

J.O. Combs Middle School

2017-2018



Course Description Catalog

J.O. Combs Unified School District
301 East Combs Road
San Tan Valley, AZ 85140

<http://jocombs.org>

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Contents

Mission Statement	4
Vision Statement.....	4
Core Philosophies.....	4
Academic Responsibilities: 3R's – Record, Retain, and Recall	4
School Values	4
School Pledge	5
Course Selection Procedures and Policies	5
Academic Probation.....	5
Cougar Skills for Success (CSS)	6
Honors Program	6
Middle School Course Requirements.....	6
High School Program Planning.....	6
Course Descriptions	9
Core Courses... ..	9
English Language Arts (ELA).....	9
Math.....	10
Science	11
Social Studies	12
Elective Courses	13
Art	13
Career and Technical Education.....	13
Family and Consumer Science (FACS)	14
Band	16
Orchestra	17
Chorus	18
Guitar	18
Physical Education	19
Spanish.....	19

Combs Middle School

“Home of the Cougars”

Mission Statement

Combs Middle School creates motivated life-long learners and socially responsible individuals.

Vision Statement

“Cougars Connecting with Character”

Core Philosophies

- Students strive to grow academically, socially, and personally.
- Students have the right to learn and teachers have the right to teach; therefore, no student should keep students from learning or teachers from teaching.
- Students shall do no harm and be respectful of themselves, others, and their school at all times.
- Students are responsible for the decisions they make, should enjoy the experience of making appropriate decisions, and must accept the consequences of making inappropriate decisions.

Academic Responsibilities: 3R’s – Record, Retain, and Recall

Students will work to...

- Record information accurately and completely so that it may be understood.
- Retain information by being prepared for class, completing all academic work as assigned, producing high quality work, participating in class, asking questions, studying daily, and seeking help when needed.
- Recall information in various settings in order to demonstrate the ability to apply, comprehend, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate what is being learned.

All of this happens when a student strives to do his/her best at all times.

School Values

Trustworthiness: Demonstrate courage, honesty and loyalty to support family, friends and school.

Respect: Recognize the dignity and worth of each individual with acceptance of the diverse cultures, talents, and skills that each person brings to the school community.

Responsibility: Acknowledge, accept, and meet one’s obligations in an environment dedicated to life-long learning, accountability, and perseverance.

Fairness: Treat people equally without prejudice or favoritism.

Caring: Demonstrate concern for others, show empathy and compassion for all, and communicate with a school staff member anytime someone may be a danger to himself/herself or someone else or may make an inappropriate decision that will impact the school or community.

Citizenship: Work for the common good by volunteering, protecting, and participating in the school community while respecting authority and the law.

School Pledge

“Today I will do more than I have to do; I will treat others as I want to be treated, and I will become a better person.”

Course Selection Procedures and Policies

The scheduling process begins once the students’ registration forms are received. If an unresolvable scheduling conflict with the student’s initial class choice occurs, alternative electives or classes selected on the registration form will be inserted into the schedule.

It is very important for students to remember that schedules are subject to change during the first two weeks of each semester. Students may have to be re-scheduled to balance class sizes. We appreciate students’ patience and flexibility during this process.

Course Selection Deadlines

Current middle school and incoming 6th grade students will register on their home campus early in the spring semester. Registration deadlines will be printed on registration forms, posted in newsletters, and can be accessed through the website.

If a student fails to turn in the required forms by the deadline, classes will be selected for him/her. Classes will be selected based on what the student needs to meet graduation requirements and elective classes are chosen based on the student’s interests suggested by previous electives taken. **These students will not be allowed to change their course selections later.**

For students who move into district boundaries after the course selection process is completed, forms should be completed as soon as possible. Course selection packets are available in the administration office.

Course Selection Change Procedures

Once a student has completed the course selection process, changes will be made only under the following circumstances:

- Student does not meet the prerequisite or did not complete the prerequisite course
- Student is placed in a class inappropriate to his/her ability level
- Clerical or computer error is made in course assignment

Please exercise particular caution in the selection of elective courses. Read course descriptions to get as much information about elective options as possible while participating in the course selection process.

Some courses require teacher approval or recommendation to ensure correct placement. Those courses are noted as such in the course descriptions section of this guide.

