

# 2019-2020

# MAGNOLIA JUNIOR HIGH



## Course Selection Handbook

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### MAGNOLIA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

#### School Administration Assignments for 2019-2020

|                   |                                 |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| David Slater      | Principal                       |
| Donna Covarrubias | Assistant Principal – 7th grade |
| Jason Hawkins     | Assistant Principal – 8th grade |
| Sarah Quintanilla | Academic Coordinator            |
| Sarah Cravens     | Counselor – 7th grade           |
| Kelan McCullen    | Counselor – 8th grade           |

#### Department Chairpersons

|                |                              |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Angela Price   | Math Department              |
| Michael Morse  | History Department           |
| Diedrea Harris | Science Department           |
| Amanda Dunn    | Language Arts Department     |
| OPEN           | Special Education Department |

## Course Selection Philosophy

At Magnolia Junior High, we want all students to be able to take the core courses they, in conjunction with their parents or guardians, want to take. As a general education parent, it is your choice as to which level of language arts, social studies, or science class you want your child enrolled in.

## Required Courses

### List of required subjects:

#### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Language Arts      | (2 Semesters) |
| Mathematics        | (2 Semesters) |
| Science            | (2 Semesters) |
| Texas History      | (2 Semesters) |
| Physical Education | (2 Semesters) |
| Academic Elective  | (2 Semesters) |
| Electives*         | (2 Semesters) |

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

|                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Language Arts                 | (2 Semesters) |
| Mathematics                   | (2 Semesters) |
| Science                       | (2 Semesters) |
| U.S. History                  | (2 Semesters) |
| College & Career<br>Readiness | (1 Semester)  |
| Electives - (2.5 total)*      | (5 Semesters) |

\* A two semester (year-long) elective may be substituted for two one semester elective choices.

## Course Registration

One of the most critical functions of a successful school is the registration of students. Based on the information submitted by parents or guardians prior to the May 3, 2019 deadline, courses are scheduled and staffing decisions are made for the next school year. Therefore, it is important that course selection be given serious consideration. We will make every effort to accommodate all students, but this may not be possible due to class size, times offered and conflicts with specialized classes or student requests, etc. Please make sure you list alternate elective choices. Alternates will be used when one of the student's first choices are not available. All elective courses offered at Magnolia Junior High may be utilized to properly complete a student's schedule. Full year electives may not be listed as alternatives as these are courses of which a student needs to be firmly committed to before choosing. Once the deadline of May 3, 2019 passes no changes will be made until July 31, 2019 when the window reopens. During the window from July 31, 2018 through August 9, 2019 changes can be made to electives and on-level to Advanced. After school begins, no schedule changes will be made until the second week of school. Any student enrolling in any course is making a commitment to be in that program for one full year or semester, as applicable.

## Course Request Deadlines

Magnolia Junior High is dedicated to recruit and keep the best teachers in the State of Texas. The benefits are great for your child and our school. In April, we begin to build our master schedule, as well as individual student schedules, based on the choices students and parents indicate they want on the Course Request form. Additionally we assign staff to teach these specific courses based on these requests. Please note the deadlines listed, as we **cannot** make changes after these dates.

## Academic Placement

Students are enrolled in academic courses according to department/program criteria in all academic areas. Placement criteria include factors such as prior academic performance as well as scores from ability or achievement tests. In the case of students with disabilities, the ARD Committee will make placement decisions that designate Special Education and/or Regular Education placement.

On Level Courses – These courses are designed to provide instruction in the requirements in Chapter 74 and 75 of the Texas Administrative Code and District objectives. Assignments and activities in writing, and/or problem solving require the use of high level and critical thinking skills.

Advanced (Formerly Pre-AP) Courses – These courses are designed for students who have a special interest in the subject and desire to pursue that interest at higher levels. These students are willing to accept a rigorous academic curriculum and:

- Are motivated to spend the required amount of time to meet the rigors of the academic standards of the program.
- Are committed to a higher level of learning in preparation for college-level work.

Gifted and Talented – Through the Advanced classes the unique educational needs of the Gifted and Talented student will be met. The Advanced class will emphasize content, independent studies, and products to enrich and extend the GT student's thinking process.

Special Education: Co-Teach/Support/Resource – Co-Teach, Support, and Resource classes are designated to meet the needs of those students with disabilities who may be eligible for and need special education services. Eligibility for these classes is determined by the ARD Committee.

