

2021-2022

MAGNOLIA JUNIOR HIGH

Course Selection Handbook



31138 Nichols Sawmill Road • Magnolia, TX 77355

Phone: (281) 356--1327 www.magnoliaisd.org

MAGNOLIA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

School Administration Assignments for 2021-22

David Slater	Principal
Michel Jackson	Assistant Principal – 7 th grade
Jason Hawkins	Assistant Principal – 8 th grade
Amanda Dunn	Academic Coordinator
Sarah Cravens	Counselor – 7th grade
Kelan McCullen	Counselor – 8th grade

Department Chairpersons

Karen Coldwell	Math Department
Christina Kirkland	History Department
Taylor Boze	Science Department
Brittany Gassaway	Language Arts Department
Karey Dristas	Special Education Department
Melinda Savoy	Electives Department

Course Selection Philosophy

At Magnolia Junior High, we want all students to be able to take the core courses they, in conjunction with their parents or guardians, want to take. As a general education parent, it is your choice as to which level of language arts, social studies, or science class you want your child enrolled in.

Required Courses

List of required subjects:

7th Grade

Language Arts	(2 Semesters)
Mathematics	(2 Semesters)
Science	(2 Semesters)
Texas History	(2 Semesters)
Physical Education	(2 Semesters)
Academic Elective	(2 Semesters)
Electives*	(2 Semesters)

8th Grade

Language Arts	(2 Semesters)
Mathematics	(2 Semesters)
Science	(2 Semesters)
U.S. History	(2 Semesters)
College & Career Readiness	(1 Semester)
Electives - (2.5 total)*	(5 Semesters)

* A two semester (year-long) elective may be substituted for two one semester elective choices.

Course Registration

One of the most critical functions of a successful school is the registration of students. Based on the information submitted by parents or guardians prior to the April 30, 2021 deadline, courses are scheduled and staffing decisions are made for the next school year. Therefore, it is important that course selection be given serious consideration. We will make every effort to accommodate all students, but this may not be possible due to class size, times offered, and conflicts with specialized classes or student requests, etc. Please make sure you list alternate elective choices. Alternates will be used when one of the student's first choices are not available. All elective courses offered at Magnolia Junior High may be utilized to properly complete a student's schedule. Full year electives may not be listed as alternatives as these are courses of which a student needs to be firmly committed to before choosing. Once the deadline of April 30, 2021, passes, no changes will be made until July 19, 2021, when the window reopens. During the window from July 19, 2021 through July 30, 2021, changes can be made to electives and on-level to Advanced. After school begins, no schedule changes will be made until the second week of school. Any student enrolling in any course is making a commitment to be in that program for one full year or semester, as applicable.

Course Request Deadlines

Magnolia Junior High is dedicated to recruit and keep the best teachers in the State of Texas. The benefits are great for your child and our school. In April, we begin to build our master schedule, as well as individual student schedules, based on the choices students and parents indicate they want on the Course Request form. Additionally, we assign staff to teach these specific courses based on these requests. Please note the deadlines listed, as we **cannot** make changes after these dates.

Academic Placement

Students are enrolled in academic courses according to department/program criteria in all academic areas. Placement criteria include factors such as prior academic performance as well as scores from ability or achievement tests. In the case of students with disabilities, the ARD Committee will make placement decisions that designate Special Education and/or Regular Education placement.

On Level Courses – These courses are designed to provide instruction in the requirements in Chapter 74 and 75 of the Texas Administrative Code and District objectives. Assignments and activities in writing, and/or problem solving require the use of high level and critical thinking skills.

Advanced Courses – These courses are designed for students who have a special interest in the subject and desire to pursue that interest at higher levels. These students are willing to accept a rigorous academic curriculum and:

- Are motivated to spend the required amount of time to meet the rigors of the academic standards of the program.
- Are committed to a higher level of learning in preparation for college-level work.

Gifted and Talented – Through the Advanced classes, the unique educational needs of the Gifted and Talented student will be met. The Advanced class will emphasize content, independent studies, and products to enrich and extend the GT student's thinking process.

Special Education: Co-Teach/Support – Co-Teach and Support classes are designated to meet the needs of those students with disabilities who may be eligible for and need special education services. Eligibility for these classes is determined by the ARD Committee.