Academic Probation

Combs Middle School places a high value on the academic standing and progress of students. Any student who is deficient (fails one or more classes) may be placed on Academic Probation. Students on Academic Probation may be placed on an academic contract which is an individualized plan developed for the student in order to correct his/her academic deficiencies in a timely manner.

Cougar Skills for Success (CSS)

The purpose of Cougar Skills for Success (CSS) is to provide students with a setting where a teacher can provide assistance and monitor academic progress. Within this framework, teachers can work with students who need assistance with assignments, make up tests, and complete other assigned work. Students may also visit the counselor, use the library, or go to the computer lab. Students will also use time in CSS to participate in the Sustained Silent Reading (SSR) program. Cougar Skills for Success is also used as a vehicle for announcements, videos, assemblies and activities. While Cougar Skills for Success provides many opportunities for obtaining assistance from teachers and completing assignments, some students may need additional time with teachers before and after school in order to succeed academically.

Honors Program

The Combs Middle School Honors Program is designed to provide enrichment opportunities for students who have demonstrated high achievement and high motivation. The following criteria are used in the selection process for this program:

1. Standardized tests
2. Teacher recommendations
3. Previous placement in an advanced/honors class
4. Previous grades from last year's classes
5. Placement testing

The program functions in the areas of language arts, social studies, science, and math. Teachers work to develop activities that encompass the skills required in the four disciplines. Activities are designed to aid students in working on the advanced development of higher-level thinking skills, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving techniques.

Middle School Course Requirements

Students are required to take one year of language arts, social studies, math, and science in both the seventh and eighth grade. The availability of elective classes, however, will depend on the grade level of the student, special program eligibility, the number of students who register for the course, and school resources. Counselors are available to help students select their classes.

High School Program Planning

During the spring of the eighth grade year, all students, in consultation with their families, will begin to select courses for their freshman year of high school. Proper planning ensures that students meet all of the requirements for high school graduation. To assist with this planning, review the chart on the next page that lists the course requirements for high school graduation. You will also find a mathematics course sequence chart on the following page to further assist you with this planning process.

In addition to the requirements listed below, students graduating in 2017 and beyond will be required to pass a civics test. Special Education students are required to complete the course of student as prescribed in their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

J.O. Combs Unified School District
High School Graduation Requirements

Curriculum	Graduation Requirement
English	4 credits
Math	4 credits
Laboratory Science	3 credits
Social Studies	3 credits
Arts/Career Technical Education	1 credit
Elective	7 credits
Total Required	22 credits

Students can earn high school credit while at Combs Middle School for math and Spanish.

Mathematics Course Sequence

Grade	On Level	Accelerated	Accelerated
7 th	7 th grade Math	8 th grade Math	Algebra I
8 th	8 th grade Math	Algebra I	Geometry (only available at Combs High School)
9 th	Algebra I	Honors Geometry	Honors Algebra 2
10 th	Geometry	Honors Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus or Advanced Algebra w/Trigonometry or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)
11 th	Algebra 2	Pre-Calculus or Advanced Algebra w/Trigonometry or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)	AP Calculus AB (prerequisite Pre-Calculus) or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)
12 th	Pre-Calculus or Advanced Algebra w/Trigonometry or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment) or Math for Business & Personal Finance	AP Calculus AB (prerequisite Pre-Calculus) or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)	AP Calculus BC or College Algebra (Dual Enrollment)

Spanish Course Sequence

Grade	Course
9 th – 12 th	Spanish 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offered in 8th grade for high school credit. See course description for more details.
9 th – 12 th	Spanish 2
9 th – 12 th	Honors Spanish 2
10 th – 12 th	Spanish 3
10 th – 12 th	AP Spanish Language
10 th – 12 th	AP Spanish Literature and Culture

Use the following worksheet to map out courses. **WRITE IN YOUR CLASS SELECTIONS NEXT TO THE SUBJECT AREAS TO ASSIST IN SCHEDULE PLANNING.**

School Year Academic Plan		
SUBJECT	FULL YEAR	
English		
Math		
Science		
Social Studies		
	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER
Elective – 1 st Choice		
Elective – 2 nd Choice		
Elective – Alternate		
Elective – Alternate		

Course Descriptions

English Language Arts (ELA)

English Language Arts 7		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7	Full Year
<p>Course Content: Language Arts students will explore the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language. Students will read a wide range of literature and informational text focusing on reading strategies that enhance comprehension. The writing portion of this class will focus heavily on writing arguments, expository essays, narratives, and research based analysis. Students will acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening.</p>		

