



South Lake Middle School
8th Grade Course Catalog
2017-2018

Core Courses

English 8: In 8th grade English, students continue to reflect on their prior knowledge and skills as a way to develop a deeper understanding of the elements that constitute meaningful reading and writing. By making a personal connection to what we are learning, students expand their social and academic experiences, thus making learning more significant and fulfilling. Students will do a close reading of short stories, real world documents, and engage in novel studies to increase their skills in informative/explanatory, argumentative, and narrative writing. Students will also be challenged to hone their proficiency in grammar conventions and spelling and to further develop their listening and speaking skills through classroom discussions, group work and oral presentations.

U.S. History 8: The U.S. History 8 curriculum focuses on the ideas, issues, and events from the framing of the Constitution up to Industrialism. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions, students trace the evolution of American politics, society, culture, and economy and relate them to the emergence of major regional differences. They learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. Additionally, students make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

Honors English 8 and Honors U.S. History 8: Honors English and History–Social Science are rigorous courses designed to challenge our most capable students. These courses cover depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration as strategies to meet the unique needs of high achieving students. Students will explore the curriculum described above in English 8 and U.S. History 8 in greater depth and will be expected to demonstrate a higher level of mastery in their application of the skills and knowledge acquired in their course of studies. **Teacher recommendation is required for placement. Visit South Lake website for Honors criteria.**

Math 8: Instructional time in this course focuses on:

- Knowing that there are numbers that are not rational, and approximating using rational numbers.
- Working with radicals and integer exponents.
- Understanding the connections between proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations.
- Analyzing and solving linear equations and pairs of simultaneous linear equations.
- Defining, evaluating, and comparing functions.
- Using functions to model relationships between quantities.
- Understanding congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software.
- Understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.
- Solving real-world and mathematical problems involving volume of cylinders, cones and spheres.
- Investigating patterns of association in bivariate data

Enhanced Math I: In Enhanced Math I, students complete the second half of Math 8 and the entire Math I curriculum. **Placement in this class is based on multiple measures including Enh Math 7/8 or Bridge class.** In Enhanced Math I, students will:

- Learn function notation and develop the concepts of domain and range.
- Explore many examples of functions, including sequences.
- Interpret functions represented graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally, translate between representations, and understand the limitations of various representations.
- Work with functions given by graphs and tables, keeping in mind that, depending upon the context these representations are likely to be approximate and incomplete.
- Understanding of integer exponents to consider exponential functions.

- Compare and contrast linear and exponential functions, distinguishing between additive and multiplicative change.
- Interpret arithmetic sequences as linear functions and geometric sequences as exponential functions.
- Develop more formal means of assessing how a model fits data.
- Use regression techniques to describe approximately linear relationships between quantities.
- Use graphical representations and knowledge of the context to make judgments about the appropriateness of linear models. With linear models, they look at residuals to analyze the goodness of fit.
- Establish triangle congruence criteria, based on analyses of rigid motions and formal constructions.
- Solve problems about triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons.
- Apply reasoning to complete geometric constructions and explain why they work.
- Build on their work with the Pythagorean Theorem.

Science 8: The 8th Grade science curriculum is an integrated approach to the four main disciplines in science. This year, students will be learning about the interconnectedness of science by studying the fields of Life, Earth, Space and Physical sciences, as well as Engineering and Technology. Building upon lab process skills from seventh grade, students run independent, laboratory experiments and investigations while applying concepts learned throughout the year. Reading strategies that enhance comprehension of science texts are emphasized, as well as scientific writing skills, critical thinking skills, and implementation of technology. In addition, students will have the opportunity to learn from guest speakers currently affiliated with STEM careers. This usually includes presentations in the spring from representatives of IBM, the Fluor Corporation, Society of Women Engineers, and students from the University of California Irvine. Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to participate in science enrichment opportunities, such as Science Fair and Astounding Inventions.