Electives

Every effort is made for each student to receive as many of his or her elective choices as possible. **Please note that the course verification sent home in the spring will indicate courses each student has *requested*. If any of these appear incorrect, or if you would like to make a change, please submit the changes on the verification form and return it to the counselor by April 30, 2021.** For purposes of completing a specific student schedule, it is possible that a student may receive an elective course they did not request.

Schedule Changes

Advisement for the next school year begins in the spring. Students will be given a “Course Selection Sheet” to select courses for the next school year. Any course that requires an application must be submitted by the deadline. We encourage parents/guardians to review the selections before returning it to the school. A course verification form will be sent home to ensure that your course requests are accurate. In the process of registration, it is in the best interest of the student that course choices be carefully considered. Schedule changes, for any reason during the school year, may not be feasible due to many factors. The master schedule is built with the students’ original selections in mind, and they are verified before the summer begins. These choices determine the placement of teachers and the number of courses offered. As a result, requested schedule changes can only be approved by the administration team. Schedule changes will not be made solely to change the period the class is held or to change teachers. Athletics is a year- long elective. If a student signs up for Athletics, they are in for the entire year.

Grading

Each semester is divided into two nine week increments. A report card will be issued at the end of each nine-week period. A student’s report card can also be viewed by accessing TEAMS Parent Self Serve. Parent and Student Self Serve allows our parents/guardians and students access to attendance and grades through the Magnolia ISD or MJH website. This service also gives parents/guardians a reasonably recent update of grades during each nine weeks. At the end of the last nine weeks, report cards will be mailed home. At the end of the first, second, and third nine-weeks, report cards will be sent home via students. A composite progress report will be issued each three weeks via students. Grade breakdown will be assigned as follows:

90--100	A
80--89	B
70--79	C
Below 70	F

- Please note that to maintain UIL eligibility, students must pass all courses, including any high school courses or Advanced courses taken. For a complete listing of UIL eligibility dates, please visit our district website.
- Please also note there are no “exceptions” made for UIL eligibility regarding junior high school courses. All courses taken at junior high level count for eligibility.

9 Weeks Tests

Students will take 9 weeks exams at the end of each 9 week grading period. These dates are posted on the testing calendar on the MJH website. Please arrange to have your student in attendance on these important testing days, if possible.

Advanced Courses

Advanced courses are designed to align the curriculum from junior high through high school. The Advanced program offers a more challenging curriculum that will prepare students for the Advanced Placement (AP) program at the high school. We offer Advanced classes with fast paced, differentiated, and accelerated instruction in the four content areas. Students may have to write more, analyze various materials, synthesize ideas, solve more challenging problems, and evaluate solutions for reasonableness or validity. Various projects may be assigned during the school year.

High School Courses – Algebra and Spanish I

High school courses taken in junior high will have the grade earned on a student's high school transcript. This grade will not count in the calculation of a student's GPA or high school class rank, but high school credit will be awarded if the student passes both semesters.

- Students who do not successfully pass both semesters of a two semester high school course (i.e. Algebra I & Spanish I) taken in junior high school will be required to repeat the entire course in high school.
- Per board policy, junior high credits are not calculated in GPA and class rank.

7th Grade Requirements and Course Descriptions

ENGLISH (J74004)

All seventh-graders are offered a balanced Language Arts program designed to improve communication skills through the study of composition, spelling, grammar, usage, vocabulary, and literature. The emphasis of the writing program is the mastery of well-explained and well organized content in essay answers, letters, and compositions in the narrative, descriptive, and classificatory modes and for the informative and persuasive purposes, as well as the correct use of punctuation and capitalization. The grammar and usage strand stresses identification of the parts of speech and the parts of a sentence; analysis of simple, compound, and complex sentences; the correct use of verbs, modifiers, pronouns; and subject-predicate agreement. Spelling is improved through the study of generalizations and rules, lists of commonly used words, and proofreading. The literature strand, which emphasizes literary analysis, reading comprehension, and vocabulary, includes poetry, short stories, nonfiction, and drama. Students develop higher order thinking skills as they analyze sentences and works of literature and synthesize their ideas into written and oral presentations.

