

SPLENDORA

Junior High School



7th & 8th Grade

Course Guide

English Language Arts

Course Descriptions

7th Grade English Language Arts

7th Grade

7th Grade Language Arts is a course that emphasizes writing, attentive listening, creative and critical thinking, organizational strategies, and literary analysis. Students are introduced to formal composition, grammar, and mechanics of writing, vocabulary study and literature. In written expression, emphasis is placed on the basics of the multi-paragraph essay. Studies in literature include nonfiction, short stories, plays, poetry and the novel.

7th Grade Pre-AP English Language Arts

7th Grade

Pre-AP literature in 7th grade covers more elaborate, complex and in-depth studies of literature and vocabulary in addition to the state standards as outlined in the TEKS objectives required of all students. It is also a higher level of difficulty than that in grade-level classes. This course begins the foundation of vertically aligned skills and strategies needed for success in AP English courses.

8th Grade English Language Arts

8th Grade

8th Grade Language Arts is a course that emphasizes composition, literature, and grammar. Writing styles which will be covered include descriptive/narrative, classificatory (advantages or disadvantages), and autobiographies. Literature studied includes novels, drama, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction. Grammar subjects include parts of speech review, sentence structure, and writing mechanics. SAT Vocabulary is also emphasized. 8th Grade Language Arts students will also participate in interdisciplinary units throughout the year.

8th Grade Pre-AP English Language Arts

8th Grade

The Pre AP course in 8th grade meets the standards and expectations as outlined in the TEKS objectives and will continue developing deeper skills needed to be successful on more elaborate, complex, and in-depth studies of literature compositions, grammar and vocabulary. This course will continue building the foundation of vertically aligned skills and strategies needed for success in AP English courses.

Mathematics

Course Descriptions

7th Math

7th Grade

7th Grade Math is a continuation and expansion of the skills/concepts developed in elementary mathematics. Emphasis is based upon problem-solving and development. The mathematics content can be identified with the following major strands; problem-solving patterns, relations and functions; numeration; operations and computation; measurement; geometry; probability; statistics and graphing, and basic algebraic concepts.

7th Pre-AP Math

7th Grade

The Pre AP course in 7th grade meets the standards and expectations as outlined in the TEKS objectives and will continue developing deeper skills needed to be successful on more elaborate, complex, and in-depth studies of Pre 7th Grade Math. The course builds a foundation of basic understandings in number, operation, and quantitative reasoning; patterns, relationships, and algebraic thinking, geometry and spatial reasoning; measurement; and probability and statistics. The course content will include complex, and in-depth study of major ideas, problems, and themes in order to extend and deepen comprehension.

****Successful completion of 6th grade TEKS and PAP Math 6.***

8th Math

8th Grade

8th Grade Math is a program designed to prepare the student to study algebra in the ninth grade. This course will cover pre-algebra concepts such as geometry, numeration, properties, equations and inequalities, statistics, probability, problem-solving, use of graphing calculators and computation applications. Students in this course will use pre-algebra strategies in working with the concepts.

Algebra I

8th Grade

A student enrolls in Algebra I as a one-year course. The course involves a study of the real numbers and their properties, simplifying expressions, the language of Algebra, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, linear and quadratic relations and functions, ratios, proportions and variations, and polynomials. The student should acquire a basic knowledge of the structure and use of Algebra.

****Successful completion of 8th grade TEKS.***

****Eligible for High School credit.***

Science

Course Descriptions

7th Science

7th Grade

The study of science in 7th Grade includes conducting field and laboratory investigations using the scientific method. The students will be doing critical-thinking and problem-solving in physical, chemical, earth, and life sciences. Forty percent of the curriculum involves using scientific and technological tools to collect and analyze data.

7th Pre-AP Science

7th Grade

Students will engage in a variety of learning opportunities including cooperative investigations on topics within the nature of science and scientific inquiry and life science. Some specific topics of study include study of the soil, Earth, energy, heredity, evolution, and ecology. This class is an extensive review of the previous Pre-AP course as well as a bridge for Biology the following year.

****Successful completion of 6th grade Pre-AP Science***

8th Science

8th Grade

In 8th Grade, the study of science includes planning and conducting field and laboratory investigations using the scientific method, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to collect and analyze information in the areas of physical, life and earth science concepts. Forty percent of the curriculum is devoted to using scientific and technological tools to collect and analyze data.

Biology

8th Grade

A variety of instructional techniques are used to discover content related to life science. Specific topics include cell theory, body systems, heredity, and evolution by natural selection, and ecology. Content is taught at the high school level and the pace is extremely demanding.