English Language Arts 7 – Honors		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Eligibility based on student assessment data	7	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course will include all of the skills and genres present in the general classes, but will explore each in greater depth, and additional genres may be introduced. Students will be held to higher expectations in both conduct and work products in advanced sections.</p>		

English Language Arts 8		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: Both English and reading have been integrated into this curriculum. Essential reading strategies and language skills are taught with a heavy emphasis on composition skills. Students in this course will study composition techniques, literary skills, spelling, vocabulary in context and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections.</p>		

English Language Arts 8 – Honors		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Eligibility based on student assessment data	8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course is designed for those students who possess the motivation and skill levels necessary for the accelerated classroom. Emphasis will be placed on vocabulary development, writing techniques, literary analysis, and informational text. Students in this course will also study major literary devices and techniques, as well as read brief selections from literature.</p>		

Math

Math 7		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course will cover topics which include number sense and operations with an emphasis on integers, data analysis, probability/discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking, functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, and logic. Students will use reasoning and communication skills within real world problem solving situations throughout the course.</p>		

Math 7 – Honors		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Eligibility based on student assessment data	7	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course is consistent with the math 8 course, and will include the study of number theory, abstract thinking, algebra, geometry, and integrated math. The major topics covered are number systems, algebraic functions, decimals, expressions, geometry, one and two step equations, and integers. This course will prepare students for Algebra 1. Students will use reasoning and communication skills within real-world problem solving situations throughout the course.</p>		

Math 8		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course will include the study of number theory, abstract thinking, algebra, geometry, and integrated math. The major topics covered are number systems, algebraic functions, decimal conversions, geometry, integers, equations and expressions including graphing, slope, and the Pythagorean Theorem. This course will prepare students for Algebra 1. Students will use reasoning and communication skills within real-world problem solving situations throughout the course.</p>		

Algebra I		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Eligibility based on student assessment data	8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This class is the same class that is offered to Combs High School students. Course content includes: review of pre-algebra topics, real number systems, polynomials, and signed numbers. Students in this course who receive a passing grade will earn high school credit.</p> <p>Note: Purchase of a graphing calculator is suggested, but not required. Specific model will be recommended by teacher.</p>		

Science

Science 7		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course emphasizes the skills of scientific inquiry and builds on the processes of developing questions, experimental design, and the use of statistical methods for data analysis. Students will demonstrate scientific literacy in the environmental, earth, and space sciences. Seventh grade science explores the impact of science and technology on society, and expands science learning in areas such as astronomy, earth processes, populations/ecosystems, and environmental science.</p>		

Science 7 – Honors		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Eligibility based on student assessment data	7	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course is intended for those who have the motivation and skills that are necessary for the accelerated learning environment. This course not only emphasizes the proficiency outlined in the general science description, but also includes more collaborative group work and problem solving skills. In addition, more rigorous curriculum assignments and more in-depth research projects that aim to further develop higher level thinking skills will be assigned.</p>		

Science 8		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course is designed to teach 8th grade students basic fundamentals of chemistry, physics, and biology. The chemistry section will begin the study of the atom. Physics will be focusing on motion and Newton’s laws, the genetic component of biology and the structural and behavioral aspects of adaptations. This inquiry-based course will teach hands-on laboratory skills and methods as a means to learning the content curriculum. This course will reflect on the nature and history of science as well as looking into the impact science has on modern society.</p>		

Science 8 – Honors		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Eligibility based on student assessment data	8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course is designed for students who possess the motivation/skill levels for the accelerated classroom. This course is designed to teach students basic fundamentals of chemistry, physics and biology with a focus on higher level thinking. The chemistry section will begin the study of the atom. Physics will focus on motion, Newton’s laws, the genetic component of biology, and the structural/behavioral aspects of adaptations. This inquiry-based course will teach hands-on laboratory skills and methods as a means to learning the curriculum. This course will reflect on the nature and history of science as well as look into the impact science has on modern society. Students will have the opportunity to master the curriculum with a more rigorous approach which may include additional assignments.</p>		