ADVANCED ENGLISH (J74024)

In addition to mastering the content of the grade-level curriculum in greater depth, sophistication, and pace, this challenging class requires the analysis of additional literary works, independent reading of one or more longer selections, as well as an intensive study of vocabulary. While there are no prerequisites to register for an Advanced class, each course maintains a set of minimum expectations and requirements to be met by students in order for them to remain enrolled.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) (J74114)

Students who are limited in English proficiency will be eligible for English as a Second Language (ESL) as a supplement to the English Language Arts program. The primary goal of this program is to enable the student who is limited in speaking English to become sufficiently competent in comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing for the successful mastery of the requirements of the MISD objectives in all English programs. All English as a Second Language placement decisions are made for individual students by the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC).

MATHEMATICS (J71004)

Seventh grade math classes work with all concept strands of math, with a special emphasis on numeration, operations, and problem solving with fractions, decimals, integers, and percents. The primary focal points at seventh grade are: using proportional relationships in percent, geometry, and probability; linear relationships, equations, inequalities, and developing geometry with algebra; measurement and data, using statistics and sampling; and personal financial literacy.

ADVANCED MATHEMATICS (J71024)

This course is designed for a student preparing to take Algebra I during his or her 8th grade year and four years of math in high school. In addition to 7th grade curriculum, students will also be studying Pre-Algebra, which is 8th grade curriculum. Students need to be committed to the required workload and willing to seek help when needed. If a student did not take Advanced Math in 6th grade, he or she is responsible for learning any material that is a prerequisite for this class. The Pre-Algebra class completes all middle school mathematics topics and prepares students for the rigors of Algebra I.

TEXAS HISTORY (J73004)

The course provides an overview of the history of Texas from early times to present. In depth study will include an awareness of the geographic influences on the development of Texas, an understanding of the successful struggle for Texas independence, an appreciation of the contributions of ethnic and racial groups in Texas, and an understanding of the economic growth and politics of modern Texas.

ADVANCED TEXAS HISTORY (J73024)

This course provides an overview of the history of Texas from early times to present day. In-depth study and analysis of material relevant to this subject will include an understanding of the geographic influences on the development of Texas; the successful struggle for Texas independence; an appreciation of the contributions of ethnic and racial groups in Texas; and an examination of the economic growth and politics of modern Texas. Students enrolled in Texas History should be on track to enroll in Advanced Placement history courses at the high school level.

SCIENCE (J72004)

This seventh grade science course is an integrated science course that involves topics from life, earth, physical science, and human systems. Grade 7 science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. The strands for Grade 7 include: Scientific investigation and reasoning, Matter and Energy, Force, Motion and Energy, and Earth and Space. The course involves students in laboratory activities focusing on the behaviors of living organisms and natural phenomena, as well as, making accurate observations, collecting and analyzing data, and manipulating laboratory equipment and material in a safe and ethical way. Laboratory activities also include animal dissections and microscopic observations. Library research and short and long projects may also be required.

ADVANCED SCIENCE (J72024)

Extensive laboratory work including dissection and microscope work is used throughout the year to facilitate the students' understanding of the concepts presented in the course. Incorporated into the curriculum are activities involving collections and extended individual research projects. **A mandatory component of this course is the completion of a Science Fair project.** During Science Fair, students will be expected to write a research report, conduct a laboratory experiment, record data in an accurate logbook, and write an abstract paper. The majority of this project will be completed at home, outside of class.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (J99902 - Girls or J99912 - Boys)

A physical education credit (full year) is required in the seventh grade. The student will be provided opportunities to increase knowledge and motor skills basic to efficient movement; experience, rules, knowledge, and basic skills in beginning or intermediate participation in individual, dual, and team sports; understand the relationship of motivation and development of a higher level of personal and physical fitness and the ability to maintain the level; and develop knowledge and skills for leisure and lifetime sports activities. The fee for uniforms is approximately \$15 and can be purchased online.

8th Grade Requirements and Course Descriptions
--

ENGLISH (J84004)

All eighth-graders are offered a balanced Language Arts program designed to improve communication skills through the study of composition, spelling, grammar, usage, vocabulary, and literature. The emphasis of the writing program is the mastery of well-explained and well-organized content in essays and compositions of the informative and persuasive purposes, as well as the correct use of punctuation and capitalization. The grammar and usage strand stresses identification of the parts of speech and the parts of a sentence; analysis of compound and complex sentences; the correct use of verbs, modifiers, pronouns; and subject-predicate agreement. The literature strand emphasizes literary analysis, reading comprehension, and vocabulary, as well as study poetry, short stories, non-fiction, argumentative, expository, and drama. Students develop higher order thinking skills as they analyze literature for structure and content and as they synthesize their ideas into written and oral presentations.