## Electives

Every effort is made for each student to receive as many of his or her elective choices as possible. **Please note that the course verification sent home in the spring will indicate courses each student has *requested*. If any of these appear incorrect, or if you would like to make a change, please submit the changes on the verification form and return it to the Counselor by May 1, 2019.** For purposes of completing a specific student schedule, it is possible that a student may receive an elective they did not request.

## Schedule Changes

Advisement for next school year begins in the spring. Students will be given a “Course Selection Sheet” to select courses for the next school year. Any course that requires an application must be submitted by the deadline. We encourage parents/guardians to review the selections before returning it to the school. A course verification form will be sent home to ensure that your course requests are accurate. In the process of registration, it is in the best interest of the student that course choices be carefully considered. Schedule changes, for any reason during the school year, may not be feasible due to many factors. The master schedule is built with the students’ original selections in mind. They are verified before the summer begins. The placement of teachers, and the number of courses offered is determined by these choices. As a result, requested schedule changes can only be approved by the administration team. Schedule changes will not be made solely to change the period the class is held or to change teachers. Athletics is a year-long elective. If a student signs up for Athletics, they are in for the entire year.

## Grading

Each semester is divided into two nine-week increments. A report card will be issued at the end of each nine week period. A student’s report card can also be viewed by accessing TEAMS Parent Self-Serve. Parent Self-Serve allows our parents/guardians and students access to attendance and grades through the MISD website or its dedicated app. This service also gives parents/guardians a fairly recent update of grades during each nine weeks. At the end of the last nine weeks, report cards will be mailed home. At the end of the second and third nine weeks report cards will be sent home via students. A composite progress report will be issued each three weeks via students. Grade breakdown will be assigned as follows:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| 90-100   | A |
| 80-89    | B |
| 70-79    | C |
| Below 70 | F |

- Please note that to maintain UIL eligibility students must pass all courses, including any high school courses or Advanced courses taken. For a complete listing of UIL eligibility dates, please visit our district website.
- Please also note there are no “exceptions” made for UIL eligibility regarding junior high school courses. All courses taken at junior high level count for eligibility.

## 9 Weeks Tests

Students will take 9 weeks exams at the end of each 9 week grading period. These dates are posted on the testing calendar on the MJH website. Please arrange to have your student in attendance on these important testing days, if possible.

## Advanced Courses (Formerly Pre-AP)

Advanced courses are designed to align the curriculum from junior high through high school. The Advanced program offers a more challenging curriculum that will prepare students for the Advanced Placement (AP) program at the high school. We offer Advanced classes with fast paced, differentiated, and accelerated instruction in the four content areas. Students may have to write more, analyze various materials, synthesize ideas, solve more challenging problems, and evaluate solutions for reasonableness or validity. Various projects may be assigned during the school year.

## High School Courses – Algebra and Spanish I

High school courses taken in junior high will have the grade earned on a student's high school transcript. This grade will not count in the calculation of a student's GPA or high school class rank, but high school credit will be awarded if the student passes both semesters.

- Students who do not successfully pass both semesters of a two semester high school course (i.e. Algebra I & Spanish I) taken in junior high school will be required to repeat the entire course in high school.
- Per board policy, junior high credits are not calculated in GPA and class rank.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Requirements and Course Descriptions

### **ENGLISH (J74004)**

All seventh graders are offered a balanced Language Arts program designed to improve communication skills through the study of composition, spelling, grammar, usage, vocabulary, and literature. The emphasis of the writing program is the mastery of well-explained and well-organized content in essay answers, letters, and compositions in the narrative, descriptive, and classificatory modes and for the informative and persuasive purposes, as well as the correct use of punctuation and capitalization. The grammar and usage strand stresses identification of the parts of speech and the parts of a sentence; analysis of simple, compound, and complex sentences; the correct use of verbs, modifiers, pronouns; and subject-predicate agreement. Spelling is improved through the study of generalizations and rules, lists of commonly used words, and proofreading. The literature strand, which emphasizes literary analysis, reading comprehension, and vocabulary, includes poetry, short stories, nonfiction, and drama. Students develop higher order thinking skills as they analyze sentences and works of literature and synthesize their ideas into written and oral presentations.