Social Studies

Social Studies 7		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course is an overview of the people, ideas, and events that shaped the United States from post-Civil War Reconstruction through Great Depression, including industrialization and immigration, the Progressive Era and Imperialism, World War I, and the Great Depression. Government policies, processes, and principles are integrated into the content, along with the impact of cultural, geographic, and economic influences. Seventh graders develop skills in critical analysis, and creative thinking, such as constructing sound arguments, assessing credibility, explaining causes/effects, and examining patterns of change over time. Insight into the development of the United States as a world power and the effect of past events on the present is emphasized throughout the seventh grade course of study.</p>		

Social Studies 7 – Honors		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Eligibility based on student assessment data	7	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course will embark on a comprehensive and chronological study of American History beginning with post-Civil War Reconstruction and ending with the Great Depression. The students should be able to recognize that America’s ongoing struggle to live up to the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution is the struggle to maintain and preserve our national heritage of <i>e pluribus unum</i>. Students will use inquiry, reasoning, and research skills (aided by appropriate technologies) to gather, interpret, and analyze information. Their abilities to engage in civic discourse will be improved by using their skills of oral and written expression.</p>		

Social Studies 8		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course incorporates the study of the foundations of the U.S. Government, civics, American history, world history, geography and economics up to the 21st Century. This course will provide students with the understanding, knowledge and skills necessary to make reasonable judgments as active participants in today’s democracy, history, and current events.</p>		

Social Studies 8 – Honors		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Eligibility based on student assessment data	8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course is designed for those students who possess the motivation and skill levels necessary for the accelerated classroom. This course incorporates the study of the foundations of the U.S. Government, civics, American History, World History, geography, and economics up to the 21st Century. This course will provide students with the understanding, knowledge and skills necessary to make reasonable judgments as active participants in today’s democracy, history, and current events.</p>		

Art

Introduction to Art		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This survey course will allow students to participate in 2D & 3D projects that highlight the social, cultural & historical significance of art making. Master works will be examined and discussed in terms of composition and technique and also as a reflection of the time and place in which they were created. A large variety of media including, pencil, pastels, paper, watercolor and clay will be used to explore the formal elements and principles of art (basic art terminology for the composition and critique of artworks). Engagement in the art world is encouraged through community service and participation in art contests and shows.</p>		

Art Exploration		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Introduction to Art or teacher approval	8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course will allow students to learn more advanced 2D & 3D art techniques and will examine the connection between media and message through more in-depth projects. Students will select from an extensive variety of media including, pencil, pastels, paper, paint, ink and clay. An understanding of the formal elements of art and basic techniques taught in Art Survey is needed. Students will explore opportunities to pursue creative art experiences as they proceed to higher educational settings.</p> <p>Note: This course may be taken twice - teacher approval required for second year</p>		

Career and Technical Education

Careers and Your Future		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course provides students with an inside look at the many fascinating career opportunities along with the uses of media technology used in many career fields. Students explore their interests, aptitudes, and skills plus their individual learning styles using information software in order to identify careers best suited for them. Units may include uses of technology in animation, game design/coding videography, 3D computer modeling and graphic design, as well as discovering personal strengths and interests while discovering fascinating future careers.</p>		

Coding		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course will explore developing usable and engaging games, human computer interaction, graphic design, sound effects, and game aesthetics by learning how to use programming concepts, principles and writing programs (using words and graphical programming blocks).</p>		

Digital Publications and Yearbook		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
teacher approval	7, 8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: Digital Publications and Yearbook will instruct students in the basic skills necessary to complete various types of publications. This includes the investigation of design and journalism related careers and employability skills. Objectives also include page layout design, journalistic writing, digital photography, typography, and graphic design applications including open source graphic design applications Scribus and Gimp. Students wishing to take this course should be creative, self-motivated, enthusiastic, responsible, and organized. Enrollment is limited and teacher approval is required.</p>		

Family and Consumer Science I (FACS I)		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course will allow students to explore areas such as culinary arts, sewing and life skills. Food labs will consist of learning kitchen safety, sanitation procedures, measuring techniques, and basic cooking techniques. Students will also be working on sewing projects, beginning with hand sewing. Life skills will include the areas of decision making, goal setting, and friendship.</p>		

Family and Consumer Science II (FACS II)		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
FACS I	8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course will allow students to explore areas such as culinary arts, sewing and life skills. Food labs will consist of intermediate cooking techniques. Students will be introduced to the sewing machine. Life skills will include career exploration.</p>		

Introduction to Medical Professions		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course will allow students to explore medical careers such as nursing and sports medicine. Major topics of study include: human anatomy, vital signs, first aid for sports related injuries, and disease processes.</p>		

