 - 8**

**Prerequisite:** *Campus recommendation*

This course is in addition to the grade level language arts course. It is designed for students who are reading below grade level. The course provides for individualized instruction, including READ 180, to meet each student's unique need in decoding, fluency, vocabulary development and comprehension.

### **Career Portals - 6077, 6087**

**Semester** **Grade: 7 - 8**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Students will begin to learn the classic writing styles of modern journalism—news, features, and editorials. Students will also learn page layout and basic photography, and will explore the ethical issues involved in journalism. Students are expected to work both independently and as a staff, meet weekly deadlines, and maintain high journalistic standards. Students will be provided with an opportunity to develop and create a school wide newspaper for print and electronic copy. Students will elect an editor in chief, department heads, and various jobs for the publication of each edition.

### **Computer Applications/Multimedia - 6066**

**Semester** **Grade: 6**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Computer Applications/Multimedia focuses on the use of applications, including word processing, graphics, spreadsheets, databases, and communications, to introduce a broad spectrum of computer fundamentals. Additionally, students will learn to create multimedia presentations, learn the basics of creating and/or enhancing digitized computer art and animation, and accessing needed information from LANs, and the Internet. In this class, students will implement various types of hardware and software to explore computer concepts. This course also provides the student with the history of the computer and the impact of the computer on society.

### **Critical Thinking through Cultural Awareness – 6561, 6571, 6581**

**Full Year** **Grade: 6 - 8**

**Prerequisite:** *GT Identified*

**This class is designed to meet specific needs of identified Gifted and Talented students.** Emphasis is on intellectual exploration and the development of critical thinking and problem solving through an appreciation of cultures. An enrichment curriculum integrates core content areas and explores the process of problem solving through both independent and team-based development of advanced projects. This class incorporates aspects of communication, character development and effective use of technology/resources. Assessment is based on both product quality and process skill.





# Your Future Begins Now!

## Graduation Plan Overview for Students Entering High School in 2014-15 and Beyond

(Current high school students who entered high school prior to the 2014-15 school year may remain on the Recommended or Distinguished plan or they may choose to move to the Foundation Plan with Endorsement or Distinguished Level of Achievement.)

### Coursework

House Bill 5 (HB 5), passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature and signed by the governor, provides for a new set of graduation plans for Texas students. These graduation plans consist of a Foundation Program for every Texas student and five endorsements from which students may choose, depending on their interests. Once chosen, students will complete each of these endorsements with four mathematics, four science, four English Language Arts, and three social studies credits. Students are also required to complete two foreign language credits which may be substituted with two credits in computer programming language.

Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade beginning in 2014-2015 will choose from one of the following endorsements:

- STEM (i.e., Engineering, Information Technology, and Computer Science)
- Business and Industry (i.e., Agriculture, Horticulture, and Business Management)
- Arts and Humanities (i.e., Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and Journalism)
- Public Services (i.e., Education and Training, Human Service, and Law and Public Safety)
- Multidisciplinary Studies (Variety of Options)

Students may change their endorsement at any time prior to graduation.

*Freshmen students entering high school in the 2014-2015 school year and beyond are required to successfully complete Algebra II and an endorsement in order to be eligible for automatic admission into any Texas public university.*

### Testing

Students are now required to pass five State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) End-of-Course exams to meet the new graduation requirements:

- Algebra I
- English I (Reading/Writing)
- English II (Reading/Writing)
- Biology
- U.S. History

### Planning for the Future

In Elgin ISD, our goal is to increase the numbers of students graduating from high school with some form of higher education. To help you achieve your goal of a technical certificate, two-year degree, or four-year degree, we have partnered with Austin Community College (ACC) to become an Early College and Career High School. This comprehensive “College for All” model will benefit our student population by allowing students numerous opportunities to earn up to 60 college hours, an associate’s degree, and/or career licensures/certifications at no cost to families. Students need to see their counselors for more information about making plans for the future. We are here to help students achieve their goals and have resources available to assist.



