



2022-2023
8th Course Description

Mark Enis, Principal
April West-McIntosh, Asst. Principal
Landon Morse, Asst. Principal
Christy Jordan, Asst. Principal
Dr. Riddle-Lead Counselor
Mrs. Ganaway-7th Grade Counselor
Mrs. Vuncannon-8th Grade Counselor

Dear Prospective Eighth Grade Students / Parents / Guardians,

The subject selection and registration material were prepared to assist you in making informed choices regarding course selections for the eighth grade school year. Students should work with their current teachers to evaluate their fundamental skills and goals. The course descriptions should be used to select the most appropriate classes to continue academic development while at Tupelo Middle School.

Tupelo Middle School offers advanced classes designed for students who demonstrate maturity, self-motivation, strong study skills, high aptitude, strong work habits, and consistent academic excellence. Advanced courses should be selected if the student meets the prerequisites and plans to take advanced courses at Tupelo High School.

DISCLAIMER

This document is subject to change due to staffing, academic needs, and course offerings.

8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2022/2023

REQUIRED CLASSES

1. **8TH ENGLISH** (SDE# 230104) teaches reading strategies, such as text annotations, note-taking, and analysis of complex literary texts. Reading selections will include nonfiction articles and speeches, dramas, short stories, poetry, and novels. Students will also write clear and coherent argumentative, informative, and narrative essays.

8TH ADVANCED ENGLISH** (SDE # 230104) is a rigorous course that will concentrate on vocabulary, critical thinking and writing skills, advanced literary selections, and analytical reading skills. Reading selections will include literary fiction, classics, and contemporary fiction from more recent authors. These reading selections will consist of at least two novels; the names of the novels will be given to students at the beginning of the school year. Additionally, students will write clear and coherent argumentative, informative, and narrative essays in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.

Recommended prerequisites for Advanced English: score 4 or 5 on MAAP, score 4 or 5 on district Common assessments, 85 or above final average, and teacher recommendation.

2. **8TH MATH*** (SDE# 270720-**One Carnegie unit**) is a course designed for students who took 7th Grade Math the previous year. Students will cover the concepts of the real number systems, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics and probability. Students should have the maturity to do homework nightly.

8TH ADVANCED MATH*(SDE270720-**One Carnegie unit**) is a course designed for students who took 7th Grade Advanced Math the previous year. Students will cover the 8th Grade Math concepts in an in-depth manner at an accelerated pace. Students will also have an introduction to Algebra I skills. Students should have the maturity to do homework nightly and the ability to apply mathematical concepts.

3. **8TH INTEGRATED SCIENCE** (SDE# 409909) consists of an integrated curriculum, including the following disciplines: life science, physical science, and earth and space science.

8TH ADVANCED SCIENCE** (SDE # 409909) will cover MS competencies of life, physical science, and earth and space at a rigorous academic level. The advanced concept is based on the expectation that the student can perform at a high academic level and is preparing for higher intellectual engagement in the high school Advanced Placement science classes. The class will engage students with integrating technology, “hands-on” lab work, and interdisciplinary lessons. All Advanced Students will be responsible for a PROJECT. They will have three options: Science Fair (3rd Term), Science Bowl Team (3rd Term), and/or Review Board Game (4th Term).

Recommended prerequisites for Advanced Science: Score 4 or 5 on MAAP for math and ELA, score 4 or 5 on district Common assessments for math and ELA, 85 or above final average, and teacher recommendation.

4. **8TH MISSISSIPPI STUDIES** (SDE 450705- ½ Carnegie unit) is a course in which students identify, study, and describe geographic, historical, economic, political, and social factors that have contributed to the state’s development. We will examine the people, places, and events that have shaped our state.

8TH WORLD GEOGRAPHY* (SDE 450704- ½ Carnegie unit) provides a comprehensive introduction to the discipline of geography and a study of some of the major cultural regions in the world. This course content includes examining all components of our planet and its various cultures, from biomes to volcanoes, from economics to politics, and from traditional tribal customs to tourism and trade.

ELECTIVE COURSES

5. **8TH ALGEBRA I*** (SDE-270721-one Carnegie unit) is a course designed for high-achieving math students who took 7th CCR compacted math the previous year. Students will complete all concepts of the 8th-grade math course and the high school Algebra I course in an in-depth manner. The Algebra I course will cover the concepts of expressions, polynomials, equations, inequalities, and rational functions. Students must have the maturity to complete homework and study nightly, use organizational skills, and analyze abstract algebraic concepts.