Teens 'n Teaching		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: Open to all students who enjoy children and teaching. Students will develop leadership skills through interaction with elementary school students. Other topics include self-esteem, communication, organization, problem-solving, and child development.</p>		

Graphic Design		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course gives students the opportunity to apply their art talents while learning the features of a computer graphics program. Topics in this project-based course include using the paint tools, working with objects in the draw layer, the effective use of color, perspective drawing, three-dimensional figures, and the role of geometry in art.</p>		

Computer Applications		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course will focus on the use of technology to solve problems. Students will learn advanced features of word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and publishing programs. Students will also create and edit graphics and design elements to enhance published documents. In addition, they will be introduced to using and creating databases, as well as web page development. Internet literacy skills will be stressed while focusing on research retrieval and evaluation of valid information. Students will discuss current social, ethical and human issues regarding the use of computer networks and current technology, including digital copyright law. The Internet will be used as an effective communication tool by corresponding via electronic mail and publishing to the World Wide Web.</p>		

Photography I		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course introduces students to digital photography and photo manipulation. Students will learn to use manual controls to set exposure values, they will understand compositional principles, and learn various techniques for editing digital photographs using photo editing software. Students will have the opportunity to create a variety of projects in class.</p>		

Theatre & Stagecraft		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course provides students with the opportunity to learn the history of theatre and various theatrical productions along with a variety of stage craft elements. Students will learn to use elements of storytelling and analyzing plays, musical texts and performances and apply them to basic acting skills that include individual and group performances of pantomime, radio shows, scenes and monologues. The stagecraft element will include the construction of scenic designs and creating costumes for performances.</p>		

TV/Film Production I		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course will introduce the basics of video production utilizing a personal camcorder and video editing equipment. Students study video technologies, basic equipment operation, video composition, basic lighting and audio production planning, and visual storytelling. Students work in groups to create video projects utilizing post-production editing. This course will also provide an understanding of the video production industry, which includes advertising and pre-and post-production as well as movie production and TV broadcasting.</p>		

Band

Beginning Band		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course will allow students to learn the fundamentals in preparation to advance to Intermediate or Advanced Band. Students will be expected to prepare for and play concerts. Students must own or rent instrument.</p>		

Intermediate Band		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
At least 1 year experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Director	7, 8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course will help students strengthen fundamentals of music reading, individual instrument techniques, and whole ensemble rehearsals. It will also start adding more advanced techniques in preparation to proceed to Advanced Band. Students will be taught to develop a discerning ear along with good practice strategies and habits. Students will be expected to prepare for and perform concerts outside of the school day, as well as perform with others and by themselves in class. Students must own or rent an instrument. Individual practice outside of school is a requirement of this class. School music performance attire required for performances.</p>		

Advanced Band		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Minimum 1 year experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Director	7, 8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course will challenge students to learn more advanced level music through the development of individual and ensemble playing (large focus on individual intonation, articulation, rhythm, and tone). Students will be expected to prepare for and perform concerts/festivals outside of the school day, as well as perform with others and by themselves in class. Students must own or rent an instrument. Individual practice outside of school is a requirement of this class. School music performance attire required for performances.</p>		

Jazz Band		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Minimum one year experience on instrument and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Director. Students must also be enrolled in Intermediate/Advanced Band or Orchestra.	7, 8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course will allow students to learn multiple genres of jazz music. Students will be expected to prepare for and play concerts. This class simultaneously builds and expands upon the foundation being built in concert band and orchestra. Students must own or rent instrument (instruments in jazz band are trumpet, saxophone, trombone, bass, guitar, drum set, and piano).</p>		

Orchestra

Beginning Orchestra		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: Students will develop basic string techniques and note reading skills. In addition, reading and performance skills are stressed in preparation for more advanced orchestra levels. These students are expected to be able to play in various keys and play scales in one octave. They are expected to progress through and into 2 octave scales and add vibrato to their skill set. Students in this group are expected to practice no less than two hours per week. This is imperative for the students' success along with their rapid progression and development. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be other than during school hours. Special concert attire may be worn. Students should own or rent instrument.</p>		