# Graduation Plans for Students entering 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in 2014-15 and Beyond

## Performance Acknowledgements: (on diploma & transcript)

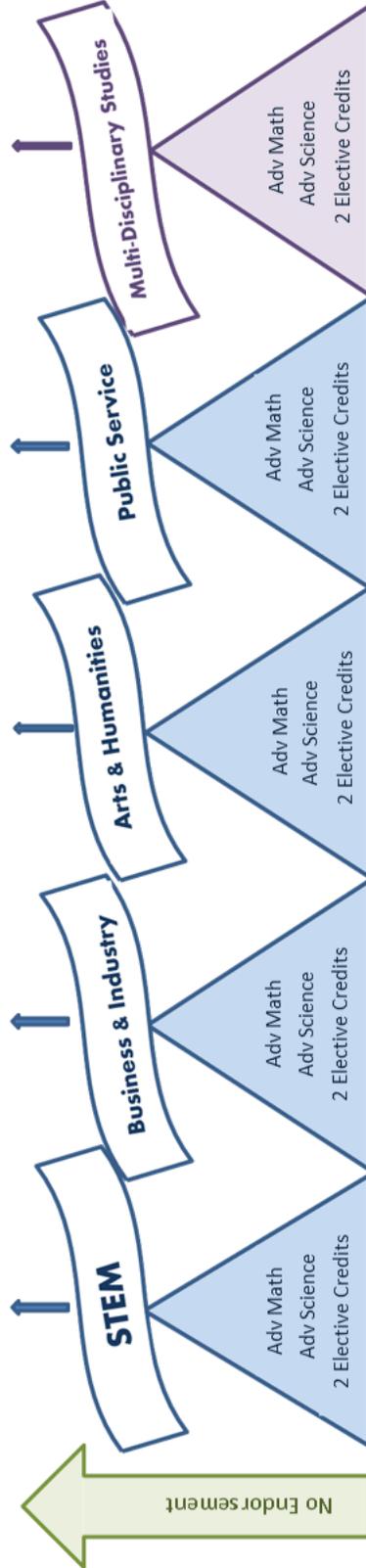
For outstanding performance:

- \* in a dual credit course
  - \* in bilingualism and biliteracy
  - \* on a college AP test or International Baccalaureate exam
  - \* on the PSAT, PLAN, SAT or ACT
- > For earning a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license.

## Distinguished Level of Achievement Graduate (26 credits) Eligible for Top 10% College Admission

Algebra 2 as Advanced Math

Foundation Program with Endorsements (26 credits)



## Foundation Program (22 credits)

4 English (English 1-3 & 1 Adv)	3 Science (Bio, IPC or Adv, & 1 Adv)	2 LOTE	1 PE
3 Math (Alg 1, Geo, & 1 Adv)	3 SS (US H, Ec/Govt, & W G or W H)	1 FA	5 Electives

The student's parent must file a written request with the school counselor for the student to graduate without an endorsement.

## Grade Level Classifications

Freshman	1st year	0-5.5 earned credits
Sophomore	2nd year (+)	6-11.5 earned credits
Junior	3rd year (+)	12-17.5 earned credits
Senior	4th year (+)	18 earned credits

These classifications are based on the number of credits actually completed prior to the first day of school.

## Grade Point Average

Two GPAs will be shown on the transcript, a weighted GPA and an unweighted GPA.

The weighted GPA is used to determine the Class Rank. *Freshmen students entering high school in the 2014-2015 school year and beyond are required to successfully complete Algebra II and an endorsement in order to be eligible for automatic admission into any Texas public university.*

The unweighted GPA will be listed as “College 4 Point.” The college 4-point GPA is the cumulative average of all semester grades, including courses that are taken more than once, regardless of credit awarded. Each semester grade will earn the following points: 100-90=4 points 89-80=3 points 79-75=2 points 74-70=1 point and 69-0=0 points. The total points are divided by the total number of applicable semester grades.

## Class Rank

Class rank is the academic position a student has in relation to other students in the grade level. Class rank is reported comparing that student to the total number of students in the grade level. The position or rank shall be reported as “number (\_\_\_\_) out of (\_\_\_\_) students in graduating class.” The student with the highest rank average is number one in the grade level and the student with the lowest rank average is the last student in the grade level. For example, given 250 students in a grade level, the highest ranking student (number one) would be reported as 1 of 250; the lowest ranking student would be reported as 250 of 250. All other students are ranked in between highest (number one) and lowest (last). Example: Student A is ranked number 6 out of 250 students in the graduating class.

