

Slauson Middle School
2010-2011
7th-8th Grade
Course Description Guide

Year Long Courses:

BAND: Prerequisite: Prior study of band instrument.

This course will continue the study of wind and percussion performance fundamentals. Instruction will focus on improving each student's skills. Students will perform in concerts outside of regular school hours and are expected to practice daily at home.

CHOIR (Boy's, Girl's):

This course will provide students with an opportunity to continue serious study of choral singing. Students will continue to develop their confidence as performers, their skills in part-singing, sight-reading, use of proper vocal technique and other music fundamentals.

CONCERT ORCHESTRA:

Students with previous instruction on a stringed instrument may elect this course. Concert orchestra students will continue to develop basic skills of intonation, bow control, tone quality and music fundamentals. Students are expected to practice daily at home.

FRENCH 1: 8th grade

This course offers more advanced work in listening, speaking, reading, and writing to students. The study of the cultures of French speaking countries.

GERMAN 1: 8th grade

Students will be able to communicate in more complicated language, essential basic grammar and vocabulary. Culture will remain an integral part of the study.

SPANISH 1: 8th grade

This course continues to stress listening and speaking skills with increased concentration on reading and writing skills. Cultural study is again an integral part of this course.

Semester Courses:

FRENCH 7th grade

French 1A emphasizes the development of the five fundamental language skills: listening, comprehension, speaking, reading and writing. Aural skills are stressed. Students will begin the study of the cultures of French speaking countries.

GERMAN 7th grade

German 1A is the introductory study of the German spoken and written language and culture. Upon course completion, the student will be able to carry on simple conversations and write simple sentences.

SPANISH 7th grade

Spanish 1A is the first course of a two-year sequence, which stresses the development of listening and speaking skills, followed by introductory work in reading and writing skills. Major emphasis is placed on the awareness of the cultural heritage of the language and the people, as well as the current cultures of Hispanic countries.

Quarter Courses:

HEALTH

Safety, wellness and reproductive health is a required course to be taken in seventh grade. The course emphasizes wellness and prevention and is designed to enable our students to be responsible, informed and capable decision makers.

APPLIED ARTS

Students create decorative, functional and nonfunctional works of art. Crafts from various cultures will be studied to learn about their purpose and role in society. Students learn that the principles of design, materials selected and quality craftsmanship are important criteria in the creation of functional and decorative art forms.

ART IN THE ENVIRONMENT

This class will focus on the design of architectural forms, interior spaces, environmental structures, advertisements and consumer products. Paint, clay, wood, and other art materials, as well as the computer and/or camera may be used.

CERAMICS AND SCULPTURE

Students will explore various ways to create three-dimensional art. Hand-built and thrown clay forms and sculptures from paper mache, plaster or wire will be assigned. Lifelike, imaginary and abstract representations will be used in the creation of vessels, symbolic forms, and human and animal figures.

DRAWING AND PRINTMAKING

Students will learn to apply the elements and principles of design. Drawing and graphics throughout history will be studied. A variety of drawing and printmaking materials such as pen and ink, charcoal, stencils and linoleum will be used. Critical thinking skills will be encouraged through class discussions and self-evaluation.

PAINT AND COMPOSITION

The fundamental of composition, color theory will be studied. Studying the works of famous artists offers the basis for developing personal expressions and understanding individual styles. Students will be encouraged to improve skills develop self-confidence and make informed judgments about the merits of art works.

MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM (BEAR FACTS)

Do you have feelings and opinions that you would like to share? Do you want your voice to be heard? Join the Bear Facts! The Bear Facts is the name of our school newspaper that has existed for 16 years! Students will benefit by having good keyboarding and English skills. Students will be able to express themselves creatively by writing articles they are interested in sharing with other middle school students. Students will also create drawings, research their ideas and writings, conduct interviews and much more. This course will help expand computer skills; students learn in an environment that supports positive social skills and work ethic. Students' best work will be published in the newspaper.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

Use tips and tricks to integrate database, word processing, and spreadsheet documents. Learn correct format for preparing high school documents such as letters, reports and papers. Explore careers and computing. To be successful in this class keyboarding proficiency is required.

COMPUTER INNOVATIONS

Students will learn to create multimedia products using sounds, pictures, movies, and actions. Media Blender, Appleworks, iPhoto, iTunes, GarageBand, Scratch, SketchUp and iMovie are applications that will be learned in this course. Students coordinate as a team to produce a memorable movie. Each week offers a new, fun and challenging project.

ACCELERATED KEYBOARDING

Keyboarding is the key! Keyboarding is a foundation course that all students should take to help better achieve success in academic courses, and beyond. Students will learn letters, numbers, punctuation, symbols, capitalization and number rules, Business English, and word processing skills. After completing this course, students will be able to key accurately without looking –touch-typing. All students will improve their typing speed; high achieving students will typically type over 50 or more words per minute. Students at all levels will be challenged. Don't leave middle school without keyboarding!

WEB DESIGN

We Design is a very creative and exciting course. This computer class helps students develop professional quality Web pages. Learn how to research material with ease! Learn how to organize text, photos, drawings, videos, music and links. Students will create Web pages that capture their interests and expertise. Beginners and Intermediates will be challenged.

CRASH WORTHY VEHICLES

You build a model car using the same safety features found in your family car. You will then test your design by crashing it with two eggs to see if they will survive.

HOUSE DESIGN / ARCHITECTURE

One of the ways architects share their ideas is to build a model. In this class you will design the house of your dreams and build a scale model of it.

TECH ED SYSTEMS

Through discovery and hands-on activities students will explore selected areas of media, computer, satellite, laser and electronic communications. Student investigation and problem solving will include the use of tools, materials and equipment unique to the information field. Activities and content areas of exploration may include: Computer Aided Design (CAD), packaging engineering, creative recycling, international communication, electronics, laser communication and much more.

INNOVATIONS in ENGINEERING

Through discovery and hands-on activities the students will explore selected areas of construction, manufacturing, transportation, power and energy. Student investigation and problem solving will include the use of tools, materials and equipment use in this area of technology. Activities and content areas of exploration may include: CO2 cars, levitational vehicles, solar vehicles, rocketry, structure building and testing, robotics manipulation and development.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The course will offer an increased emphasis on physical fitness and basic sport skills and swimming. Course content will also include: personal social skills, cognitive skills, fundamental motor skills, and team sport skills.