Physical Education: The South Lake Middle School Physical Education Staff is dedicated to implementing a physical education curriculum that enables all students

to make connections between physical health, wellness, and exercise. Students at South Lake Middle School will have physical education every day of the week. The physical education curriculum is aligned to California State Standards. Each of our sports units integrates instruction in health, nutrition, conditioning, and injury prevention. Each unit of instruction will be developmentally appropriate and designed to meet the needs of every student from the physically gifted to the physically challenged. Instruction will emphasize building social skills, confidence, self-esteem, and guiding students toward appropriate decision-making. Class activities will be created to emphasize the importance of self-improvement, active participation, and cooperation.

See the **E.D.P.E. Registration Forms** for information about enrollment in the course. Students in E.D.P.E. must be enrolled in a year-long music, art, or Spanish elective.

Trimester-Long Elective Courses

Art 1: In this course, students will be exploring a variety of media and techniques while learning the elements and principles of art. Activities may include drawing, painting, printmaking, graphics, sculpture, design, lettering, photography, art history, and art appreciation. This is a great class for all skill levels.

Ceramics: In this course students will learn the basics of working with clay such as construction, firing, and glazing as well as art history. They will learn hand-building techniques such as slab construction, coil, and pinch pots. Projects may include clay monsters, mini food displays, and coil bowls. This class is great for all skill levels.

Digital Photography: This course will introduce students to art elements and principles of design through photography, photo editing, and video production in three equal parts. Students will learn proper usage and care of a digital camera, composition, and file management for creation of digital and print products. They will explore and apply fundamental design concepts using programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Premiere. The unit on video production will also introduce students to common film shots and professional filming equipment. As a whole, the Digital Media Arts course encourages students to critically explore the role and function of imagery, language, and presentation using digital media.

Drama: This course is designed so that students will become more comfortable and confident while performing in front of an audience. Students will engage in building their acting skills through improvisations, dramatic readings and theater exercises. A main goal of this elective is for all students to have fun and to participate in the culminating end of the trimester performance which is carefully selected and appropriate for middle school students and audiences.

Introduction to Spanish: This course is designed to familiarize students with Spanish and prepare them for Spanish 1. Every week students will learn a set of thematic vocabulary. Students practice the weekly vocabulary, as well as expressions to use with the vocabulary in class with Power Point presentations, speaking activities, games, worksheets, and art projects. The students become familiar with the geography and culture of all twenty-one Spanish-speaking countries through online research, informational Power Point presentations and by producing arts and crafts typical of these countries.

Media Literacy: Mass media is enmeshed in our daily lives. It is nearly impossible to imagine a day without seeing a TV show, magazine, newspaper, listening to the radio, playing a video game, or using the internet. Yet, how often do we stop to think about who creates the visual and audio material that we consume? What are the purposes and goals of the information and advertisements that we are exposed to on a daily basis? What affect does the mass media have on individuals, society and the creation of culture? These are the very issues we will explore in Media Literacy. In addition, students will have creative opportunities to produce various forms of media related content.

Public Speaking/Debate: This course will provide opportunities for students to feel more comfortable and gain confidence in public speaking. Students will develop an understanding of the purpose and definition of debate, as well as the importance of persuasive arguments and supporting evidence.

Study Skills: The purpose of this course is to help the students develop study skills that will allow them to be successful, not only in middle school, but also in high school. In addition, students will participate in class activities that will help them to develop basic organization skills. Periodic grade checks will be conducted to ensure that students are keeping current

with assignments and grades in their core curricular classes. There is limited space available in this elective.

Technology: No prerequisites required. Calling all students who want to be creative and learn the basics of computer programming. In this course, you will learn how to code and work with various robotic tools through teamwork. The two main platforms you will be learning in this course are Code.org and scratch.mit.edu. After that, you will be working on various projects using Makey-Makey, Raspberry Pi, Arduino, LEGO Mindstorms, Ozobot, Dash & Dot robots, and even a 3-D printer. Sign up and join the fun!