ADVANCED ENGLISH (J84024)

In addition to mastering the content of the grade-level curriculum in greater depth, sophistication, and pace, this challenging class requires the analysis of additional literary works, independent reading of one or more longer selections. While there are no prerequisites to register for an Advanced class, each course maintains a set of minimum expectations and requirements to be met by students in order for them to remain enrolled.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) (J74124)

Students who are limited in English proficiency will be eligible for English as a Second Language (ESL) as a supplement to the English Language Arts program. The primary goal of this program is to enable the student who is limited in speaking English to become sufficiently competent in comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing for the successful mastery of the requirements of the MISD objectives in all English programs. All English as a Second Language placement decisions are made for individual students by the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC).

MATHEMATICS (J81004)

Eighth grade on level math classes are designed to prepare students with foundational skills needed for future success in Algebra I. Topics include: operations with real numbers; similarity and dilation of polygons; proportional relationships and slope; functions; geometrical concepts including Pythagorean Theorem; writing and solving equations; volume and surface area of three dimensional figures; transformations and congruence; and statistical analysis.

ALGEBRA I (J81024) (High School Credit)

Prerequisite: *Students must have taken Advanced Math as a 7th grader before taking Algebra 1 in 8th grade, scored Meets or Mastered on 7th Grade Math STAAR, **AND** have a minimum score of 258 on Texas Algebra Ready (MSTAR).*

Algebra I is a course designed to provide a rigorous and in-depth study of Algebra. Students will be expected to have already mastered the 7th and 8th grade math objectives and be committed to the required workload and be willing to seek help when needed. As this class counts towards high school credit, high school expectations will be adhered to throughout the year. Students enrolled in an end of course subject area, such as Algebra I, will take the corresponding STAAR end of course (EOC) exam in May.

UNITED STATES HISTORY (J83004)

This full year course examines the history of the United States by major eras of study: Exploration and Colonization, The Revolution Era, The Constitution, Early Republic, Westward Expansion and Reform, Sectionalism, The U.S. Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students will be asked to analyze the effects of political, economic, religious, and social conditions on the development of the United States in each historical era. Students will use critical thinking and writing, close reading of current and primary sources, and appropriate content- driven discussion to achieve these goals.

ADVANCED UNITED STATES HISTORY (J83024)

This full year course examines the history of the United States by major eras of study: Exploration and Colonization, The Revolution Era, The Constitution, Early Republic, Westward

Expansion and Reform, Sectionalism, The U.S. Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students will be asked to analyze the effects of political, economic, religious, and social conditions on the development of the United States in each historical era. Students will use critical thinking and writing, close reading of current and primary sources, and appropriate content-driven discussion to achieve these goals. Students enrolled in Advanced United States History should be on track to enroll in Advanced Placement courses at the high school level.

SCIENCE (J82004)

8th grade science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. Several themes focused on throughout the year are change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models. Students are expected to develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world and become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry and communication. The purpose of the scientific investigations conducted in class will vary, some will be descriptive, rather than experimental. Models of objects and events will be used as tools for understanding the natural world and can show how systems work. Students will be expected to describe the limitations of models used in class.

While studying chemistry, students will recognize the role of the atom in developing matter and examine information on the Periodic Table to recognize how to analyze the patterns found. In the physics unit, they will experiment with the relationship between forces and motion through the study of Newton's three laws and will be expected to use basic mathematics without the use of technology to calculate speed and force. Students will be expected to explain cycles within Earth systems, methods used to explore phenomena in space, and will illustrate how Earth features change over time through plate tectonics by analyzing these changes through the use of topographic maps and satellite views. Students will study ecology by exploring the interdependence between living systems and how organisms and their populations respond to short- and long-term environmental changes, including those caused by human activities.

ADVANCED SCIENCE (J82024)

In addition to all of the material covered in 8th grade science, Advanced students will be expected to probe more deeply into the subject matter through various extension activities. For example, students will incorporate technical writing skills through research papers, lab reports, class discussions, and reading analysis. They will develop presentation skills as they complete various projects to present before their peers and teachers. **A mandatory component of this course is the completion of a Science Fair report, conduct a laboratory experiment, record data in an accurate logbook, and write an abstract paper.** The majority of this project will be completed at home, outside of class.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVES

An elective class must have an enrollment of at least 20 students or that elective will be eliminated.