**ADVANCED ENGLISH (J74024)**

This course is designed for a student preparing to take Algebra I during his or her 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. In addition to 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, students will also be studying Pre-Algebra, which is 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. If a student did not take PreAP in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, he or she is responsible for learning any material that is a prerequisite for this class. The Pre-Algebra class completes all middle school mathematics topics and prepares students for the rigors of Algebra I. While there are no prerequisites to register for this Advanced class, each course maintains a set of minimum expectations and requirements to be met by students in order for them to remain enrolled.

**ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) (J74114)**

Students who are limited in English proficiency will be eligible for English as a Second Language (ESL) as a supplement to the English Language Arts program. The primary goal of this program is to enable the student who is limited in speaking English to become sufficiently competent in comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing for the successful mastery of the requirements of the MISD objectives in all English programs. All English as a Second Language placement decisions are made for individual students by the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC).

**MATHEMATICS (J71004)**

Seventh grade math classes work with all concept strands of math, with a special emphasis on numeration, operations, and problem solving with fractions, decimals, integers, and percents. The primary focal points at seventh grade are: using proportional relationships in percent, geometry, and probability; linear relationships, equations, inequalities and developing geometry with algebra; measurement and data, using statistics and sampling; and personal financial literacy.

**MATHEMATICS PRE-ALGEBRA (Advanced) (J71024)**

This course is designed for a student preparing to take Algebra I during his or her 8<sup>th</sup> grade year and four years of math in high school. In addition to 7<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum, students will also be studying Pre-Algebra, which is 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. Students need to be committed to the required workload and willing to seek help when needed. If a student did not take Advanced Math in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, he or she is responsible for learning any material that is a prerequisite for this class. The Pre-Algebra class completes all middle school mathematics topics and prepares students for the rigors of Algebra I.

**TEXAS HISTORY (J73004)**

The course provides an overview of the history of Texas from early times to present. In depth study will include an awareness of the geographic influences on the development of Texas, an understanding of the successful struggle for Texas independence, an appreciation of the contributions of ethnic and racial groups in Texas, and an understanding of the economic growth and politics of modern Texas.

**ADVANCED TEXAS HISTORY (FORMERLY PRE-AP) (J73024)**

This course provides an overview of the history of Texas from early times to present day. In-depth study and analysis of material relevant to this subject will include an understanding of the geographic influences on the development of Texas; the successful struggle for Texas independence; an appreciation of the contributions of ethnic and racial groups in Texas; and an examination of the economic growth and politics of modern Texas. Students enrolled in Texas History should be on track to enroll in Advanced Placement history courses at the high school level.

**SCIENCE (J72004)**

This seventh grade science course is an integrated science course that involves topics from life, earth, physical science, and human systems. Grade 7 science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. The strands for Grade 7 include: Scientific investigation and reasoning, Matter and Energy, Force, Motion and Energy, and Earth and Space. The course involves students in laboratory activities focusing on the behaviors of living organisms and natural phenomena, as well as making accurate observations, collecting and analyzing data, and manipulating laboratory equipment and material in a safe and ethical way. Laboratory activities also include animal dissections and microscopic observations. Library research, and short and long projects may also be required.

**ADVANCED SCIENCE (FORMERLY PRE-AP) (J72024)**

Extensive laboratory work including dissection and microscope work is used throughout the year to facilitate the students' understanding of the concepts presented in the course. Incorporated into the curriculum are activities involving collections, and extended individual research projects. A mandatory component of this course is the completion of a Science Fair project. During Science Fair, students will be expected to write a research report, conduct a laboratory experiment, record data in an accurate logbook, and write an abstract paper. The majority of this project will be completed at home, outside of class. Failure to complete ALL aspects of the Science Fair project will result in automatic removal from the Advanced science program.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION (9990, 9991)**

A physical education credit (full year) is required in the seventh grade. The student will be provided opportunities to increase knowledge and motor skills basic to efficient movement; experience, rules, knowledge, and basic skills in beginning or intermediate participation in individual, dual, and team sports; understand the relationship of motivation and development of a higher level of personal and physical fitness and the ability to maintain the level; and develop knowledge and skills for leisure and lifetime sports activities. The fee for uniforms is approximately \$15.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Requirements and Course Descriptions

### **ENGLISH (J84004)**

All eighth graders are offered a balanced Language Arts program designed to improve communication skills through the study of composition, spelling, grammar, usage, vocabulary and literature. The emphasis of the writing program is the mastery of well-explained and well-organized content in essays and compositions in the classificatory mode and of the informative and persuasive purposes, as well as the correct use of punctuation and capitalization. The grammar and usage strand stresses identification of the parts of speech and the parts of a sentence; analysis of compound and complex sentences; the correct use of verbs, modifiers, pronouns; and subject-predicate agreement. Spelling is improved through the study of generalizations and rules, lists of commonly used words, and proofreading. The literature strand emphasizes literary analysis, reading comprehension, and vocabulary, as well as study poetry, short stories, non-fiction, mythology, and drama. Students develop higher order thinking skills as they analyze literature for structure and content and as they synthesize their ideas into written and oral presentations.