Student Aide: This is a non-academic course. Student aides will be responsible for assisting classroom teachers. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to; setting up materials for projects and labs, assisting with organization and filing, photocopying, assisting teacher with classroom duties such as passing out assignments, assisting students and collecting assignments. Students can only be an aide for one Trimester during the year. At the beginning of each Trimester parents will receive a form to sign acknowledging their student is enrolling in a non-academic course. **Teacher approval required.**

Office Aide: This is a non-academic course. Office aides will assist the front office staff with various tasks pertaining to students and faculty, including getting students from classrooms, handing out daily attendance rosters, assisting with special projects and greeting guests that come to South Lake. Students can only be an aide for one Trimester during the year. At the beginning of each Trimester parents will receive a form to sign acknowledging their student is enrolling in a non-academic course. **Administration approval required.**

Physical Education Aide: This is a non-academic course. Physical Education Teaching Assistants will assist with setting up equipment, helping with the daily jog and assisting with the activity. This is a leadership position and will help prepare students for high school enrichment activities. Only two student aides are allowed each period. **P.E. Teacher approval required.**

Year-Long Elective Courses

Advanced Art: This class is for students who show a strong interest in learning more about different media arts pathways such as fine arts, graphic arts, video production, digital photography, etc. This class will expose students to that field and will be a combination

of research, project based assignments, collaborative work, field trips, and independent work to develop a personal portfolio for students wanting to pursue one of these pathways at the high school level. It is recommended that students complete at least one of these classes before taking this course: ceramics, art, digital photography, technology. **Enrollment in the course is through approval from Mrs. Adoff.**

ASB\Leadership: This course is meant for students who have a desire to become strong leaders and are good role models. In this class students will learn how to develop leadership skills, how to work with others, as well as how to plan school events to promote school spirit and to help the surrounding community. This class is a privilege and standards are set at a higher expectation. **All students interested in ASB/Leadership must complete an ASB Eligibility Packet and return it to Mrs. Adoff on or before the registration deadline.**

Chorus: This course is open to all students. Students in chorus will perform a wide variety of music including rock, folk, jazz, and pop, with a special focus on Musical Theater. Students will also develop their singing and note-reading skills while focusing on proper tone production, solfege and ensemble skills. The culminating project in Chorus class is our South Lake Spring Musical.

Concert Band: This exciting ensemble is open for any brass or woodwind player with previous music reading experience. Students wishing to continue their current instrumental music studies or switch to a new instrument may take this class. (Percussion will be covered in the 2nd and 3rd Trimesters of this course, so students interested in drums should sign up for this class). Students will learn and refine musical skills while performing intermediate music literature. This class covers 7th and 8th grade music standards, and is designed for students with at least two years of music experience

String Orchestra: String Orchestra is for students with previous musical experience. Students will refine their skills and perform a variety of literature, including Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern and Pop. Students will increase their knowledge of intermediate and advanced orchestral string playing techniques, including shifting, vibrato and self-tuning. This class covers 7th and 8th grade music standards, and is designed for students with at least three years of music experience, not necessarily on an orchestral string instrument. Instruments in this class include violin,

viola, cello and bass. **Piano and guitar by audition with music teacher.**

Symphonic Orchestra: Symphonic Orchestra is a full orchestra of strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion. It covers advanced ensemble performance techniques. Students will refine their musical skills while performing advanced music literature. This class is designed for students with at least three full years of experience on their instrument; therefore participation is by audition with the music instructor. **Enrollment in this course is through student audition only.**

Please note: Placement into an Instrumental music class is made based on the instrumentation needs of the ensemble and approval by the South Lake music teacher.

Spanish 1: Spanish 1 is considered a first year, high school honors level course. Students who wish to enroll must have strong Math and English language/grammar skills, excellent work habits, and A/B+ grades. In making this choice, it may be helpful to think about high school graduation and college entrance foreign language requirements. A minimum of two years is generally required for four-year college entrance and three years is highly recommended. To remain in the course for the year and receive a recommendation for Spanish 2 in 9th grade, students must maintain an A/B+ grade **Enrollment in the course is through recommendation from 7th Grade English teachers.**

Yearbook: Students enrolled in the Yearbook elective will create, design and produce our school's yearbook, including a DVD yearbook. They will learn skills associated with layout and design, digital imaging, photocomposition, journalism, film and video editing, and most importantly, collaboration and cooperation between staff members. Yearbook participants are expected to spend time outside of school hours completing required assignments. Those students looking for a challenging honors level opportunity should consider the Yearbook class. **Enrollment in the course is by recommendation from 7th Grade Language Arts teachers.**

Students interested in any year-long elective must also select trimester electives or another year-long elective in the event that the class is full.