

Course Handbook



200 N. LUCIA REDONDO BEACH, CA 90277

2019-2020

Class Schedule

Parras Middle School offers a variety of exciting courses and programs to meet the needs of all students in grades 6, 7 and 8. This program-planning book is designed to help students, parents and Parras Middle School Staff program students into courses that will challenge and motivate them during their middle school years. The remainder of this booklet describes these courses in greater detail to assist you in understanding what your student will be studying at Parras over the years.

6th Grade Courses

Language Arts 6

6th grade English/language arts emphasizes the importance of engaging with rigorous, complex fiction and nonfiction texts as a means to develop comprehension and literary analysis skills. Students will read texts from a variety of genres with the purpose of determining key ideas and details, making inferences, connecting ideas within and between texts, supporting analyses with textual evidence, and analyzing author's craft.

Throughout the year, students will write argumentative, informational, and narrative compositions. By connecting reading with writing, students will routinely support claims with evidence and reasoning. Research and literary analysis skills are intertwined with writing as students investigate inquiry topics.

Social Science 6

During the sixth grade year, students will learn about and discuss the following cultures and civilizations: early humans, hunter-gatherer societies, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Kush, India, China, as well as the ancient Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans.

By engaging with content, inquiry, literature, and primary and secondary sources, students will practice history as an interpretive discipline. Students will analyze the relationship between humanity and the physical world; environmental issues; political systems and power structures; civic engagement; and the fundamental ideas of citizenship, freedom, morality, and law.

CC Math 6

In sixth grade, students focus on the following critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of statistical thinking; (2) graphing integers on horizontal/vertical number lines and coordinates on a coordinate plane; (3) understanding the division of fractions; (4) connecting ratios and rates to whole number multiplication and division and using these concepts to solve problems; and (5) writing, interpreting, and using expressions, equations, and inequalities.

Compacted CC Math 6/7

In this accelerated course, sixth grade students will be taught all 5 domains of the CC Math 6 standards, along with 2 of the 5 domains in CC Math 7 standards, Number Systems (NS) and Expressions and Equations (EE). This course will place students on track to complete a high school level CC Algebra I in eighth grade. Moving

quickly through this course without a high level of mastery is counterproductive to enrollment in high level high school math courses.

Science 6

In sixth grade, students are introduced to cells and body systems, genetics, thermal energy, weather, and climate change. Students are scientists using simulations, along with hands on activities, to make discoveries about these concepts. You can learn more about the curriculum we use at www.amplify.com

Elective Wheel Courses 6

The sixth grade exploratory elective program exposes students to a variety of new and interesting topics. Students rotate on a regular basis through courses which may include the following (subject to change):

- Intro to Engineering
- Computer Applications
- World Geography
- Intro to AVID
- Public Speaking
- Financial Literacy

Band

Sixth grade students may enroll in Band which is a year-long elective and takes the place of the other electives. Please see the 7th/8th elective section of this book for additional information about our music electives.

Leadership (Application Needed – Download from www.parrasmiddle.org under Registration) –Please see page 13 for course description.

7th Grade Courses

Language Arts 7

The seventh grade Language Arts program begins with a review of grammar and paragraph building and culminates in effective essay writing. Through literature, students are exposed to a variety of genres including short stories, drama, poetry and novels which enhance comprehension and interpretive skills. Students will also participate in Socratic seminars and other structured discussions.

Required reading includes selections from the district adopted text, in addition to core novels. Reading for pleasure is encouraged. Seventh grade students revisit the writing process, and students continuously reflect their growth as readers and writers. Required writings are persuasive essays, summaries, research reports, stories and responses to literature. Students can expect a fun but busy year with an average of one book report or project due each quarter.

Social Science 7

Social Science classes study the histories of the following civilizations:

- Rome
- Japan
- Meso-America: Maya, Aztec
- Europe from Middle Ages to the Age of Enlightenment
- Middle East
- China
- West Africa
- Incas

Students will use various learning modalities that include cooperative learning, simulations, cross-curricular activities, interactive journals, note-taking techniques, graphic organizers, map activities, and study skills.

CC Math 7

In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

Compacted CC Math 7/8 (Prerequisite: Compacted CC Math 6/7)

In this accelerated course, seventh grade students will be taught the remainder of CC Math 7 standards and the CC Math 8 standards. This course will place students on track to complete CC Algebra I in eighth grade. Moving quickly through this course without a high level of mastery is counterproductive to enrollment in high level high school math courses.