****Successful completion of 6th grade Pre-AP Science and 7th grade Pre-AP Science***

****Must also be enrolled in Algebra.***

****Eligible for High School credit.***

History

Course Descriptions

7th History

7th Grade

Texas History tells the stories of people, events, and institutions from the state's earliest civilizations to modern times. It touches upon and includes all of the social studies disciplines. People's beliefs, the ways they meet their economic needs, the social and political institutions they form, and the culture they transmit from one generation to another are all a part of Texas history. The themes of location, region, place, movement and human environment interaction are woven through the chronological story of all the people of Texas.

7th Pre-AP History

7th Grade

The Pre-AP course in 7th grade meets the standards and expectations as outlined in the TEKS objectives and will continue developing deeper skills needed to be successful on more elaborate, complex, and in-depth studies in Texas History. Pre-AP Texas History begins the foundation of vertically aligned skills and strategies for success in AP courses in social studies. The course centers on the process of learning factual information, developing analytical skills, and writing clearly.

8th History

8th Grade

This course exposes students to materials and information covering prehistoric times through 1877. Several themes such as exploration, colonization, independence, nationalism, expansionism, conflict and resolution and basic human rights are strongly embedded in the program. Many opportunities are provided for integrating technology through research and presentation of projects. Regular classroom work, homework, projects and tests are used to assess progress on an ongoing basis.

8th Pre-AP History

8th Grade

The Pre-AP course in 8th grade meets the standards and expectations as outlined in the TEKS objectives and will continue developing deeper skills needed to be successful on more elaborate, complex, and in-depth studies of Language Arts. Pre-AP US History builds on the foundation of vertically aligned skills and strategies for success in AP courses in social studies. The course centers on the process of learning factual information, developing analytical skills, and writing clearly.

Electives

Course Descriptions

Art 1

7th & 8th Grade

Visual Arts introduces students to art: its history, criticism, theories, and production. The academic focus is on the elements of art and principles of design, cultural studies and art history. The studio focus is expressing feelings and ideas through a variety of visual mediums, processes, problem-solving, and high-level thinking skills relating to art and composing the visual elements.

Art 2

7th & 8th Grade

Visual Arts II introduces students to a deeper understanding of art history, criticism, theories, and production. This intermediate course is designed to provide an in-depth look into the visual arts. Students will experiment with and demonstrate an understanding of art tools and materials with an emphasis on studio production.

****Successful completion of Art 1.***

Art 3

8th Grade

Visual Arts III has specific guidelines and objectives but remains open ended enough to allow for individuality and imagination. Students will continue their exploration and demonstration in the areas of: observation and perception, creative expression, historical and cultural relevance, and evaluation and response.

****Successful completion of Art 2.***

Athletics- BOYS

7th & 8th Grade

Athletics offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which students may participate. The emphasis is on providing a fundamental foundation for the young athlete in order to prepare them for the more demanding high school athletic program. The boys' program offers football, cross-country, basketball, and track. During the time that a sport is not in season, athletes will participate in a strengthening condition program.

****Some activities will require tryouts to select team members.***

****Completion of a medical history, physical exam and parental permission forms are required prior to participation. Students must meet state mandated academic and attendance requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.***

Athletics- GIRLS

7th & 8th Grade

Athletics offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which students may participate. The emphasis is on providing a fundamental foundation for the young athlete in order to prepare them for the more demanding high school athletic program. The girls' program offers volleyball, cross-country,

basketball, soccer and track. During the time that a sport is not in season, athletes will participate in a strengthening condition program.

****Some activities will require tryouts to select team members.***

****Completion of a medical history, physical exam and parental permission forms are required prior to participation. Students must meet state mandated academic and attendance requirements to be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities.***

Band

7th & 8th Grade

A student will be placed in a band class with students who have comparable skills. Auditions are required for placement in the more advanced band classes. Bands include: Concert, Symphonic, and Wind Ensemble. The overall goals of the band program are to teach students: (1) respect for each other as well as adults, (2) responsibility through a positive work ethic, and (3) a love and respect for music through learning how to play band instruments and working together.

****All students must meet University Interscholastic League (UIL) guidelines and participate in required band competitions and concerts with after school practices providing a portion of the students' grades.***

****Band Instructors place students in appropriate band sections. (Concert, Symphonic, Wind Ensemble)***

****Instrument required. See Band Instructor for further details regarding instruments.***

Career Portals

8th Grade

This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software and other tools to explore areas of personal interest and ability while integrating skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. Students will use this information to explore education requirements for a variety of chosen career paths.

