

COMFORT MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2018-2019

**C
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216 High Street

Comfort, TX 78013

Phone: (830) 995-6420

Fax: (830) 995-2248

www.comfort.txed.net

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PHONE NUMBERS & CONTACTS

CMS main number (830) 995-6420
 Principal, Josh Limmer ext. 301
 Counselor, Beverly Lauderdale ext. 307

CMS fax number (830) 995-2248

SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES 6/7th GRADE

- 1) Reading
 - 2) English
 - 3) Math
 - 4) Science
 - 5) Social Studies
 - 6) Athletics/PE
 - 7) Elective:
 _____(1 semester elective)
 _____(1 semester elective)
- OR
- _____ (1 year elective)

SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES 8TH GRADE

- 1) ELA
 - 2) Math/Algebra
 - 3) Science
 - 4) Social Studies
 - 5) Athletics/PE
 - 6) Elective:
 _____(1 semester elective)
 _____(1 semester elective)
- OR
- _____ (1 year elective)
- 7) Elective:
 _____(1 semester elective)
 _____(1 semester elective)
- OR
- _____ (1 year elective)

Comfort Middle School is pleased to offer students a wide array of educational opportunities through participation in our core curriculum, Honors curriculum, and electives. Each year, students and parents should use this registration booklet as a guide to class choices for the coming year. Please talk with your child about his or her interests and goals as you consider plans for the 2018-2019 school year and beyond.

Highly motivated, disciplined, and academically capable students should consider enrollment in Honors classes. Please also review information, criteria, and recommendations related to Honors in this booklet.

Each student is required to complete a registration form indicating his or her elective and/or Honors requests. Based on the requests we receive, we build a master schedule. It's important that students carefully consider their options since it is not always possible to change schedules later. Students who fail to turn in a registration form will have to rely on our judgment for their elective choices.

It is a privilege and pleasure to work with your children and to be of service. If you have questions, please come and visit with us about our educational programs.

We're looking forward to a great 2018-2019!

Sincerely,

Josh Limmer, CMS Principal

**Notificación Pública de No Discriminación en Programas Vocacionales
(Career and Technical Education Programs)**

Comfort ISD ofrece programas vocacionales en Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; Arts, A/V Technology and Communications; Education and Training; Finance; Health Science; Hospitality and Tourism; Human Services; Information Technology; Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. La admisión a estos programas se basa en apropiada edad, el interés y la aptitud, espacio disponible de clase, requisitos previos y satisfecho.

Es norma de Comfort ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas, servicios o actividades vocacionales, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Es norma de Comfort ISD no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, impedimento o edad, en sus procedimientos de empleo, tal como lo requieren el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, según enmienda; el Título IX de las Enmiendas en la Educación, de 1972, y la Ley de Discriminación por Edad, de 1975, según enmienda y la Sección 504 de la Ley de Rehabilitación de 1973, según enmienda.

Comfort ISD tomara las medidas necesarias para asegurar que la falta de habilidad en el uso del inglés no sea un obstáculo para la admisión y participación en todos los programas educativos y vocacionales.

Para información sobre sus derechos o procedimientos para quejas, comuníquese con la Coordinadora del Título IX, y de la Sección 504, Katherine Kuenstler, en 327 High Street, Comfort, Texas 78013, (830) 995-6400.

REGISTRATION POLICIES

Required Courses:

6th grade—English Language Arts, Reading, Science, Math, History, PE/Health, 1 Elective

7th grade—English Language Arts, Reading, Science, Math, History, Athletics/PE, 1 elective

8th grade—Language Arts, Science, Math, History, Athletics/PE, 2 Electives

Disclaimer:

Required subjects and electives choices may be changed due to staffing changes, CISD School board directives, legislative mandates, scheduling conflicts, or lack of interest.

Note:

Students who fail their Reading and/or Math STAAR may be placed in an accelerated class in place of one of their electives. Schedules of students who qualify for special programs are subject to change by the office in order to ensure the best academic program possible.