Recommended prerequisites for Algebra I: score 4 or 5 on MAAP, score 4 or 5 on district Common assessments, 90 or above final average in 7th CCR compacted math and teacher recommendation.

6. ACT Prep (one Carnegie unit): This course will emphasize ACT test-taking strategies, specifically math skills, language skills, reading skills, and science reasoning skills. Students will study and practice listening and note-taking techniques, test-taking strategies, questioning and thinking skills, information retrieval, pre-ACT test practice, memory technique, reading in the content areas, vocabulary development, and college application completion with the central goal to increase both subtest scores and composite scores. All four ACT subtests will be reviewed: English, Math, Reading, and Science Reasoning. **NOTE: Students will be assessed based on an improvement model.**

7. 8TH ART I (SDE# 500704-**one Carnegie unit**) is an introductory program of study at the middle school level that involves a broad range of media, techniques, and processes. In this course, students will develop knowledge and skills in the creation and study of works of art and design. Students will increase their understanding of production, critical analysis, history and culture, aesthetics, and connections among the visual arts, other content areas, and everyday life.

8TH CERAMICS: In this course, students will explore the histories, uses, vocabulary, and methods of working with ceramics in both functional and representational forms. Each student will create several pieces throughout the year using multistep processes that have been perfected throughout our human history. As one of the oldest and most versatile materials, humanity has used clay to create since the dawn of our civilization and is still using it today. This course adheres to visual art standards and requires a B average or above to attend.

8. 8TH VARSITY BAND (SDE# 500903) is for those 8th-grade students who have already completed **two years** of band. This course is designed to develop instrumental skills for both performances at the 8th-grade level and prepare for the high school band program. Instruction is given in both individual and ensemble instrumental performance. There will be a limited number of after school rehearsals at various times during the year. This band performs at football games, parades, concerts, band festivals, solo/ensemble festivals, and community events. It is the premier performing ensemble for the TMS band program. Attendance at these activities is part of the course requirements. Instruction is geared toward students' continued participation in band throughout their middle school and high school years. **(See MHSAA note)**

8TH COLOR GUARD (competitive): Students will receive instruction on the flag, rifle, and saber and thoroughly explore the fundamental principles of each piece of equipment on a high level. Students will also study fundamental dance and body principles. There is a fee associated with this class (\$400 for new members, \$300 for returning members); however, fundraising opportunities will be available to help cover the cost of the fee. Students may participate in band and Color Guard; therefore, students currently enrolled in the band may NOT withdraw from the band to participate in Color Guard. **Prerequisite: Audition and three teacher recommendations.**

9. **8TH CHORAL MUSIC***** (SDE# 500935) includes girls' and boys' choruses. Attendance is required for after-school rehearsals and evening performances. Students are required to rent a chorus uniform from the Choral Booster organization for a small fee. Students wishing to participate in the choir should select and mark 8th Choral Music. **(See MHSAA note)** One extra-curricular group, Renaissance, provides additional musical performance opportunities for chorus students. Renaissance is a small madrigal/a Cappella group, including 7th and 8th graders, males and females. A chorus student may choose to audition for this group.

8TH SPLASH SHOW CHOIR*** - students wishing to participate in this competitive show choir should plan on auditioning. Auditions for entering 8th graders will be held the last week of April in the TMS choir room. Students in Splash show choir have all the same duties and requirements of 8th CHORAL MUSIC and are required to pay a Splash fee (a portion is paid, and a portion is raised). Attendance is required for any after-school rehearsals and performances. **Prerequisite: Students must audition for this course. Any upcoming 8th grader can audition whether or not they were in Splash in 7th grade. If you are auditioning, please mark "CHORAL MUSIC" as your choice on your registration form. You will receive auditioning information at a later date.**

8TH DANCE***In this course, students will study the history of dance and perform the dances of many different cultures, periods, and musical styles. From ballet to hip-hop, from Irish folk dances to West African ceremonial dances, students will gain a broad understanding of dance as a form of cultural communication and performing art. ***Students enrolled in 7th Dance will not be allowed to take 8th Dance.***

10. **8TH THEATRE ARTS** (SDE# 500510) is an introduction to the dramatic arts. Course requirements include activities such as acting in groups, analyzing plays, writing scenes, memorizing lines, and improvisational acting. The course promotes reading, music, choreography, and movement, as well as a sense of confidence among peers. Opportunities will be given to learning skills that will be important for success in social and professional situations, especially public speaking. ***A student can take 8th-grade theater whether or not they took 7th-grade theater. (See MHSAA note)***