Science 7

Seventh grade science incorporates hands-on and laboratory activities to introduce selected topics from living and nonliving things. The science standards cover matter cycles and the natural processes and how human activities have shaped Earth's resources and ecosystems. You can learn more about the curriculum we use at www.amplify.com

8th Grade Courses

Language Arts 8

The eighth grade Language Arts program emphasizes reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills in a meaningful context which is related to the core literature. Students will read a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts, including books, short stories, poetry, and informational articles. Writing activities include narratives, argumentative essays, research papers, and poetry. Grammar usage, spelling, and English language conventions are emphasized in the final stage of the writing process. Students will also hone their collaboration skills and will participate in group activities and discussions, such as mock trial and Socratic seminar.

Social Science 8

The purpose of the 8th grade social science curriculum is to connect historical events to the present in a way that is meaningful to students' lives. The curriculum integrates history, geography, economics, politics and the social aspects of American History with an emphasis on the time period from the American Revolution through the Industrial Revolution. The main units of study are the Constitution, the Westward Movement, the Civil

War and Reconstruction. Within the interdisciplinary teams, students experience thematic units and integrated curriculum enhanced by a variety of learning strategies and technologies.

CC Math 8

In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

CC Algebra I (Prerequisite: Compacted CC Math 7/8)

The fundamental purpose of the Algebra I course is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in their previous math courses. This course includes standards from the conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, and Statistics and Probability.

In this high school level course, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) deepen and extend understanding of linear and exponential relationships; (2) contrast linear and exponential relationships with each other and engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions; (3) extend the laws of exponents to square and cube roots; and (4) apply linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Mastery of this course will allow students to move on to CC Geometry in high school.

Science 8

The eighth grade science program extends the concepts and science process covered in 7th grade. Laboratory activities reinforce concepts learned. Eighth grade science covers how objects move and collide, reviews how forces influence phenomena locally and in the solar system, and discusses how human activities help sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services in a changing world. You can learn more about the curriculum we use at www.amplify.com

Project Alert

All 8th grade students participate in Project Alert, a Beach Cities Health district program, taught through their science classes.

Project ALERT is designed to motivate adolescents against drug use and help them acquire the skills they need to resist pro-drug pressures. It does this by helping them achieve the following goals:

- Understand the consequences of using drugs
- Develop reasons not to use drugs
- Establish school-wide norms against drug use
- Understand the benefits of being drug-free
- Recognize that most people don't use drugs
- Identify and counter pro-drug pressures
- Resist advertising appeals
- Resist internal and social pressures to use
- Work together
- Communicate with parents
- Support others in making non-use decisions
- Recognize alternatives to substance use

7th & 8th Grade Year-Long Electives

7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to take an elective course during the school year. Students may request one year-round course or two semester long courses.

Music classes must have a minimum of 25 students each for Parras Middle School to offer them.

Concert Band

A yearlong course for students who have played a band instrument for under 2 years (oboe, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion.) This band will perform in three major concerts throughout the year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Students will be

introduced to basic forms of music and will develop their instrumental and performance technique.



Symphonic Band

A yearlong course for students who have played a band instrument for at least 1-2 years (oboe, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion.) This band will perform in three major concerts throughout the year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Students will be introduced to basic forms of music and will develop their instrumental and performance technique.

Wind Ensemble

A yearlong course for students who have played a band instrument for at least 1-2 years, and have demonstrated a high level of proficiency (oboe, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion.) This band will perform in three major concerts throughout the year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Students will also participate in a band festival where they perform in front of music adjudicators for a rating.

Wind Symphony

A yearlong course for students who have played a band instrument for at least 2-3 years, have demonstrated a high level of proficiency, and have performed an audition (oboe, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion.) This band will perform in three major concerts throughout the year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Students will also participate in a band festival where they perform in front of music adjudicators for a rating. This ensemble requires instructor's approval for enrollment.

Chamber Winds

A yearlong course for students who have played a band instrument for a minimum of 3 years, have demonstrated a very high level of proficiency, and have performed an audition (oboe, flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion.) This

band will perform in three major concerts throughout the year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Students will also participate in a band festival where they perform in front of music adjudicators for a rating, as well as various other combined performances with the High School. This is a small ensemble and requires an audition and instructor's approval for enrollment.

Jazz Band

A yearlong instrumental jazz course that introduces experienced musicians to various styles of jazz music and their origins throughout the United States. Instrumentation could include flute, clarinets, alto sax, tenor sax, bari sax, trumpets, trombones, electric and bass guitar, piano, and drum set. Students will be taught jazz musicianship and basic improvisation skills. This band will perform in three major concerts throughout the year (Fall, Winter and Spring). Students will also participate various other events, including a band festival where they perform in front of music adjudicators for a rating, as well as various other combined performances with the High School. This is a small ensemble and requires an audition and instructor's approval for enrollment.