****This course is required for all 8th graders.***

Choir

7th & 8th Grade

The Junior High Choir Program focuses on sight-reading knowledge and building vocal skills and technique.

****All students must meet UIL (University Interscholastic League) guidelines and participate in All Region competitions as well as Solo & Ensemble Contests outside of the school day.***

Dance

7th & 8th Grade

The study of dance offers unique experiences and empowers students to explore realities, relationships, and ideas. This discipline engages and motivates students through active learning, critical thinking, and innovative problem solving. It develops cognitive functioning and increases student academic achievement, higher-order thinking, communication, and collaboration skills. Students develop aesthetic and cultural awareness through exploration, leading to creative expression.

****Dance uniform may be required for this class.***

Health**8th Grade**

This course provides an all encompassing description of mental, social, and physical health. We address all areas with interactions, role playing, and hands on activities.

**This course is required for all 8th graders.*

Introduction to Agriculture**7th & 8th Grade**

This is an introductory course that prepares students for careers in agriculture, food, and natural resources. This course allows students to develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, personal development, globalization, industry standards, details, practices, and expectations.

Introduction to Industrial Arts**8th Grade**

Introduction to Industrial Arts is a course designed to teach students shop safety, basic hand and power tools, and introductory woodworking skills. Students will work individually and in groups to build projects based on various industries. Students will also be introduced to the energy, power and transportation industries.

Introduction to Robotics**7th & 8th Grade**

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the field of Robotics and stimulate their interests in science and engineering through the participation of the entire engineering design process. This course covers a variety of multidisciplinary topics necessary to understand the fundamentals of designing, building, and programming robots.

Robotics 2**7th & 8th Grade**

The objective of this course is to continue to stimulate students' interests in science and engineering through the participation of the entire engineering design process. This course covers a variety of multidisciplinary topics necessary to understand the fundamentals of designing, building, and programming robots.

**Successful completion of Introduction to Robotics 1*

Leadworthy**7th Grade**

This course develops critical, life-changing skills including taking personal responsibility, expressing themselves well, and making good decisions when problems arise. This course is a leadership development and character education class.

**This course is required for all 7th graders.*

Physical Education (Girls/Boys)**7th & 8th Grade**

PE includes a combination of activities designed for improving physical fitness and body strength. It also introduces a variety of team sports, individual sports, and activities. Basic skills, rules and team strategies will be taught. Students are required to actively participate each day in building team play with friendly competitions.

**Students must have 2 years of PE/Athletics during JH*

Spanish 1**8th Grade**

Spanish 1 is an introduction to the Spanish language. The four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing are taught through a variety of learning experiences. Students will learn about Spanish speaking countries and their cultures.

****Eligible for High School credit.***

Theater Arts**7th & 8th Grade**

This is a course designed to expose students to many of the types of performances utilized in Theatre. Students will gain experiences in mime, improvisation, reader's theatre, monologues, and duet acting. An introduction to theatre history is also explored. Students will have opportunities to develop skills such as meeting deadlines, responsibility, memorization, body awareness, vocal interpretation, facial expressions, and gestures.

Theater Production**8th Grade**

This course focuses on the process used to rehearse and produce live performances. Class will be responsible for staging numerous plays throughout the school year. Students will be responsible for acting on stage as well as the numerous jobs done backstage.

***Teacher Approval Required**

Wildlife, Fisheries & Ecology Management**8th Grade**

To be prepared for careers in natural resource systems, students need to attain academic skills and knowledge, acquire technical knowledge and skills related to natural resources, and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, and industry expectations. To prepare for success, students need opportunities to learn, reinforce, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings. This course examines the management of game and nongame wildlife species, fish, and aqua crops and their ecological needs as related to current agricultural practices.

****Eligible for High School credit.***

High School Credit Electives

Course Descriptions

Spanish 1

8th Grade

Spanish 1 is an introduction to the Spanish language. The four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing are taught through a variety of learning experiences. Students will learn about Spanish speaking countries and their cultures.

**Eligible for High School credit.*

Wildlife, Fisheries & Ecology Management

8th Grade

To be prepared for careers in natural resource systems, students need to attain academic skills and knowledge, acquire technical knowledge and skills related to natural resources, and develop knowledge and skills regarding career opportunities, entry requirements, and industry expectations. To prepare for success, students need opportunities to learn, reinforce, apply, and transfer their knowledge and skills in a variety of settings. This course examines the management of game and nongame wildlife species, fish, and aqua crops and their ecological needs as related to current agricultural practices.

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