### **ADVANCED ENGLISH (FORMERLY PRE-AP) (J84024)**

In addition to mastering the content of the grade-level curriculum in greater depth, sophistication, and pace, this challenging class requires the analysis of additional literary works, independent reading of one or more longer selections, as well as an intensive study of vocabulary. While there are no prerequisites to register for an Advanced class, each course maintains a set of minimum expectations and requirements to be met by students in order for them to remain enrolled.

### **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (ESL) (J74124)**

Students who are limited in English proficiency will be eligible for English as a Second Language (ESL) as a the student who is limited in speaking English to become sufficiently competent in comprehending, speaking, reading, and writing for the successful mastery of the requirements of the MISD objectives in all English programs. All English as a Second Language placement decisions are made for individual students by the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee (LPAC).

### **MATHEMATICS (J81004)**

Eighth grade on-level math classes are designed to prepare students with foundational skills needed for future success in Algebra I. Topics include: operations with real numbers; similarity and dilation of polygons; proportional relationships and slope; functions; geometrical concepts including Pythagorean Theorem; writing and solving equations; volume and surface area of three dimensional figures; transformations and congruence; and statistical analysis.

### **ALGEBRA I (J81024)**

#### **(High School Credit)**

Algebra I is a course designed to provide a rigorous and in-depth study of algebra. Students will be expected to have already mastered the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math objectives and be committed to the required workload and be willing to seek help when needed. As this class counts towards high school credit, high school expectations will be adhered to throughout the year. Students enrolled in an end of course subject area, such as Algebra I, will take the corresponding STAAR end of course (EOC) exam in May. Students must have taken Advanced Math as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader before taking Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade or pass an entrance exam.



### **UNITED STATES HISTORY (J83004)**

This full year course examines the history of the United States by major eras of study: Exploration and Colonization, The Revolution Era, The Constitution, Early Republic, Westward Expansion and Reform, Sectionalism, The U.S. Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students will be asked to analyze the effects of political, economic, religious, and social conditions on the development of the United States in each historical era. Students will use critical thinking and writing, close reading of current and primary sources, and appropriate content-driven discussion to achieve these goals.

### **ADVANCED UNITED STATES HISTORY (FORMERLY PRE-AP) (J83024)**

This full year course examines the history of the United States by major eras of study: Exploration and Colonization The Revolution Era, The Constitution, Early Republic, Westward Expansion and Reform, Sectionalism, The U.S. Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students will be asked to analyze the effects of political, economics, religious, and social conditions on the development of the United States in each historical era. Students will use critical thinking and writing, close reading of current and primary sources, and appropriate content-driven discussion to achieve these goals. Students enrolled in Advanced United States should be on track to enroll in Advanced Placement courses at the high school level.

### **SCIENCE (J82004)**

8th grade science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. Several themes focused on throughout the year are change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models. Students are expected to develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world and become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry and communication. The purpose of the scientific investigations conducted in class will vary, some will be descriptive, rather than experimental. Models of objects and events will be used as tools for understanding the natural world and can show how systems work. Students will be expected to describe the limitations of models used in class.

While studying chemistry, students will recognize the role of the atom in developing matter and examine information on the Periodic Table to recognize how to analyze the patterns found. In the physics unit, they will experiment with the relationship between forces and motion through the study of Newton's three laws and will be expected to use basic mathematics without the use of technology to calculate speed and force. Students will be expected to explain cycles within Earth systems, methods used to explore phenomena in space, and will illustrate how Earth features change over time through plate tectonics by analyzing these changes through the use of topographic maps and satellite views. Students will study ecology by exploring the interdependence between living systems and how organisms and their populations respond to short- and long-term environmental changes, including those caused by human activities.