Art (Year-Long Course)

Students will read and write about visual arts, as well as, participate in performance work of sculpture, puppetry create images in the style of some of the greatest modern artists, critique works of art, understand the difference between criticism and aesthetics as they relate to works of art, and relate aspects of themselves and their surrounding environment to the world of art. Students will work individually, in small groups, and in whole-class activities.

Leadership (Year-long course for grades 6-8, application required)

Students who are elected as class officers or who want to participate in Parras' student body association (with teacher approval) may help run student programs and activities in our student council course.

Spanish 1 (Open to seventh & eighth grade only—priority is given to eighth-grade students)

This course provides the student with communicative experiences in the target language necessary to gain and give information for personal and social purposes in various contextual settings. The course offers students without any previous formal Spanish experience the opportunity to study the basic principles for learning to speak, read, and write the Spanish language.

Students should meet the following criteria before selecting this course: earned at least a proficient or advanced in total language on the CAASPP ELA Test and a strong recommendation from the sixth or seventh-grade language arts teacher.

Spanish 2 (Prerequisites: Spanish 1 with a C or better and teacher recommendation.)

This course continues to build on the basic principles of the Spanish language. The language used is authentic and current, reflecting the language spoken and read in a Spanish speaking society. Instruction is student centered and communication based.

Students who successfully complete Spanish 2 with a grade of C or better and have the Spanish teacher's recommendation will continue to Spanish 3 at the high school level.

Chinese 1A (Open to seventh grade only)

This course begins with "Four tones of Mandarin" and the "Hanyu Pinyin system" (A system used to indicate pronunciation of Chinese characters.) Students will have the chance to learn both traditional and simplified characters. Student will engage in basic listening, speaking, reading and writing activities in Chinese and will

learn to communicate with others. They will also learn about Asian culture and study skills such as organizing information, group-discussion and public speaking.

Students should meet the following criteria before selecting this course: earned at least a proficient or advanced in total language on the CAASPP ELA Test and a strong recommendation from the sixth or seventh-grade language arts teacher.

Chinese 1B (Open to eighth grade only – prerequisite Chinese 1A with a C or better)

This is the second course in our Chinese sequence. Eighth grade students who complete Chinese 1B with a C or better and a teacher recommendation will be able to move on to Chinese 2 in high school.

Advanced Theatre Arts

This is a more advanced theatre course where students will engage in-depth character development, voice work, and movement. They will experience many opportunities for in-class performances which may include the following: scenes and monologues, pantomime, children’s plays, Shakespeare and other playwrights, and reader’s theatre. They will continue to advance the development of their imagination, observation, and concentration skills as they perform and work with classmates. This is a collaborative class that is both challenging to the actor and fun for everyone.

Publications/ Video Production (Prerequisite: application required)

In this class students will publish the school yearbook, using Jostens publications online. Students will put their creative talents to good use and learn how to take photographs, do layouts of information; and become proficient in various forms of editing using the computer.

Students will write, produce, direct, film, and star in informative Parras video presentations broadcast over our closed-circuit television system. Students will negotiate Mac software for editing and remote broadcast demands.

Application can be found at www.parrasmiddle.org.

AVID (Year-long course)

The Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is an effective program that targets students in the academic middle–B, C, and even D students—who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. AVID places academically average students in advanced classes and provides them with an elective class that prepares them to succeed in rigorous curricula, enter mainstream activities in school, and increase their opportunities to enroll in four-year colleges. Students must meet criteria to enroll. Please email your student’s name to Ms. Kate Hastings at khastings@rbusd.org.

Teacher’s Assistant (Application required: year-long course for 8th grade students only)

Eighth grade students, with teacher’s approval, may assist classroom, elective or physical education teachers with course activities. Students assist teachers with clerical duties and may tutor students who need help. Students chosen to serve as a teacher assistant must have satisfactory citizenship and academic grades.

Office Assistant (Application required: year-long course for 8th grade students only)

Students may work in the school office during their elective time to learn office skills and procedures. Students may be asked to file, answer telephone calls, route messages, assist with attendance procedures and greet school visitors. Students must have satisfactory citizenship and academic grades, have no outstanding discipline issues and meet office support staff approval in order to work in the school office.