DISCIPLINES OF THEATRE (D.o.T.) *** is a course designed to provide students with the opportunity to pursue an exploration of technical stage design, criticism, dramatic and comedic acting, and performance. Students will produce plays for the general public and competition as part of the TMS Theater Department's season. Students will also be inducted into the TMS Jr. Thespians Troupe 88196 upon completion of the course. **Prerequisite: Students must audition for this course. Any upcoming 8th grader can audition whether or not they took 7th grade theater. No previous theater experience is required. If you are auditioning, please mark "theater arts" as your choice on your registration form. You will receive auditioning information at a later date.**

11. 8TH PUBLICATIONS & PRODUCTION (SDE#110111) is a project-based class that lays the foundation for Tupelo High School's Journalism Lab (Album Staff), Broadcast Journalism (WTHS News), and Foundations of Journalism. Students will create projects such as Positive Behavior Support videos, a yearbook, and videos of sporting events and other extracurricular activities. They will maintain the school's website, Tidal Wave (school newsletter), and Twitter page.

12. 8TH TEAM INTRAMURAL SPORTS** (SDE# 340111) is a developmental program designed to help middle school children reach their goal of playing competitive athletics by introducing the fundamentals of athletics, teaching discipline through team activities and cardiovascular training, and teaching lifelong lessons. Students will be taught the basics in a variety of sports. Units for girls include basketball, volleyball, soccer, softball, and jump rope. Units for boys include padded football, basketball, track & field, soccer, baseball, and weight training. A grade is given based on daily participation. Recreational activities, along with daily conditioning and stretching, will be included. **Requirements for the class are as follows: 1. class rules form 2. athletic participation form 3. shorts, shoes, and tee shirts. (See MHSAA note)**

8TH PHYSICAL EDUCATION*** (SDE# 340113-one Carnegie unit) requires dressing out and participating in flexibility (stretching), cardiovascular endurance (walking and jogging), fitness tests (pre-tests and post-test skills such as push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, etc.), aerobic activities, calisthenics, and the introduction of the history and rules of the different activities. **No sandals, slides, boots, open-toe, or Dexter shoes are allowed. (STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE 8TH PHYSICAL EDUCATION and 8TH TEAM INTRAMURAL SPORTS. THEY CAN TAKE ONE PER SEMESTER.**

8TH WEIGHT TRAINING-(one Carnegie unit) is a course that focuses on muscular strength, endurance, flexibility, and safety. The core lifts in this course include parallel squats, cleans, and bench presses. Weight room safety, warm-up/cool down procedures, lifting technique and safety for all lifts, primary muscle identification, and individual goal setting are essential components in this course.

13. 8TH ORCHESTRA (SDE# 500977) is open to students who want to **continue** to study one of the four orchestral string instruments: violin, viola, cello, and bass. **The student/parent must rent or purchase an instrument.** Students will be required to practice their instruments at home. Attendance at various performances is part of the course requirements. In addition, extracurricular ensembles and experiences may include All-State Honor Orchestra, North Mississippi Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the LOU Symphony. **(See MHSAA note)**

14. ROBOTICS - (one Carnegie unit) Competitive Teams(Application Required) & Non-Competitive Teams: is a course in which students learn about careers, work in teams/pairs, problem-solve, create engineering notebooks, may involved in community service, work in the RoboMakerspace, and learn to program-specific robots. Non-competitive teams will compete against other classes. The Competitive Team(application and a tryout are required) takes commitment, requires fundraising, and competes in FTC, MATE, and/or SeaPerch competitions. Robotics is a time-intense, **team-centered program** that stretches out over an entire school year and often ramps up in the weeks before competition as extra practices after school are needed to get projects, presentations, and robots ready to compete. No previous robotic knowledge is required for tryouts. Teams are limited to 10 each.

15. SPANISH I* (SDE# 160933-**one Carnegie unit**) includes studying basic grammatical structure using common vocabulary and idiomatic expression. There will be auditory comprehension, pronunciation, and reading comprehension practice. Students will be exposed to geography and the culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

Recommended prerequisite: Score of 4 or 5 on MAAP for ELA, and an 80 or above final average in 7th grade ELA.

16. COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (one Carnegie unit): This course is intended to demonstrate how computer science and engineering are inter-connected through project-based activities that combine coding, electronics, computer aided drafting software, 3D Printing, basic hand tools, and robotics. Students become familiar with the engineering design process and the steps needed to create an application-controlled product.

CYBER FOUNDATIONS I (one Carnegie unit): Students will be introduced to various computer science and technology concepts and career exploration throughout the year. Some examples of content are digital citizenship, keyboarding, technology applications, problem-solving, and programming (HTML and block coding).

NOTES

Carnegie Unit: A Carnegie unit of credit is awarded for the successful completion of high school courses. A Carnegie unit requires a full academic year of “high school” credit in a recognized subject. TMS eighth grade students who are scheduled into a course awarding a Carnegie unit of credit must achieve a numerical average of 65 percent or above to receive the Carnegie credit. The following Carnegie units are available to 8th grade students: ACT Prep, MS Studies and World Geography, Spanish I, Cyber Foundations, Computer Science and Engineering, Art I, Physical Education, 8th Weight Training, 8th Math, 8th Advanced math, and 8th Algebra I.

TMS Competitive Team Sports: Teams **are not** associated with 8th grade intramural sports or 8th grade physical education classes. Some TMS competitive athletic teams will meet/practice after school. Announcements will be made to notify students when and where all competitive athletic team tryouts will be held. (See MHSAA note)

TMS Competitive Academic Teams: Teams will meet after school. Announcements will be made to notify interested students when and where all competitive academic team tryouts will be held. (See MHSAA note below.) TMS is proud to offer Math Counts and Science Bowl as competitive academic teams.

Office, Counselor, and Media Assistants: Assistants are 8th grade students who are selected based on grades, leadership, and good character.

*****Mississippi High School Activities Association:** To be eligible to participate in interschool MHSAA activities (middle school or high school), a student must meet all MHSAA eligibility rules, which include, but are not limited to, the following: 8th and 7th graders must not have reached 14 years of age before August 1 of their 7th grade year. Students must have passed their previous grade level by achieving at least a 2.0 grade point average. Please contact your MHSAA coach or teacher for all eligibility rules.

*****Physical Education Requirement:** The Mississippi Public School Accountability Standards require physical education to be a part of the basic curriculum in any configuration of grades K-8. The curriculum must include 150 minutes of activity-based instruction per week and 45 minutes of instruction in health education per week. All of the electives offered at TMS meet the PE requirement.

Promotion & Retention Policy: Academic achievement and progress on the curriculum as adopted by the TPSD for students in grades 7 and 8 shall be reflected by a minimum grade average of 65 in each of the four major subject areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. **Students must pass the four major subject areas to be promoted to the next grade.**

Rotary Scholars *Please refer to Policy JN.

Grade Point Average: Beginning with incoming 7th graders for the 2020-21 school year, grade point average will be calculated based on Carnegie units classes.

Transferring from Advanced Classes to General Classes: The deadline for transferring from an advanced class to a general class is October 6, 2022. Once the second semester begins, no transfers will be allowed.

SUBJECT SELECTIONS FOR 2022/ 2023 8TH GRADE

Name: _____

Print **legal last name** **legal first name** **legal middle name**

“REQUIRED COURSES”* (Select one course on each line numbered one through three.)

1. ___ English **or** ___ Advanced English
2. ___ Math (1 credit) **or** ___ Advanced Math (1 credit)
3. ___ Integrated Science **or** ___ Advanced Science
4. MS Studies & World Geo. (1 credit)

“ELECTIVE COURSES” Select four, then label them your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choice.

5. ___ 8th Compacted Math (Algebra I-1 credit)
6. ___ 8th ACT Prep (1 credit)
7. ___ 8th Art I (1 credit) **or** ___ 8th Ceramics
8. ___ 8th Varsity Band (must rent or purchase instrument)
9. ___ 8th Choral Music (requires uniform rental) **or** ___ 8th Dance
10. ___ 8th Theater Arts
11. ___ 8th Publications and Productions
12. ___ 8th Team Intramurals **or** ___ 8th Physical Education (1 credit)
- ___ 8th Weight Training (1 credit)
13. ___ 8th Orchestra (must rent or purchase instrument)
14. ___ 8th Robotics (1 credit)
15. ___ 8th Spanish I (1 credit)
16. ___ 8th Computer Science and Engineering (1 credit)
- ___ 8th Cyber Foundations (1 credit)

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Selected choices of required and elective courses are subject to change per MAAP scores, alternative placement, individual educational plans, and/or student retention*