

Elgin Middle School Curriculum



Curriculum Philosophy and Framework

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

A key focus of the Elgin ISD 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, Mathematics, 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.

Earning High School Credit While in Middle School

The expectation of the district is that each middle school student will leave 8th grade with a minimum of one high school credit. High school courses offered at the middle school include Algebra I, Art I, Art II, Choir I, Dance I, Foundations of Personal Fitness, Fundamentals of Computer Science, Journalism (Year Book), Spanish I, Theatre Arts I, and Theatre Arts II. Satisfactory completion of high school courses taken prior to high school shall be reflected on the student's academic achievement record, and the student will be awarded state graduation credit.

Note that grades earned in these classes will be calculated using high school grading guidelines. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA and class rank. In addition, some high school credit courses taken prior to high school may count towards NCAA eligibility requirements.

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.

Suggested Course Sequences

7th Grade

ELA (on-level or Advanced) – double blocked

Math (Pre-Algebra) – double blocked

Science

Social Studies

PE/Athletics

One Elective

8th Grade

ELA (on-level or Advanced)

Math (Algebra I)

Science

Social Studies

College and Career Readiness

Three Electives

Fine Arts Requirement

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 6th, 7th, and/or 8th 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

Summer school is required for 8th grade students who fail the second administration of reading or math STAAR exams (SSI).

7th Grade Courses

English Language Arts

Full Year, two class periods

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

ELA for 7th 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. (03200540)

Advanced English Language Arts

Full Year, two class periods

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

Advanced 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. (03200540)

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Full Year

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: State and District Criteria

English for Speakers of Other Languages is the language class for students for whom English is their 2nd 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. (03200400)

Pre-Algebra

Full Year, two class periods

Grade: 7

Recommended Prerequisite: none

This course precedes the Algebra I for High School Credit course offered in 8th grade. The 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. (03103000)

Science

Full Year

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

Science for 7th 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. Students may choose to independently complete a science fair project based on the ARASE guidelines and to participate in the science fair competition. (03060700)

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

Texas History for 7th 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. (03343000)

8th Grade Courses

English Language Arts

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. (03200550)

Advanced English Language Arts

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

Advanced 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. (03200550)

English for Speakers of Other Languages

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: State and District Criteria

In 8th grade, English for Speakers of Other Languages 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. (03200500)

Algebra I for High School Credit

HS Credit: 1, Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or its equivalent

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. Students who satisfactorily complete Algebra I prior to high school will continue with higher level mathematics courses in grades 9-12. Students are expected to take four additional years of high school math while in high school. Upon successful completion, this course grants high school credit. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA and class rank. (03100500)

Science

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

Science for 8th 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. Students may choose to independently complete a science fair project based on the ARASE guidelines and to participate in the science fair competition. (03060800)

U.S. History

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

History for 8th 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 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of 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. (03343100)

Languages Other Than English Courses

Spanish I for High School Credit

HS Credit: 1, Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

Endorsement Pathway: Arts & Humanities – LOTE

This course provides an introduction to the five Cs: *communication* (speaking, listening, reading, writing); *culture* (understanding of the people, practices, products and perspectives); *connections* (with other subject areas); *comparisons* (own culture/language with another); and *communities* (using language beyond the school setting for personal and career development). (03440100)

Technology Application Courses

Technology Applications

Full Year

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: None

The technology applications curriculum has six strands based on the National Educational Technology Standards for Students and performance indicators developed by the International Society for Technology in Education: creativity and innovation; communication and collaboration; research and information fluency; critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making; digital citizenship; and technology operations and concepts. Through the study of technology applications, students make informed decisions by understanding current and emerging technologies, including technology systems, appropriate digital tools, and personal learning networks. As competent researchers and responsible digital citizens, students use creative and computational thinking to solve problems while developing career and college readiness skills. (03580100)

Fundamentals of Computer Science for High School Credit

Credit: 1, Full Year

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Proficiency in knowledge and skills relating to Technology Applications