### **ADVANCED SCIENCE (FORMERLY PRE-AP) (J82024)**

In addition to all of the material covered in 8<sup>th</sup> grade science, Advanced students will be expected to probe more deeply into the subject matter through various extension activities. For example, students will incorporate technical writing skills through research papers, lab reports, class discussions, and reading analysis. They will develop presentation skills as they complete various projects to present before their peers and teachers. A mandatory component of this course is the completion of a Science Fair report, conduct a laboratory experiment, record data in an accurate logbook, and write an abstract paper. The majority of this project will be completed at home, outside of class.

## SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVES

An elective class must have an enrollment of at least 20 students or that elective will be eliminated.

### Physical Education

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (J99902, J99912)**

MISD does not require physical education in 8th grade. However, it is still an offered elective course. The 8th grade physical education student will be provided opportunities to increase knowledge and motor skills basic to efficient movement; experience, rules, knowledge, and basic skills in beginning or intermediate participation in individual, dual, and team sports; understand the relationship of motivation and development of a higher level of personal and physical fitness and the ability to maintain the level; and develop knowledge and skills for leisure and lifetime sports activities. The fee for uniforms is approximately \$15.

#### **Boys' Athletics (J99924, J99944)    \*\*Coach approval required**

This **full year** (two semesters) program in athletics consists of specific skill training, agility, drills, weight training, and cardiovascular endurance, and is designed primarily to prepare the student for the specific competitive sports in which the student participates. Boys' Athletics classes are available for football and basketball only. Football participation is open to all student in Athletics, and tryouts for basketball will be held in the late fall. Teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline, and development of individual talents are the main objectives of this course. Uniforms are provided, but each student must furnish his own shoes. **Each student must provide a current physical examination and accident insurance, which must be turned in prior to the first day of school for participation in any tryout, practice, or game.** Classes meet during the school day for strengthening and conditioning only. All practices will be held after school for all sports. Try-outs are held for basketball, tennis, track, and golf. Students representing the MISD and the University Interscholastic League in Athletics will also have specific policies to which they must adhere. Eligibility must be maintained to participate in school sports. This course can meet the Physical Education requirement.

*\*\*New students will have two weeks to turn in a physical or they will be removed from the class.*

#### **Girls' Athletics (J99964, J99954)    \*\*Coach approval required**

This **full year** (two semesters) program focuses on developing the athlete. Athletics consists of agilities, conditioning, core/balance/strength, interval training, circuit training, and sport specific skill development for those that make the A, B, or C volleyball or basketball team. Tryouts for volleyball, basketball, and track are for anyone interested in participating at a highly competitive level and will include mandatory after school practice. When in season, volleyball, basketball, and track team members will be taught the rules and skill-set needed to be successful in their sport while competing against area schools. All practices will be modeled after what is being taught at the high school in order to prepare student athletes for a smooth transition to their athletic program. Athlete development (off-season) is for athletes not participating in the competitive season. Uniforms are provided, but each student must furnish her own shoes. **Each student must provide a current physical examination and accident insurance, which must be turned in prior to the first day of school for participation in any tryout, practice, or game.** Students representing MISD and the University Interscholastic League in Athletics will also have specific policies to which they must adhere. Eligibility must be maintained to participate in school sports. This course can meet the Physical Education requirement.

*\*\*New students will have two weeks to turn in a physical or they will be removed from the class.*

**Cross Country (J99984)****\*\*Coach approval required**

This course is available for 7th and 8th grade boys and girls. Students will be required to participate in a variety of physical activities including long distance running, speed training and strength training. The Cross Country season takes place during the first two months of the school year where students have the opportunity to compete in multiple two mile races.

**Off-Campus Swim (J100024)**

\*\*Students enrolled in swim are expected to remain in swim for the entire school year. If students do not meet the class requirements outlined in the Off-Campus P.E. Swim Handbook, they will be removed from the class and placed in an on campus class. It should be understood that the coaches working with your student are club coaches with the Magnolia Aquatic Club and not an MISD teacher/coach. The program is run through the Magnolia Aquatic Club.

\*\*Try-outs will be held in the spring and enrollment is limited.