Schedule Changes:

Schedules will be handed out on the first day of school. Please consider choices carefully. Changes to schedules will be made during the 1st week of school and only if there is a profound academic need or improper placement of a student. Students who register for a year long course will be required to complete the full course.

Public Notification of Nondiscrimination in Career and Technical Education Programs

Comfort ISD offers career and technical education programs in Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; Arts, A/V Technology and Communications; Education and Training; Finance; Health Science; Hospitality and Tourism; Human Services; Information Technology; Law, Public Safety, Corrections and Security; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Admission to these programs is based on age appropriateness, interest and aptitude, class space available and satisfied prerequisites.

It is the policy of Comfort ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its vocational programs, services or activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

It is the policy of Comfort ISD not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Comfort ISD will take steps to assure that lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in all educational and vocational programs.

For information about your rights or grievance procedures, contact the Title IX Coordinator and the 504 Coordinator, Katherine Kuentler at 327 High Street, Comfort, Texas 78013, phone (830) 995-6400.

HONORS COURSES

Overview:

Honors classes have rigorous requirements and are intended for those students who are dedicated to a fast-paced and demanding curriculum. It is recommended that a student take Honors classes for only those courses he/she excels in and shows exceptional abilities. Honors courses will be offered for Reading/ELA, Math, and Science in all grade levels. If a student enrolls in Honors Reading, they will also be enrolled in Honors English.

Characteristics of Honor students:

- The ability to read extensively, independently, and accurately.
- The possession of writing skills which demonstrate proficiency in organization, diction, syntax and mechanics.
- The motivation to go beyond the assignment.
- The ability to discuss topics intelligently, having shown evidence of accurate listening through thoughtful comments.
- The maturity to accept criticism and to offer it constructively
- A sense of responsibility regarding assignments.

Criteria for taking Honor courses:

Category 1: Open enrollment

- Identified Gifted and Talented in the subject area
- Signed Contract by Parent and Student

Category 2: Selective enrollment

- Honors Math class requires at least Mid-point of Meets Expectations on STAAR
- Honors Science class requires at least Mid-point of Meets Expectations on STAAR Math
- Honors Reading and English Language Arts classes at least Mid-point of Meets Expectations on STAAR Reading
- 90% in subject area for previous grade level
- Signed Contract by Parent and Student

(Mid-point will be determined when the state releases scores)

Category 3: Conditional enrollment

- STAAR scores
- 90% in subject area for previous grade level
- Space availability
- Review of academic Ability
- Signed Contract by Parent and Student

* Students must participate in Summer Reading to continue their enrollment in Honors Reading and English

IMPORTANT:

If a student's average drops below a 75 for the fall semester, a Honors review committee will review the students continued involvement in the identified Honors course. Written recommendations that result from the meeting will be sent home for parent review.

Principles of Information Technology
Prerequisite: None

1 year
8th grade

Introduces basic concepts and skills related to microcomputers systems. Special emphasis is placed on word processing, database design, electronic spreadsheet and numeric date. This course provides students with an overview of the various uses of information processing tools and skill development in using microcomputer-based tools for personal, academic, and /or employment.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT CLASS.

Theatre Arts I
Prerequisites: Exploratory Theatre or
Theatre Teacher Recommendation

1 year
7th/8th grade

The goal of Theatre Arts I is to expand on the strands of Theatre Arts learned in Exploratory Theatre. Classroom activities stress the growth of the individual student's self-confidence, both on and off stage. Students will study basic acting and directing techniques and terminology including blocking and stage directions, voice, and movement, improvisations, short skits, and some short plays, as well as a basic study of various personality types in assigned readings. Students will also be introduced to the study of Theatre History and the role of mass media in American society. (Designed for 7th graders who earned credit for Exploratory Theatre, but 7th/8th graders who have not previously earned Exploratory Theatre credit can be admitted with Theatre Teacher recommendation).