Endorsement Pathway: STEM – Programming & Software Development

Fundamentals of Computer Science is intended as a first course for those students just beginning the study of computer science. Students will learn about the computing tools that are used every day. Students will foster their creativity and innovation through opportunities to design, implement, and present solutions to real-world problems. Students will collaborate and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. Students will learn the problem-solving and reasoning skills that are the foundation of computer science. (03580140)

Fine Arts

Intermediate Art for Middle School 2

Full Year

Grade: 7 - 8

Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Art for Middle School 1

Intermediate art is a continuation of the previously learned skills and techniques. At this stage students are starting to refine their personal style. Students should successfully complete Beginning Art for Middle School 1 prior to enrolling in this course. Supplies or a supply fee may be required. (03154210)

Art I for High School Credit

HS Credit: 1, Full Year

Grade: 7-8

Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Art for Middle School 1 or Intermediate Art for Middle School 2

Prerequisite: Art Portfolio

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. There is a \$15 dollar entry fee for the Junior VASE competition that is a required piece of this class. **This course satisfies the high school fine arts graduation requirement.** (03500100)

Art II for High School Credit**HS Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 8****Prerequisite: Art I**

This course is designed to develop drawing skills to an advanced level through exploration of a variety of media, methods, and subjects. Students will be expected to draw from life as well as from memory and imagination. Art history research and vocabulary development are another important component of this course as students learn to make informed judgments about artwork through class discussion and written expression. Career opportunities in art related fields will also be explored. Art fees may be charged. (03500500)

Intermediate Band for Middle School 2**Wind Ensemble****Symphonic Band****Concert Band****Full Year****Grade: 7-8****Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Band for Middle School I****Prerequisite: by Audition**

Seventh and eighth grade band courses 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. (03154230) (03154330)

Intermediate Choir for Middle School 2**Full Year****Grade: 7-8****Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Choir for Middle School 1**

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. (03154231)

Varsity Choir for Middle School 3**Full Year****Grade: 7****Recommended Prerequisite: Intermediate Choir for Middle School 2**

This course is designed to prepare students to take Choir 1 for High School Credit in their eighth grade year. 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. (03154331)

Choir 1 for High School Credit**HS Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 8****Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Choir for Middle School 1 or Intermediate Choir for Middle School 2****Prerequisite: by 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. **This course satisfies the high school fine arts graduation requirement.** (03150900)

Intermediate Dance for Middle School 2

Full Year

Grade: 7-8

Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Dance for Middle School 1

Prerequisite: by Audition

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental skills of recreational dancing as well as dance history, terminology, choreography, and costuming. Students learn the basics of various dance styles (modern, lyrical, jazz, hip-hop and etc.) and how to evaluate and understand them as a performing art and transmitter of culture. This class may satisfy the physical education middle school credit. (03154220)

Dance I for High School Credit (PE credit)

Credit: 1, Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental skills of recreational dancing as well as dance history, terminology, choreography, and costuming. Students learn the basics of various dance styles (modern, lyrical, jazz, hip-hop and etc.) and how to evaluate and understand them as a performing art and transmitter of culture.

Dance 1 satisfies the high school physical education graduation requirement. (PES00014)

Intermediate Theatre for Middle School 2

Full Year

Grade: 7-8

Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre for Middle School 1

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. (03154240)

Theatre Appreciation for Middle School 3

Full Year

Grade: 7-8

Prerequisite: None

In Theatre Appreciation, four basic strands--foundations: inquiry and understanding; creative expression; historical and cultural relevance; and critical evaluation and response--provide broad, unifying structures for organizing knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. Through the foundations: inquiry and understanding strand, students develop a perception of self, human relationships, and the world using elements of drama and conventions of theatre. Through the creative expression strand, students communicate in a dramatic form, engage in artistic thinking, build positive self-concepts, relate interpersonally, and integrate knowledge with other content areas in a relevant manner. Through the historical and cultural relevance strand, students increase their understanding of heritage and traditions in theatre and the diversity of world cultures as expressed in theatre. Through the critical evaluation and response strand, students engage in inquiry and dialogue, accept constructive criticism, revise personal views to promote creative and critical thinking, and develop the ability to appreciate and evaluate live theatre. (03154340)