This full year (2 semesters) program is designed to provide seventh and eighth grade students who have a goal to be on the high school swim team the opportunity to improve skills and conditioning. This course is designed to prepare students for swimming competitions as they move toward high school. There will be limited swimming competitions during the year and the class does have a minimum swimming requirement. Students entering the class must understand that this is not like a P.E. class, it is much more physically demanding and will involve some out of water exercise (i.e. running). Students should be prepared to suit out and participate daily. Students will not be allowed to stay on their campus and miss this class. Students that consistently do not dress out or does not participate in the class will be removed from the class/program. Students who are in band or theatre should discuss their participation in the swim program with their teacher before signing up. These organizations, and others, have required after school participation throughout the year, which interferes with participation in swim. Summer programs are available to help students get ready for the upcoming school year. Bus transportation to the high school is provided for students over to the natatorium the last period of the day. It is the parent's responsibility to pick their child up after practice at the high school by 3:30 p.m. This course provides a P.E. credit for seventh grade students and is an elective for eighth grade students. Before students are approved to be in the class, parents must attend an informative meeting following the tryouts and sign the form provided that outlines the program goals, expectations, and requirements.

**Off-Campus P.E. (J100014)****\*\* Application and fee required**

This **full year** (two semesters) program is for students who are completing physical education in a community program not associated with the school outside of the school day. The district approves providers each year. There is an application and a fee of \$100 that is due to the counselor no later than one week prior to school beginning. Please contact the counselor or visit the District's website for more information. Providers must reapply each year.

## Fine Arts

### **Art (J99302, J99312)**

This **one semester** course is designed for the creative student who wants to learn a variety of art expressions with the proper use of art media and tools. MJH Art is a disciplined based art program which focuses on art history, appreciation, and creation. Art students are introduced to each of the design elements and principles of art as well as to a variety of art periods.

### **Advanced Art (J99344)    \*\* 8<sup>th</sup> grade only – application process & teacher approval**

This **full year** (2 semesters) course is designed for the experienced art student who wants to take their individual prior skills and knowledge to the next level. Curriculum and projects will be differentiated based on the individual art student. MJH Advanced Arts is a disciplined based art program which focuses on art history appreciation, evaluation, interpretation and creation. Art students are introduced to each of the design elements and principles of art as well as to a variety of art periods. Through studio production projects students are given hands on art experiences to develop ways of expressing themselves in the visual arts. Advanced Art students will create, develop, and maintain a portfolio of their art studies and projects to continue their art development into their future higher educational experiences.

### **CHOIR**

Choir is designed for those interested in vocal performance. Vocal production, musical fundamentals and choral literature are emphasized. Students in all choirs will perform at seasonal concerts and various community events. Attendance at performances and extra rehearsals are a required part of this course. All students are welcome in choir. Auditions are required for each student's correct choir placement.

### **Chamber Choir (J99244, J99254)**

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course is designed for the seventh or eighth grade intermediate female singer who desires to strengthen her skills in vocal production, sight reading skills, and overall musicianship. Participation in UIL Solo and Ensemble contest and Region Choir auditions is strongly encouraged.

### **Bella Voce (J99204, J99214)**

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course gives the advanced female singer (seventh or eighth grade) the opportunity to participate in a highly competitive performing ensemble. Singers are strongly encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble, Region Choir Auditions, and maintain eligibility for UIL group competition in the spring. Students receive training in sight-singing, harmonization, and performance skills. Solo opportunities are offered as well.

### **Concert Choir (J99274, J99284)**

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course is designed for seventh or eighth grade girls to learn about good vocal production and choral music skills. Musical fundamentals and music reading skills are taught. Participation in UIL Solo and Ensemble contest and Region Choir auditions is encouraged.

### **Men's Honor Choir (J99224, J99234)**

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course is designed specifically for young men's changing voices (seventh or eighth grade) and offers a welcome environment for developing pitch, sight-singing, and harmonization. Members of the choir are strongly encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble contest and Region Choir auditions. This is an opportunity for boys to work together and accomplish great things through music.

## **BAND**

### **Beginning Band (J99044, J99054)**

This is a **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course. This band class is for seventh or eighth grade students interested in learning to play a band instrument with ***no prior experience in Band***. Students will learn the basics of reading music and playing a band instrument. Students are expected to practice their instrument 20 to 30 minutes daily (approximately 100 min/wk). Instrument choices are limited to trumpet, trombone, flute, or clarinet. Performances include the Fall, Winter and Spring Concerts, with additional performances possible. ***Students with prior experience in Band should contact the band directors (Mr. McDaniel or Mr. Gould) to determine the correct course selection for Band.***