CORE

SUBJECTS

Language Arts

6th Grade Language Arts

1 year

Classes will emphasize the following components: writing for a variety of audiences and purposes, applying the conventions of written language to original texts, applying standard grammar and usage to communicate clearly, and evaluating his/her own writing and the writing of others.

7th Grade Language Arts

1 year

Explores the writing process, research skills, vocabulary study (including SAT and ACT words), grammar usage, and spelling skills. Students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and written compositions. Students analyze persuasive techniques: how style, tone, organization, word choice, and mood contribute to the effect a piece of writing has on the reader. Students will be given the opportunity to practice authentic writing in preparation for the TAKS Exit Writing Test required for high school graduation.

8th Grade Language Arts

1 year

Language Arts will integrate 8th grade reading and writing requirements TEKS with the Career Cruising program. Assessment of personal strengths covering TAKS objectives, talents and career opportunities will create meaningful and practical frameworks for further development of writing, research skills, vocabulary, grammar, spelling, literature appreciation, as well as goal setting. Writing technology and visual and electronic media are tools students use to create, clarify, critique, write, and produce research papers, timelines, brochures, and other various writing compositions.

English As A Second Language

ESL

1 year

A basic English course for non-English speakers. It emphasizes rudimentary vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation in a conversational setting. The course emphasizes vocabulary and more complex grammatical forms, with an increasing stress on reading and writing.

Reading

6th Grade Reading

1 year

Classes will address literary elements, strategies for analyzing texts, and critical thinking skills in order to demonstrate a basic understanding of culturally diverse written texts. Students will move beyond the literal meaning of a text to develop deeper understandings, make connections between events, characters and other elements of a story. They will use relevant parts of the text to support their interpretations and relate what they have read to their own lives and experiences.

7th Grade Reading

1 year

Students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and written compositions.

Theatre Arts II

Prerequisites: Theatre Arts I

Theatre Teacher recommendation

**1 year
8th Grade**

Theatre Arts II is designed to encourage creativity and a deep interest in theatre arts. While continuing to stress the strands of Theatre Arts learned in previous courses, students will explore the technical side of theatre, with projects in design, lighting, costumes, set, and sound. Students will become better communicators and fine tune their acting abilities by working on advanced projects in monologues and duet scenes. Theatre History will be explored with historically based scenes performed. Students will be expected to engage in at least two productions including the UIL One-Act Play.

Art I

Pre-requisite: None

**1 year
6th/7th/8th grade**

Class helps students explore the essential elements of art. Students will develop and organize ideas to create original works. To express their ideas, students use a variety of mediums, such as drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture and printmaking. Students expand their perceptive, interpretive and analytical abilities.

Art II

Pre-requisite: Art I

**1 year
7th/8th grade**

Students examine elements similar to those presented in Art I, but they will study each in a more complex format.

Art III

Pre-requisite: Art I and Art II

**1 year
8th grade**

Students investigate Art History, Art Appreciation, and Art Criticism. Students manipulate a variety of art medias, including pencil and pen drawing, painting, graphic arts, and printmaking. Also, these students will throw a pot on the Potter's Wheel.

Creative Writing /Yearbook

Pre-requisite: None

**1 year
8th grade**

Students write essays, short stories, and poetry. The student's evaluation of his/her own writing, as well as the writing of others, ensures that students analyze and discuss pieces of writing, develop and apply criteria for effective writing, and set their own goals as writers. Creative writing students become analytical consumers of media and technology to enhance their communication skills. Students learn journalistic ethics and standards. Writing, technology, and visual and electronic media are tools for learning as students create the middle school yearbook.

Athletics
Prerequisites: Physical Exam by Doctor

1 year
7th/8th grade

Provide students opportunities to participate in competitive sports, including volleyball, football, basketball, and track. Students, governed by the Extra-Curricular Standards of Behavior, represent the district in individual and team competition.