Physical Education

Boys' Athletics (J99924, J99944) **Coach approval required

This **full year** (two semesters) program in athletics consists of specific skill training, agility, drills, weight training, and cardiovascular endurance, and is designed primarily to prepare the student for the specific competitive sports in which the student participates. Boys' Athletics classes are available for football and basketball only. Football participation is open to all students in Athletics, and tryouts for basketball will be held in the late fall. Teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and development of individual talents are the main objectives of this course. Uniforms are provided, but each student must furnish his own shoes. **Each student must provide a current physical examination and accident insurance, which must be turned in prior to the first day of school for participation in any tryout, practice, or game.** Classes meet during the school day for strengthening and conditioning only. All practices will be held after school for all sports. Tryouts are held for basketball, tennis, track, and golf. Students representing the MISD and the University Interscholastic League in Athletics will also have specific policies to which they must adhere. Eligibility must be maintained to participate in school sports. This course can meet the Physical Education requirement.

**New students will have two weeks to turn in a physical or they will be removed from the class.

Girls' Athletics (J99954, J99964) **Coach approval required

This **full year** (two semesters) program focuses on developing the student athlete. The class is for girls who wish to participate in sports during high school. This includes soccer and softball even though we do not have teams at the junior high level. The Athletics period consists of agility, conditioning, core/balance/strength, interval training, and circuit training. The daily workouts are rigorous and not suitable for anyone with restrictive medical and/or health related limitations. Tryouts for volleyball, basketball, and track are for anyone interested in participating at a highly competitive level and will include mandatory after school practice. When in season, volleyball, basketball, and track team members will be taught the rules and skill-set needed to be successful in their sport while competing against area schools. All practices will be modeled after what is being taught at the high school in order to prepare student athletes for a smooth transition to their athletic program. Athlete development (off-season) is for athletes not participating in the competitive season. Uniforms are provided, but each student must furnish her own shoes appropriate for cross training and/or sport specific. **Each student must provide a current physical examination, which must be turned in prior to the first day of school for participation in the class, and any tryout, practice, or game.** Students representing MISD and the University Interscholastic League in Athletics will also have specific policies to which they must adhere. Eligibility must be maintained to participate in school sports. This course can meet the Physical Education requirement.

**New students will have two weeks to turn in a physical or they will be removed from the class.

Cross Country (J99984) **Coach approval required

This course is available for 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. Students will be required to participate in a variety of physical activities including long distance running, speed training and strength training. The Cross Country season takes place during the first two months of the school year where students have the opportunity to compete in multiple 2 mile races.

Off- Campus Swim (J1000024)**** Application, tryouts, and fee required**

There is an application (Off Campus P.E.) and a fee of \$100 that is due to the District by the deadline posted on the MISD website. Please visit the District's website for more information. **DO NOT** complete the application and pay the fee until your child has been approved to be in the program. No refunds will be granted.

**Students who are approved and enrolled in the swim program are expected to remain in swim for the entire school year. There are a limited number of swim athletes we can take in the program due to lane and space restrictions (Please see the Program Handbook for details). Once a student athlete is approved to be in the program but then does not meet the class requirements outlined in the Off--Campus P.E. Swim Handbook, they will be removed from the class and placed in an on campus class. If a student is removed for disciplinary reasons, there are no refunds for fees paid. It should be understood that the coaches working with your student are club coaches with the Magnolia Aquatic Club and not necessarily an MISD teacher/coach. The program is run through the Magnolia Aquatic Club.

**Tryouts will be held in the spring and enrollment is limited. (Tentatively May 10-14)

This full year (2 semesters) program is designed to provide seventh and eighth grade students who have a goal to be on the high school swim team the opportunity to improve skills and conditioning. This course is designed to prepare students for swimming competitions as they move toward high school. The program has a swimming requirement and students must meet or exceed these requirements in order to be in the class. Students entering the class must understand that this is not a P.E. class, it is much more physically demanding and will involve some out of water exercise (i.e. running). Students should be prepared to suit out and participate daily. Students will not be allowed to stay on their campus and miss this class without prior approval. Students who consistently do not dress out or do not participate in the class will be removed from the class/program and placed in an on campus class. Students who are in band or theatre should discuss their participation in the swim program with their teacher before signing up. These organizations, and others, have required after school participation throughout the year, which interferes with participation in swimming. Summer programs are available for those interested in getting a head start on their swimming prep. Bus transportation to the high school is provided for students over to the natatorium the last period of the day. It is the parent's responsibility to pick their child up after practice at the high school by 3:30 p.m. This course provides a P.E. credit for seventh grade students and is an elective for eighth grade students. Before students are approved to be in the class, the student must participate in a swimming evaluation and the parents must attend an informative meeting. Once a student is approved to be in the program, we will ask for all the appropriate forms and fees to be turned in prior to the student participating in the class.