Theatre I for High School Credit

HS Credit: 1, Full Year

Grade: 7-8

Recommended Prerequisite: Beginning Theatre for Middle School 1, Intermediate Theatre for Middle School 2, or Theatre Appreciation for Middle School 3

Prerequisite: by 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. **This course satisfies the high school fine arts graduation requirement.** (03250100)

Theatre Arts II for High School Credit

Credit: 1, Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: Theater Arts I

Advanced Theater classes are available to those students who have enjoyed and successfully completed either Theater Arts 1 or Technical Theater. The advanced classes are mostly performance based. The student will construct scenery, study traditional literary genres, perform advanced scene work, write monologues, scenes, and finally plays. Students must be willing to participate in numerous performance activities. Class work will focus on the extra-curricular performances during tech, dress, and performance weeks. (03250200)

Physical Education

Athletics

Boys: 7th – 6770, 8th – 6780

Girls: 7th – 6771, 8th – 6781

Full Year

Grade: 7 - 8

Prerequisite: None

Note students complete the required instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as specified in TEC §74.38 in the 7th athletics course

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. (03823000)

Physical Education

Boys: 7th – 6772, 8th – 6782

Girls: 7th – 6773, 8th – 6783

Full Year

Grade: 7 - 8

Prerequisite: None

Note students complete the required instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) as specified in TEC §74.38 in the 7th physical education course

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. (02850000)

Foundations of Personal Fitness for High School Credit

Boys: 6788

Girls: 6789

HS Credit: 1, Full Year

Grade: 8

Recommended Prerequisite: Two years of Physical Education

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.

This course satisfies the high school physical education graduation requirement. (PE00052)

Career Development & Technical Education

College and Career Readiness – 6089

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: None

Students will use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths. Students will use strategies to prepare for the TSI test in preparation for high school dual credit courses. (12700300)

Locally Developed Courses & Special Programs

Accelerated Math Strategies

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. (80800MAT)

Accelerated Reading Strategies

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. (80800REA)

Critical Thinking through Research (Gifted and Talented)

Full Year

Grade: 7-8

Prerequisite: None

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 self-selected research. Topics will range from history, STEM fields, literary analysis, and more. This curriculum integrates core content areas and is aimed at providing learning experiences that lead to the development of advanced-level products and/or performances. It incorporates aspects of communication, collaboration, and effective use of technology/resources. Assessment is based on both product quality and process skills.

Yearbook

Full Year

Grade: 7- 8

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for highly motivated, independent and creative individuals who wish to learn how to create and design a school yearbook using desktop publishing software. Students will learn all aspects of marketing, creating and producing a yearbook on a tight schedule. If you can think outside the box and enjoy creating unique computer based designs then this is the class for you. (85000YBK)

Yearbook for High School Credit (Journalism)**Credit: 1, Full Year****Grade: 8****Prerequisite: None****Endorsement Pathway: Business & Industry – Audio Visual Communications**

Note students may take either Newspaper for High School Credit or Yearbook for High School Credit. They will not receive credit for both.

Students enrolled in this course are expected to plan, draft, and complete written compositions for the school yearbook, carefully examining their papers for clarity, engaging language, and the correct use of the conventions and mechanics of written English. Students will become analytical consumers of media and technology to enhance their communication skills. Published work of professional journalists, technology, and visual and electronic media are used as tools for learning as students create, clarify, critique, write, and produce effective communications. Students enrolled in this course will learn journalistic traditions, research self-selected topics, write journalistic texts, and learn the principles of publishing. (03230100)