Beginning Band
Prerequisites: None

1 year
6th grade

No experience necessary! Students will learn how to play wind and percussion instruments in a small group setting. A director will help you select from flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba. Percussion is by audition only. We have many school-owned instruments, so you are not required to purchase an instrument to join. Band members will perform in concerts, solo competitions, and attend a Spring Festival. Rock on!

Advanced Band (7th)
Prerequisites: None

1 year
7th grade

Students continue to become efficient on their instruments, perform as individuals and as members of a full concert band. Weekly rehearsals are required of students selected for this course. The band will participate in UIL Concert and Sight – Reading Contest, All-Region Band Auditions, Solo & Ensemble Contest, and a Spring Festival Trip.

Advanced Band (8th)
Prerequisites: None

1 year
8th grade

Students will use and build on the knowledge and skills acquired over the last two years to perform as the premiere varsity ensemble at CMS. Weekly rehearsals are required of students selected for this course. The band will participate in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading Contest, All-Region Band Auditions, Solo & Ensemble Contest, and a Spring Festival Trip.

Reading strategies will be enhanced through the use of the computer-generated programs. Students will expand vocabulary, use comprehension techniques to construct meaning from text, improve listening and speaking skills, and develop literary appreciation for all genres of literature. The seventh grade reading class partners with the language arts course through collaborative writing assignments and assessments.

STAAR Reading
1 year

Offers individualized reading remediation. Emphasis is on building reading comprehension through a variety of techniques and strategies. The course's primary focus will be on TAKS Reading Test preparation, especially critical reading skills needed to pass the required state test. Students who do not pass their grade level TAKS exam will be required to take this course and this course will replace a chosen elective.

Math

6th Grade Math

1 year

Class emphasizes problem solving, patterns and relationship recognition, numbers and numeration concepts, operations and computations, measurement, geometry, probability, and graphing.

7th Grade Math

1 year

Students use proportional thinking and properties of charts, graphs, decimals, equations, formulas, exponents, fractions, geometry, number theory, ratios, percents, and whole numbers to solve real word problems. Students are also introduced to properties of algebra, integers, probability and statistics,, and square roots.

8th Grade Math

1 year

Builds on mathematical foundations and explores algebraic language. All lessons throughout the year correspond with specific objectives outlined by the State of Texas in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and prepare students to be successful on both the TAKS Test and in high school math courses.

8th Grade Algebra I
year

1

Affords the gifted math student the opportunity to take four years of math in high school, including calculus. Algebra students develop confidence in solving linear equations, using concrete, informal, and formal methods. The student will earn one high school credit but will need to plan math course selections in high school to include pre-calculus or calculus.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT CLASS.

STAAR Math**1 year**

Offers individualized math remediation, emphasizing basic math functions and practical applications. The class' primary focus is on TAKS Math Test preparation. The reviewed TEKS parallel the requirements in seventh/eighth grade math courses. Students who do not pass their grade level TAKS exam will be required to take this course and this course will replace a chosen elective.

Science**6th Grade Science****1 year**

Class helps students learn to acquire data, use manipulatives in a laboratory setting, classify, order and sequence data, and apply terms based on observations.

7th Grade Science**1 year**

Includes conducting field and laboratory investigations using scientific methods, critical-thinking, and problem-solving. Students will use tools, such as microscopes, dissecting equipment, computers, and field equipment, to collect and analyze information to explain phenomena. Students will also communicate valid conclusions through the use of graphs, tables, maps, and charts to support scientific investigations.

8th Grade Science**1 year**

Provides students with opportunities to think, reason question, observe and experiment with a variety of Earth Science topics. These topics include chemistry (reactions, products, atoms, periodic table), Newton's laws, solar systems, Geology (fossils, rocks, geological time, minerals), genetics and feedback systems of the body. Students will explore each to find understanding of the world around them, while developing problem-solving skills.