Exploration of Engineering 1

Students will learn about engineering and the STEM courses (science, technology, engineering, and math). Students enrolled in this course will trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use a robust robotics platform to design, build, and program a solution to solve an existing problem.

7th & 8th Grade

Semester-Long Electives

These semester elective classes are designed to give students an opportunity to learn about different disciplines and encourage them to explore their own interests and talents. Due to the number of students and scheduling restrictions, semester classes will be assigned randomly and cannot be requested separately.

Art

Students will read and write about visual arts, as well as, participate in performance work of sculpture, puppetry create images in the style of some of the greatest modern artists, critique works of art, understand the difference between criticism and aesthetics as they relate to works of art, and relate aspects of themselves and their surrounding environment to the world of art. Students will work individually, in small groups, and in whole-class activities.

Beginning Theatre Arts

This is a beginning course in which students engage in creative theatre exercises to develop imagination, observation, and concentration. Students also condition their bodies and voices to be flexible, coordinated, and expressive. Students are introduced to drama through activities such as improvisation, pantomime, storytelling, characterization, stage directions, and vocal projection. This course includes the basic elements of dramatic production.

Physical Education

6/7/8

Students participate in a developmentally appropriate physical education class five days a week; this is an integral part of the total educational program for all students. Physical education teaches students how their bodies move, how to perform a variety of physical activities, the health-related benefits of regular physical activity, and specific skills that will allow them to adopt a physically active, healthy lifestyle. Through physical education, students become confident, self-controlled, and resilient; develop positive social skill; learn to set

and strive for personal achievable goals; learn to assume leadership, cooperate with others, and accept responsibility for their own behavior.

All students are expected wear the required physical education uniform each day. Students will be assigned lockers which they secure with a combination lock that must be purchased from the Physical Education Department. Throughout the year, all students experience activities designed to prepare them for the annual physical fitness assessment. Seventh and eighth grade students also have regular opportunities to use the Panther Pit, our model fitness center. Culminating events for some units provide select eighth graders access to the facilities a Redondo Union High School.

Sports included in our program are:

1st Quarter

Flag football
Volleyball

3th Quarter

Hockey
Lacrosse
State Fitness Testing

2nd Quarter

Team Handball
Basketball
Soccer

4th Quarter

Golf
Paddle Tennis
Over-the-Line
Tennis
Track Events
Softball

Advisement 6-8

Students will have the opportunity to participate in an advisement class during their school day at Parras Middle School. Advisement classes meet daily for a 15-minute time period. Our social-emotional learning (SEL) program, Second Step, is implemented in this class.

A typical week could look like the following...

Sometime we send home important paperwork through Advisement, such as field trip forms, picture day applications, etc.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Intramurals Program

The intramural after school sports program at Parras Middle School is a great addition to the school's educational program. The intramural program gives students at all ability levels a positive after school activity to be involved with. Participation in the sports program is a privilege. Because of this, a high standard of behavior and academic achievement is expected from the student athlete. Eligible students must maintain a "C" average and have satisfactory grades in citizenship. Athletes of all skill levels will learn basic and advanced skills in each sport and have the opportunity to experience a middle school athletic program. Parras Middle School offers the following sports:

Fall	Girls Volleyball	Boys Flag Football
Winter	Basketball, Soccer	Basketball, Soccer
Spring	Softball	Volleyball

Parras is part of the local intramural league along with Adams, Manhattan Beach Middle School, Miraleste, Dana, Chadwick, Hermosa Valley, and El Segundo. There are seven games each season (one per school) with the home site alternating. Generally, practices are after school from 3:00 PM until 4:15 or 4:30 PM. Games are generally from 3:30 PM until about 4:45 PM.

Leadership/Student Council

Student Council is composed of elected student members. Student Council members organize and implement activities for students at Parras Middle School. These activities, combined with dedicated leadership, motivate students to get involved in their school.

Student Council members usually organize the following activities during the school year:

- School Dances
- Lunch-time Activities
- Student Council Meetings
- Support student store
- Run election
- Run events
- Spirit Days
- Pep Rallies
- Red Ribbon Week
- Publicizing Activities
- Organize awards
- Community service

CJSF (California Junior Scholarship Federation)

California Junior Scholarship Federation (CJSF) is an academic club at Parras. Members must meet certain academic and citizenship grade requirements. The goal of CJSF is to complete at least two service projects a year (peer tutoring, toy drive, etc.). We also go on academic field trips such as touring college campuses. This is a club that students can join in high school as well. CJSF is open to 8th grade students all year and 7th grade students after their 1st-semester grades are posted.