Dodge Traditional Magnet Middle School

8th Grade ADVANCED CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

indicates **High School credit classes

****Algebra for High School credit 8th grade**: current math teacher recommendation required! Students will cover High School Algebra concepts in this rigorous course. Students who earn an A or B both semesters may move into HS Geometry. Student enrolled in this class may take the 8th grade Math State Standardized test and the Algebra State Standardized test.

****Geometry for High School credit 8th grade:** prerequisite A/B in HS Algebra. Students will cover High School Geometry concepts in this rigorous fast-paced math course. Students enrolled in this class may take the 8th grade State Standardized test and the Geometry State Standardized test.

GATE Language Arts 8 / Honors Social Studies 8 BLOCK: will focus on reflective, argumentative, narrative, and expository writing in response to literary fiction, informational text, and historical documents. Aligned to Arizona ELA Standards, skills emphasize the review of literary terms, inference, vocabulary, tone, main idea, textual structure, transition, diction, conventions revision, synthesis, document analysis, bias, and public speaking. Materials include expository text, artifacts, primary and secondary sources, short writings, novels, film, and poetry. Students read texts that challenge 8th grade cognition such as Horton Foot's screenplay, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Arthur Miller's, *The Crucible*. Students are required to complete several projects and participate in debate. The course moves alongside the 8th grade history strand and is an integrated course. Texts and projects will fit the period studied in history and assignments demand students understand how the setting shapes the story in detail. Joint projects and assignments will keep students engaged in this dynamic understanding of history.

****STEM Science for High School credit:** Students will build a solid foundation for high school level work using sustainability as an authentic real world relevant topic. Students will engage in engineering practices that incorporate crosscutting concepts and disciplinary core ideas of physics, chemistry, biology, and earth science. All STEM students are required to do a science fair project. Due to the high school academic rigor, students will need focus and drive to keep up with the content.

8th Grade ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

# indicates performance electives = full year commitment (no schedule change)

#Band: Band students perform one evening concert per quarter. Students are expected to attend all concerts and practice daily. We offer 3 middle school band levels: **Beginning** (mostly 6th graders who played in 5th grade band) or 7th/8th graders learning secondary instruments. ***Intermediate*** (advanced 6th graders who have successfully completed the Essential Elements Book I, 7th/8th graders learning secondary instruments and seventh graders who were at Dodge last year). **Advanced** (By audition only, students who have successfully completed Essential Elements Book I and 2.). A limited number of school instruments are available for students to borrow.

#Chorus: Students will learn to sight read, sing, clap and speak various rhythms, sing a varied musical repertoire in multiple genres, both alone and with small groups as well as participate in District musical festivals. This is a year elective. Students will perform one evening concert per semester.

Design 3D: This class is like visual arts with the focus on three-dimensional aspect using online software Tinkercad. Some of the basic art principles are still used in this course i.e., balance, shape, form etc. We will also use Found Objects to combine Tinkercad with Found Objects to further the 3D Design aspect of Art.

GATE Resource: This is a rigorous curriculum within an academic setting that nurtures student's intellectual, social, and emotional needs, equipping each student with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become a life-long learner and stimulate independent decision making through project-based learning. Logic problems, math competitions, and hands-on activities that require detailed reasoning are part of the curriculum.

Minecraft/Coding: Students will focus on computer science curriculum based on CSTA standards. They will build computational thinking skills and explore computer science foundational concepts through Minecraft's Code Builder program. Students will be introduced to JavaScript programming language to build and create in Minecraft. In addition, students will explore game design through Scratch and Microsoft Kodu.

#Orchestra: Students in orchestra will perform one evening concert per quarter and are expected to attend all concerts and practice daily. **Intermediate** orchestra is for those who participated in strings at the elementary level. **Advanced** Orchestra is by audition only and students have successfully completed Essential Elements Book 1). A limited number of school instruments are available for students to borrow.

****Physical Education High School Credit:** All 8th graders who take PE will receive 2 semesters of high school physical education credits (one year). This will fulfill the TUSD high school requirement for physical education. Students are required to dress out and participate in all physical education activities. PE shirts can be purchased at orientation.

Science Olympiad: This class focusses on learning different science topics through hands-on activities, projects, and challenges. We will focus on the scientific method and engineering design process as well as specific topics including the human body, environmental problems, physics, properties of matter, etc. Examples of activities students will engage in are paper roller coasters, mousetrap cars, building windmills, designing the best egg catcher, creating posters on specific topics after research. Students need to be able to work in groups with a variety of people. Students will also be expected to write detailed reflections for each project or activity, and conduct research.

****Spanish for High School credit: *** prerequisite = 7th grade Spanish Students will review concepts covered last year in Units 5-8, covering vocabulary and grammar. The new high school credit units will cover advanced material such as the preterit and irregular verbs and advanced vocabulary. The units also incorporate projects that reflect the material. Students will create a Portfolio with a year of projects and writing samples.

****Strength and Conditioning PE High School credit:** Students will engage in workouts that will improve overall body strength and endurance as well their cardiovascular endurance. Students are required to dress out and participate in all physical education activities. PE shirts can be purchased at orientation.

Student Aide: Students will be assigned to a teacher to help them with daily tasks as well as, working with students in the classroom. Passing grades and leadership behavior in all classes is mandatory.

Student Government: STUCO is a unique, cohesive group of students who care about others and want to have an important leadership role in their school. Students will be responsible for working with both the staff and administration. You will prepare and work at school dances and activities. You will develop and implement fundraisers. You will help raise school spirit. Class time will focus on activities that will enable our group to grow in our leadership skills. Students must turn in an application.

Technology (Computer): During the school year, students will engage in different aspects of technology use as we explore the world of computer science. They start by mastering the basics of Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Then, throughout the rest of year, the students will utilize different programs to learn the basics of coding and video game design. With coding programs such as Code.org and CodeHS, we practice concepts like loops, conditional statements, functions, problem solving, and critical thinking using JavaScript and Python languages. Using Scratch and Microsoft's Kodu, students investigate video game design aspects. Finally, students practice keyboarding skills weekly to become excellent typists.

#Theatre: The world of theatre brings the stories on a page to life. In this class, we look at how that happens. We study different styles of theatre such as pantomime, reader's theatre, short sketches, and one-act plays. Students will learn the vocabulary used in theatre, the areas of a stage, how to develop a character, and how to work as a team and use all the elements of theatre to bring a story to life.

Visual Art: Students will study color theory, and create their own projects that explore line, shape, texture, form, color and value. They will learn how to critically look at a work of art, learn about famous artists and art around the world. There will be a weekly art project using a variety of mediums.

Yearbook: Students will produce a yearbook. Activities will include interviewing, feature writing, layout, picture planning, sales, design, advertising, and leadership. Students must turn in an application.