Social Studies**6th Grade Social Studies****1 year**

Classes emphasize the study of contemporary societies in order to evaluate relationships between past conflicts and current conditions. The units explore world history, geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture, while analyzing how science and technology have affected the development of select societies. Students integrate technology, research, and communication skills through the Big-6 Research format.

7th Grade Texas History**1 year**

Explores Texas from pre-historic days to the present. Students examine the cultures of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration. The scope and sequence of the course follows the eras of mission building, colonization, revolution, republic, and statehood.

ALL YEAR

ELECTIVES

Exploratory Theatre
Prerequisites: None

1 semester
6th grade

The goal of 6th grade Theatre is to introduce students to the world of Theatre through lessons and activities that address the four strands of Theatre Arts— perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage, and critical evaluation. Through perceptual studies, students increase their understanding of self and others and develop clear ideas about the world. Through a variety of theatrical experiences, students communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, build positive self-concepts, and relate interpersonally. Students will also increase their understanding of heritage and traditions through historical and cultural studies addressing the role of theatre and other forms of mass media in society.

Learning for Life
Prerequisite: None

1 semester
7th / 8th grade

This is the starting point for a student's college and career readiness and provides good foundational knowledge for students interested in participating in the hands-on Career Exploring program. Students learn to ascertain the need for having a job and being employed, to recognize obstacles, how to make mature and ethical decisions, and how to deal responsibly with their decisions. The course utilizes online games and activities, including skyping with professionals in various jobs and industries all over the world.

Personal Finance
Prerequisite: None

1 semester
7th / 8th grade

Why does money have value? Could you start a business? Can you live on your own? What is interest? What is credit? Do you have to pay taxes? What about identity theft? Get basic knowledge of money systems, how they work, how they relate to life, and how to be financially successful after graduation. Then apply your knowledge to online interactive games that allow you to compete against each other, as well as students in other districts, states, and across the country.

8th Grade United States History

1 year

Explores the political, economic, and social issues of the United States from the Early Colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the Early Republic, Westward Expansion, Sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Physical Education

Physical Education/Health

1 year

Prerequisites: None

6th grade

Will focus on developing and maintaining fitness flexibility, endurance, and strength. Students will develop competitiveness through various activities. **Health** will focus on mental, physical, and social well-being. Knowing and identifying the body systems and the proper care of each system will be explored. The students will be taught the dangers of drug, alcohol, and tobacco to the body. Students will be provided with information of personal hygiene.

Physical Education

1 year

Prerequisites: None

7th/8th grade

Focuses on physical fitness (flexibility, endurance, and strength) and physical activities requiring cooperation, while allowing individual competition. Students learn skills related to recreational and lifetime activities. Athletics at the seventh/eighth grade levels satisfies the physical education requirement. CISD encourages students to take physical education every year.

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Web Page Design

Pre-requisite: None

Students will learn basic design principles for creating websites, including site design and page design principles. Using web page authoring and site management programs, students create, modify, and manage Web sites.

**1 semester
7th/8th grade**

Multi-media

Pre-requisite: Keyboarding is recommended

Students will be actively involved in learning and designing dynamic video games. The course will encourage hands-on participation and group learning as the students research the Internet and peripherals such as CD-ROM, camcorder, scanner, and digital photographs. Students will be actively involved in learning and designing dynamic multimedia products using presentation programs.

**1 semester
7th/8th grade**

Keyboarding

Pre-requisite: None

Helps students recognize that technology is a tool that supports the work of individuals and groups in solving problems. Students will select the technology appropriate for tasks, create a solution, and evaluate the results. Students communicate information in different formats and to diverse audiences. A variety of technologies will be used. This is a basic computer class for students who may not have gained essential and fundamental computer skills that will be needed in high school. Keyboarding skills will be emphasized. Students will not receive high school credit.

**1 semester
6th grade**