Off -Campus P.E. (J1000014)**** Application and fee required**

This full-year (two semesters) program is for students who are completing physical education in a community program not associated with the school outside of the school day. Students enrolled in OCPE are expected to remain in OCPE for the entire school year. If students do not meet the class requirements or the hours attended needed per week, they will be removed from the class and placed in an on-campus PE class. The district approves providers each year. There is an application and a fee of \$100 that is due to the District by the deadline posted on the MISD website. Please visit the District's website for more information. Providers must also reapply each year.

Intro to Art (J99342)

This **one semester** course is designed for the creative student who wants to learn a variety of art expressions with the proper use of art media and tools. MJH Art is a disciplined based art program which focuses on art history, appreciation, and creation. Art students are introduced to each of the design elements and principles of art as well as to a variety of art periods.

Advanced Art (J99344) ** Application process (Due 4/23/21) & teacher approval

This **full year** (2 semesters) course is designed for the experienced art student who wants to take their individual prior skills and knowledge to the next level. Curriculum and projects will be differentiated based on the individual art student. MJH Advanced Arts is a disciplined based art program which focuses on art history appreciation, evaluation, interpretation and creation. Art students are introduced to each of the design elements and principles of art as well as to a variety of art periods. Through studio production projects students are given hands on art experiences to develop ways of expressing themselves in the visual arts. Advanced Art students will create, develop, and maintain a portfolio of their art studies and projects to continue their art development into their future higher educational experiences.

CHOIR

Choir is designed for those interested in vocal performance. Vocal production, musical fundamentals, and choral literature are emphasized. Students in all choirs will perform at seasonal concerts and various community events. Attendance at performances and extra rehearsals are a required part of this course. All students are welcome in choir. Auditions are required for each student's correct choir placement.

Chamber (J99214)

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course gives the advanced female singer (eighth grade) the opportunity to participate in a highly competitive performing ensemble. Singers are strongly encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble, Region Choir Auditions, and maintain eligibility for UIL group competition in the spring. Students receive training in sight singing, harmonization, and performance skills. Solo opportunities are offered as well. Students must audition to be in this choir.

Concert Choir (J99244, J99254)

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course is designed for the seventh or eighth grade intermediate female singer who desires to strengthen her skills in vocal production, sight reading skills, and overall musicianship. Singers are strongly encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble, Region Choir Auditions, and maintain eligibility for UIL group competition in the spring.

Treble Choir (J99274)

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course is designed for the beginning seventh grade female singer to learn about good vocal production and choral music skills. Musical fundamentals and music reading skills are taught. Participation in UIL Solo and Ensemble contest and Region Choir auditions is encouraged.

Men's Honor Choir (J99224, J99234)

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course is designed specifically for young men's changing voices (seventh or eighth grade) and offers a welcome environment for developing pitch, sight singing, and harmonization. Singers are strongly encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble, Region Choir Auditions, and maintain eligibility for UIL group competition in the spring. This is an opportunity for boys to work together and accomplish great things through music.

BAND

Cadet Band (J99074)

7th grade only/ no prior experience required

This is a **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course. Cadet Band is an entry level band class for seventh grade students only. Students will develop fundamental skills of reading music and playing a band instrument. Students will be tested on multiple band instruments at the beginning of the year and assigned an instrument to play based off of that test. Class size is kept smaller so that students can receive more attention to improve musicianship. Performances include participation in two to three concerts per year, with other performance opportunities possible. There will also be two to three after school rehearsals scheduled, usually held during the week before a performance.

Concert Band (J99154, J99164)

Entry by audition with prior experience and director approval required

This is a **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course. Concert Band is the next level above Cadet Band, and is for seventh or eighth grade students who have at least one year of experience on a band instrument. Students will be divided into classes based off of what instrument they play (woodwinds and brass). Students will further develop fundamental skills of reading music and playing a band instrument at a second year level. Students are expected to practice on their own outside of class time. Performances include participation in two to three concerts per year. Students will have two to three rehearsals after school, usually prior to a concert or competition.