### **Cadet Band (J99074, J99084)**

#### ***Entry by audition – prior experience and director approval required***

This is a **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course. Cadet Band is the next level above Beginning Band, and is for seventh or eighth grade students that have at least one year of experience on a band instrument. Students will further develop fundamental skills of reading music and playing a band instrument at a first and second year level. Students are expected to practice their instrument 20 to 30 minutes daily (approximately 100 min/wk). Students are scheduled into Cadet Woodwinds, Cadet Brass, or Cadet Percussion depending on what instrument they play; class size is kept smaller so that students can receive more attention to improve musicianship. Performances include participation in the Fall, Winter, and Spring Concerts, with other performance opportunities possible. There are four to five after school rehearsals scheduled, usually held during the week before a performance.

### **Concert Band (J99154, J99164)**

#### ***Entry by audition - prior experience and director approval required***

This is a **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course. Concert Band is the next level above Cadet Band, and is for seventh or eighth grade students that have at least one year of experience on a band instrument. Students will further develop fundamental skills of reading music and playing a band instrument at a second year level. Students are expected to practice their instrument 20 to 30 minutes daily (approximately 100 min/wk). Performances include participation in the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. Additionally, these students participate in two to three competitions, including UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest. Students will have 10 to 12 extra rehearsals after school, usually prior to a concert or competition.

### **Symphonic Band (J99134, J99144)**

#### ***Entry by audition - prior experience and director approval required***

This is a **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course. Symphonic Band is the next level above Concert Band, and is for seventh or eighth grade students that have at least one year of experience on a band instrument. Students will further develop fundamental skills of reading music and playing a band instrument at a second and third year level. Students are expected to practice their instrument 30 minutes daily (approximately 150 min/wk). Performances include participation in the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. Additionally, these students participate in three to four competitions, including UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and Solo Contest. Students will have an additional weekly “sectional” rehearsal in addition to their daily class period, and private lessons are encouraged.

### **Wind Ensemble (J99174, J99184)**

#### ***Entry by audition - prior experience and director approval required***

This is a **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course. Wind Ensemble is the next level above Symphonic Band, and is for seventh or eighth grade students that have at least one year of experience on a band instrument. Students will further develop fundamental skills of reading music and playing a band instrument at a third and fourth year level. Students are expected to practice their instrument 30 minutes daily (approximately 150 min/wk). Performances include participation in the Fall Concert, Winter Concert, and Spring Concert. Additionally, these students participate in three to five competitions, including UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest, All-Region Band Auditions, and Solo & Ensemble Contest. Students will have an additional weekly “sectional” rehearsal in addition to their daily class period, and private lessons are strongly encouraged.

## Theatre

### **Theatre Arts (J99402, J99412)**

This **one semester** Fine Arts course serves as a general introduction of fundamental concepts of theatre. Students will learn basic improvisational games, pantomime skills, script writing, elements of television commercials, reader’s theatre, and theatre history and appreciation. This class will produce skits and plays for in-class performance, but will not produce a full-scale play.

### **Theatre Production (J99454) \*\* 8th Grade Only / Application Process Required**

This **full year** (two semesters) Fine Arts course is a performance based course designed for the serious/motivated theatre student. Students will be responsible for all aspects of theatre, including set design, costuming, lighting, make-up, choreography and performing arts. Students will prepare for and participate in drama tournaments as well as U.I.L. and One Act Play competitions. Actors will also produce a full-scale children’s play in the fall and a classic work in the spring. Students will work extensively in character development and improvisational technique. Some after school rehearsal will be required.

## Agriculture

**Students that show animals must be enrolled in one semester of an agriculture course or be a member of 4H.**

### **Intro to Animal Science (J99802)**

This **one semester** course is intended to introduce students to a broad range of agriculturally oriented occupations and skills. Animal science topics such as nutrition, breeds of animals, reproduction, and other animal industry technologies will be discussed. **This course is recommended for students showing animals.**

### **Intro to Small Animal (J99822)**

This **one semester** course is designed to introduce the students to the study of market and companion animals. Topics of discussion include history, breeds, housing, equipment, nutrition, animal behavior and handling. Careers in small animal care, animal science and agriculture are explored. The introduction to the FFA (the organization associated with agricultural education) and some basic leadership skills will be taught.

### **Woodworking (J99832)      8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only**

This **one semester** course is designed for gaining the interest of the student in the agricultural and FFA program. Topics discussed are FFA, safety, construction, painting, etc. Students build wood-based projects and learn to appreciate and value the shop experience.