Because students will receive a higher weighted rank point for the more difficult level courses, weighted class ranking encourages students to take more challenging academic courses in preparation for further learning after high school.

The rank points for each semester course on the weighted rank list taken in middle school and in all four years of high school shall be used to determine the academic class rankings. While courses are weighted when figuring class rank, actual grades earned will appear on all report cards and transcripts.

## Automatic Admission to a Texas Public University for Top 10%

Top students in Texas are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas under state admissions policies. Under House Bill 588 passed by the 75<sup>th</sup> Legislature in 1997, students who are in the top 10 percent of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas.

However, SB 175 caps the number of students admitted under the top 10% law to 75% at UT Austin; thus, acceptance rates will vary from year to year. As a result, UT Austin will automatically admit all eligible 2014 summer/fall freshmen applicants who rank within the top 7% of their high school graduating classes, with remaining spaces to be filled through holistic review. In September 2015, graduates for 2016 requirements will be announced.

To be eligible for the top 10% automatic admission, a student must:

- Graduate in the top 10% of his/her class at a public or private high school in Texas;
- Enroll in college no more than two years after graduating from high school; and
- Submit an application and all required documents to a Texas public university for admission before the institution’s application deadline. Since deadlines vary, please check with the specific university to verify the application deadline.

*Freshmen students entering high school in the 2014-2015 school year and beyond are required to successfully complete*

*Algebra II and an endorsement in order to be eligible for automatic admission into any Texas public university.* Once a student is admitted, a university may review a student's high school records to determine if the student is prepared for college-level course work. A student who needs additional preparation may be required to take a developmental, enrichment, or orientation course(s) during the semester prior to the first semester of college.

*The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board was responsible for creating rules for this new admissions policy and adopted the "top 10 percent" rules in October 1997.*

## **Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses**

### **Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) Courses**

Pre-AP courses at the high school include activities and strategies designed to engage students in active, high-level learning. Students will develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in AP classes. Depth of material requires students to read and write extensively in and out of class.

### **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses & Exams**

Advanced Placement courses are developed by the College Board and are designed to provide college-level studies for high school students using college level materials and strategies. Amount and depth of material requires students to read and develop advanced reasoning and problem solving skills. These courses are offered for students who wish to pursue college-level studies while in high school.

In addition to high school credit, students may receive credit or appropriate placement from participating colleges provided they make acceptable scores on AP exams, which are administered in May and paid for by the district. Exams may also be taken by students who do not enroll in advanced placement courses in high school. Students should go to [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or see their assigned counselor for additional information. In order to fulfill the requirements of an AP course and earn weighted points, students enrolled in an AP course are **required** to take the corresponding AP exam.

### **Dual Credit Courses**

Dual credit courses are offered to students interested in taking college credit courses while still in high school and are partnered with Austin Community College (ACC). In order to be eligible for a dual credit course, students must meet minimum requirements for college acceptance. Please see your counselor for dual credit eligibility requirements.

Students will receive college credit from ACC upon passing the course. Most courses will transfer to any Texas public college or university.

### **Pre-AP, AP, and Dual Grading Policies**

Student performance is evaluated on rigorous standards appropriate for the level and content of the course. Courses are weighted when figuring class rank; however, actual grades earned will appear on all report cards and transcripts. In order to receive weighted points at the semester for a Pre-AP, AP and/or dual credit course, the student must be enrolled in the advanced course for the semester and fulfill all requirements for the course.

### **Should Students Take All Pre-AP, AP, and/or Dual Classes?**

Students are encouraged to challenge themselves but also to find a balance among advanced courses, extra-curricular activities, and outside activities. Students should not feel that they have to take all classes at the Pre-AP/AP/ Dual level. The decision on the number of Pre-AP/AP/Dual classes should be an individual decision based on the schedule and interest of each student.