Symphonic Band (J99134, J99144)

Entry by audition with prior experience and director approval required

This is a **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course. Symphonic Band is the sub non-varsity ensemble at MJH and is for seventh or eighth grade students that have at least one year of experience on a band instrument. Students will further develop fundamental skills of reading music and playing a band instrument at a second and third year level. Students are expected to practice their instrument outside of class. Performances include participation in two to three concerts per year. Additionally, these students participate in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and Solo/Small Ensemble Contest. Students will have an additional weekly "sectional" rehearsal in addition to their daily class period, and private lessons are encouraged.

Wind Ensemble (J99174, J99184)

Entry by audition with prior experience and director approval required

This is a **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course. Wind Ensemble is the top level varsity ensemble at MJH and is for seventh or eighth grade students that have at least one year of experience on a band instrument. Students will develop more advanced fundamental skills of reading music and playing a band instrument. Students are expected to practice their instrument outside of class. Performances include participation in two to three concerts per year. Additionally, these students participate in UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, All Region Band Auditions, and Solo/Small Ensemble Contest. Students will have an additional weekly "sectional" rehearsal in addition to their daily class period, and private lessons are strongly encouraged.

Theatre

Intro to Theatre Arts (J99422)

This **one semester** Fine Arts course serves as a general introduction of fundamental concepts of theatre. Students will learn basic improvisational games, pantomime skills, script writing, elements of television commercials, reader's theatre, and theatre history and appreciation. This class will produce skits and plays for in class performance, but will not produce a full scale play.

Theatre Production (J99454) ** 8th graders only, must have taken Theatre Arts Application Process Required (Due 4/23/21)

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course is a performance based course designed for the serious/motivated theatre student. Students will be responsible for all aspects of theatre, including set design, costuming, lighting, make-up, choreography and performing arts. Students will prepare for and participate in drama tournaments as well as U.I.L. and One Act Play competitions. Actors will also produce a full scale children's play in the fall and a classic work in the spring. Students will work extensively in character development and improvisational technique. Some after school rehearsal will be required.

Agriculture

Students that show animals at the MISD Livestock Show must be enrolled in at least one semester of an agriculture course and become an FFA member or become a 4H member before the time of the show.

Intro to Animal Science (J99802)

This **one semester** course is intended to introduce students to a broad range of agriculturally oriented occupations and skills. Animal science topics such as nutrition, breeds of animals, reproduction, and other animal industry technologies will be discussed. **This course is recommended for students showing animals.**

Intro to Small Animal (J99822)

This **one semester** course is designed to introduce the students to the study of market and companion animals. Topics of discussion include history, breeds, housing, equipment, nutrition, animal behavior and handling. Careers in small animal care, animal science and agriculture are explored. The introduction to the FFA (the organization associated with agricultural education) and some basic leadership skills will be taught.

Woodworking (J99832) 8th grade only

This **one semester** course is designed for gaining the interest of the student in the agricultural and FFA program. Topics discussed are FFA, safety, construction, painting, etc. Students build wood-based projects and learn to appreciate and value the shop experience.

Intro to Wildlife Management (J99872)

This **one semester** course is designed to examine the importance of wildlife and natural resources, including the management of different species of wildlife, habitats, and identification. *The course includes the State Mandated Hunter Education Certification, which is achieved by passing the state certification exam and permit fee of \$10 to Parks and Wildlife.

Foreign Language

Spanish I (J99614)

***8th Grade only & student receives high school credit**

Prerequisite: 7th Grade English On-level Grade of 90+ or Advanced English Grade of 85+ and 7th Grade STAAR Reading - Meets or Masters.

Spanish I is intended for students who will be pursuing IB or Advanced classes and upper level Foreign language in High School. Students will be placed on a priority basis based on previous academic performance. This **full year** (two semesters) course includes a thorough study of grammar and its application while developing the necessary phonetic skills needed for oral communication. This class follows the same curriculum as the Spanish I course at the High School and satisfies one of the Foreign Language credits needed for graduation. **Upon successful completion of both semesters of Spanish I, the student will receive high school credit. (Please note that Native Speakers should not take this course)**

Career and Technology

Introduction to Robotics (J10022)

8th grade only

This course introduces the basic concepts of robotics, focusing on programming and design. Explore different types of robots and their functions. Learn the basic concepts of programming. This introductory course is intended to introduce concepts but is also an entry point to computer science and engineering.