Intermediate Orchestra		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Minimum 1 year experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Orchestra Director Note: exceptions to this would be returning Intermediate Orchestra members.	7, 8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course is a bridge between the beginning and Concert/Advanced Orchestras. These students are expected to be able to shift, play in various keys, play scales in two octaves and vibrate. During the year, there are several performances that this orchestra participates in, and students are expected to have these dates marked in their family calendars from the first week of school. Additionally, there are festivals that may be attended depending on the level and progress of the group. Students in this group are expected to practice no less than two hours per week. This is imperative for success and rapid progression and development. Students will learn the fundamentals in preparation to advance into Concert/Advanced orchestras. Special concert attire may be worn. Students should own or rent instrument.</p>		

Advanced Orchestra		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Minimum 2 years of experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Orchestra Director Note: exceptions to this would be returning Advanced Orchestra members.	7, 8	Full Year
Course Content: This course is for the orchestra that is the flagship of our program. These students are expected to be able to shift, play in various keys, play scales and arpeggios in three octaves and vibrate. During the year, there are several performances that this orchestra participates in, and students are expected to have these dates marked in their family calendars from the first week of school. Additionally, there are festivals that may be attended depending on the level and progress of the group. Students in this group are expected to practice no less than three hours per week. This is imperative for rapid progression and development. Special concert attire may be worn. Students should own or rent instrument.		

Chorus

Chorus		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Full Year
Course Content: This course will develop vocal performance and music reading skills. Students will be expected to prepare for and perform concerts/festivals outside of the school day, as well as perform with others and by themselves in class. School music performance attire required for performances.		

Advanced Chorus		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
Minimum 1 year experience and interview/audition conducted by Middle School Choir Director	8	Full Year
Course Content: This course will develop advanced vocal performance and music reading skills. Students will be expected to prepare for and perform concerts/festivals outside of the school day, as well as perform with others and by themselves in class. School music performance attire required for performances.		

Guitar

Guitar Ensemble		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Full Year
Course Content: This course will teach students to play guitar in the classical style with focus on the fundamentals of music reading and basic musicianship on guitar. Students will be expected to prepare for and perform concerts outside of the school day, as well as perform with others and by themselves in class. Individual practice outside of school is a requirement of this class. Students should own or rent an acoustic guitar (nylon string/classical guitar preferred).		

Physical Education

Boys/Girls P.E.		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course provides varied activities to meet the physical needs and interests of the students. This class helps students to accept responsibility for their own actions and social interactions. Students will be encouraged to apply knowledge from this class to help develop healthy attitudes and habits. Physical Education stimulates leadership qualities and encourages good sportsmanship. Students will recognize different activities available as a source of recreation.</p> <p>Note: This course may be taken each year the student attends middle school.</p>		

Weight Training		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	8	Semester
<p>Course Content: In Weight Training and Conditioning, students will learn muscle names, their locations, exercises to increase specific muscle strength, the five components of fitness, cardio fitness zones, fitness testing, healthy fitness zones, heart rates and goal setting. Everything they learn in class will help them to prepare a personal fitness plan that will guide them to maintain or improve their fitness level throughout their lifetime. The students also take a field trip to a local health club and incorporate that information into their personal fitness plan. Students in this class exercise in the weight room up to three times a week and participate in cardio activities up to two times a week.</p>		

Spanish

Introductory Spanish		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7, 8	Semester
<p>Course Content: This course is a study of the skills necessary to gain background knowledge in the Spanish language. The major topics covered will include speaking, oral comprehension, reading, writing, grammar and spelling. This course is a wonderful introductory course to Spanish at the seventh and eighth grade levels. This course in many ways will be similar in its rigor to a core subject area course.</p>		

Spanish I		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: This course is an in-depth study of the skills necessary to broaden knowledge in the Spanish language. Students will develop stronger skills in speaking, reading, writing and listening. This course will also help build a wider vocabulary and incorporate more complex grammatical structures. This course in many ways will be similar in its rigor to a core subject area course. Because this course counts for high school credit, students must pass the high school final exam in order to earn the high school credit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversation and grammar • Oral/written projects and reports • Hispanic culture, history and geography 		

Other Elective

Leadership Development		
Prerequisite	Grade Level	Duration
None	7,8	Full Year
<p>Course Content: As elected representatives or officers, students learn to solve problems and use parliamentary procedure. They also develop meeting skills and learn to plan, implement, and evaluate activities. Students study general human relations and the traits of different types of leadership, as well as their benefits and hazards.</p>		