### **Intro to Wildlife Management (J99872)**

This **one semester** course is designed to examine the importance of wildlife and natural resources, including the management of different species of wildlife, habitats, and identification. \*The course includes the State Mandated Hunter Education Certification, which is achieved by passing the state certification exam and permit fee of \$10 to Parks and Wildlife.

## Foreign Language

### **Spanish I (J99614)      \*8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only / student receives high school credit**

**Requirements:** *7<sup>th</sup> grade English average of 90 or above for on-level and 85 or above for Advanced English and must have met standard on 7<sup>th</sup> grade Reading STAAR.*

This **full year** (two semesters) course includes a thorough study of grammar and its application while developing the necessary phonetic skills needed for oral communication. This class follows the same curriculum as the Spanish I course at the High School and satisfies one of the Foreign Language credits needed for graduation. **Upon successful completion of both semesters of Spanish I, the student will receive high school credit.**

## Career and Technology

### **Introduction to Robotics (J10022)      8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only**

This course introduces the basic concepts of robotics, focusing on programming and design. Explore different types of robots and their functions. Learn the basic concepts of programming. This introductory course is intended to introduce concepts, but is also an entry point to computer science and engineering.

### **Introduction to Coding (J10032)**

This course introduces and explores the basic concepts of coding in easy to understand “drag and drop” systems. Students will also learn the basic concepts of programming. This introductory course is an entry point to computer science with a primary goal to excite students about this important field.

### **Web Page Design (J10052)**

This course explores the design of web pages including layout, styles, and color schemes. Students will learn the elements of graphic design and the programming code that makes it possible.

### **College and Career Readiness (J99742)      8<sup>th</sup> Grade Required Course**

With the passing of House Bill 5 in 2013, students now have more opportunities than ever to become college and career ready by choosing an endorsement to help focus their course of study while in high school. Our mission in Exploring Careers is to provide students with a better understanding of the choices available to them during those four years of high school so that they, with their parents’ help, can make informed decisions to create a Personal Graduation Plan to enable the maximum benefit from their education. Whether a student decides to go straight into the job market after graduation, attend a four year university, or serve in a branch of the armed forces, Exploring Careers seeks to help them identify and establish goals for themselves, then develop a plan of action to achieve those goals as citizens of our community, state, and nation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## General Electives

### **Journalism (J99362, J99372)**

Instruction in this **one semester** newspaper course will focus on writing skills in order to publish articles including news, features, and editorials. Students will learn writing, editing, and research skills to be a successful student journalist. Students will be required to use Google Docs as well as be knowledgeable about current events and topics of public interest. To be successful in this class, students should have a desire to write, have strong language arts and communication skills, should enjoy writing, be dependable, and must be able to meet deadlines.

### **Yearbook (J99574)      Application Process & Teacher Approval Required.**

This is a **full year** (two semesters). Students will be responsible for publishing the school yearbook. Students will take digital pictures, organize, and write text for the yearbook under the direction of the yearbook advisor. Knowledge of digital cameras, Photoshop and computers are helpful, but not a requirement. Owning a camera is not required, but it is helpful. **Students must complete an application, which may be picked up in the front office upon request.**



**Student Aide (J99552)      8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only / Application & Staff Approval Required**

Aide positions are available in the front office, clinic, library, life skills and assistant principal's offices. A student aide works in an office performing duties such as filing, delivering information to parents and students and other clerical duties. Student aides must not have discipline or tardy issues and must maintain good grades to be considered. **Students who sign up but aren't selected as student aides will be placed in their alternate elective choice.**

**PALS: Peer Assistance and Leadership (J99504)**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only / Screening & Application Process Required**

PAL students provide a variety of services to other students and staff on their campus, as well as elementary campuses. These services include, but are not limited to, the following: serving as mentors and role models to elementary students at four elementary schools; assist and mentor special needs students; assist new MJH students; and conduct community service and outreach projects. Students must be nominated by a staff member for PALs. Attendance, grades, and behavior at school are screened by MJH staff members.

**Teen Leadership (J99492)**

Teen Leadership will focus on developing the traits essential to overcoming the challenges of adolescence and leading a successful life now and in the future. Self-confidence, effective communication, interpersonal skills, leadership, personal responsibility, managing stress, and the ethical use of technology are just some of the topics students will explore in this semester-long course.