Introduction to Coding (J10032)

This course introduces and explores the basic concepts of coding in easy to understand “drag and drop” systems. Students will also learn the basic concepts of programming. This introductory course is an entry point to computer science with a primary goal to excite students about this important field.

Digital Design (J10052)

This course explores the design of web pages including layout, styles, and color schemes. Students will learn the elements of graphic design and the programming code that makes it possible.

College and Career Readiness (J99742) 8th Grade Required Course

With the passing of House Bill 5 in 2013, students now have more opportunities than ever to become college and career ready by choosing an endorsement to help focus their course of study while in high school. Our mission in Exploring Careers is to provide students with a better understanding of the choices available to them during those four years of high school so that they, with their parents' help, can make informed decisions to create a Personal Graduation Plan to enable the maximum benefit from their education. Whether a student decides to go

straight into the job market after graduation, attend a four-year university, or serve in a branch of the armed forces, Exploring Careers seeks to help them identify and establish goals for themselves, then develop a plan of action to achieve those goals as citizens of our community, state, and nation in the 21st century.

General Electives

Health 5 High School Credit Required for graduation in MISD.

This course is designed to provide basic health facts and ideas for today's basic needs and concerns. Material covered includes the five major systems of the human body, drugs (alcohol and tobacco included), and human biology. **Upon successful completion, the student will receive high school credit.**

Journalism (J1702)

Instruction in this **one-semester** newspaper course will focus on writing skills in order to create news packages consisting of news articles and news videos including news, features, and editorials. Students will learn writing, editing, videography, and research skills to be a successful student journalist. Students will be required to use Google Docs, WeVideo, smartphones or other technology students have as well as be knowledgeable about current events and topics of public interest. To be successful in this class, students should have a desire to write, have strong language arts and communication skills, should enjoy writing, enjoy video news format, be dependable, be able to work cooperatively, and must be able to meet real deadlines

Yearbook (J99574) Application process (Due 4/23/21) & teacher approval required.

This is a **full year** (two semesters). Students will be responsible for publishing the school yearbook. Students will take digital pictures, organize, and write text for the yearbook under the direction of the yearbook advisor. Knowledge of digital cameras, Photoshop, and computers is helpful but not a requirement. Owning a camera is not required, but it is helpful. **Students must complete an application to be considered.**

Student Aide (J99552) 8th grade only Application (Due 4/23/21) & staff approval required

Aide positions are available in the front office, clinic, library, life skills and assistant principal's offices. A student aide works in an office performing duties such as filing, delivering information to parents and students and other clerical duties. Student aides must not have discipline or tardy issues and must maintain good grades to be considered. **Students must complete an application to be considered.**

PALS: Peer Assistance and Leadership (J99504) 8th grade only

Screening & Application Process (Due 4/23/21) Required

PAL students provide a variety of services to other students and staff on their campus, as well as elementary campuses. These services include, but are not limited to, the following: serving as mentors and role models to elementary students at four elementary schools; assisting and mentor special needs students; assisting new MJH students; and conducting community service and outreach projects. Students must be nominated by a staff member for PALS. Attendance, grades, and behavior at school are screened by MJH staff members. **Students must complete an application to be considered.**

Teen Leadership (J99492)

Teen Leadership will focus on developing character traits essential to face the challenges of adolescence and lead a successful life now and in the future. Self-confidence, effective communication, interpersonal skills, leadership, personal responsibility, managing stress, and team building are just some of the topics students will explore in this semester-long course.

Project Launch (J99582) **Application required (Due 4/23/21) & Teacher Approval**

This course is designed around the Genius Hour model where students have the chance to explore, research, design, experiment, and present a project based on their individual interests and passions. The majority of the projects and ideas are self-guided with collaboration efforts by their peers to simulate a college course, and prepare them for a workplace environment.

What is Genius Hour? Genius Hour is a concept based off of time offered to employees at companies such as Google and 3M. These companies have been known to offer their employees “20% time” where 20% of their time at work can be spent exploring their own company-related projects. Products like Gmail, Google Docs, and Post-It Notes came about from such projects.