

Fairfield Junior High School Course Descriptions

Grade 8 Classes 2020-2021

The following classes are required for all 8th grade students

4030

English 8: The objective of this course is to help students continue to develop and refine the basic skills taught in Language Arts 7, particularly the practical conventions of written communication (spelling, punctuation, usage), as well as content development and organization. They will learn the conventions of English grammar and usage, build vocabulary, understand literary elements, read literary and informational texts, and learn the elements of grade-appropriate written communication. Students will study increasingly challenging themes and social issues in many genres of literature. Independent reading (outside of class) is required, and students are always expected to carry a reading book. An Honors Designation will be available to any student meeting requirements.

4510

U.S. History 1: US History is a course which encourages students to explore America's heritage from its beginnings to Reconstruction. Emphasis will be placed upon the social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds of Americans as well as economic and geographic factors. Students will also explore current events using inquiry-based activities that will help to equip them to participate in the democratic process. An Honors Designation will be available to any student meeting requirements.

5100

Math 8: This course will help students build a strong foundation of understanding linear functions. Concepts in this course will include solving multi-step linear equations, graphing linear equations, finding slope of a line and interpreting unit rates, using various methods to construct equations of linear functions, solving systems of linear equations, understanding rational and irrational numbers, exploring geometric constructions of figures on a plane, verifying congruence and similarity of triangles, computing volume of cylinders and spheres, and using data to determine relationships in scatterplots or 2-way frequency tables. An Honors Designation will be available to any student meeting requirements.

OR

5205

Honors Secondary Math 1 (Accelerated 8th graders): This class is for the 8th grade student who took Math 8 during 7th grade. To be successful in this class, students need to be fluent with concepts taught in Math 8 since this course will build on and extend concepts learned in 8th grade mathematics. Specifically, this course will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships and connect that to understanding exponential functions. Additional concepts taught will include compound linear inequalities and absolute value functions, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, arithmetic and geometric sequences, transformations of geometric figures, applications of distance and midpoint formulas, triangle congruence theorems, computing and comparing measures of center and spread, lines of regression and correlation, and geometric constructions using straight edges and compasses. In addition to the regular Secondary I math standards, this course will include the Honors concepts dealing with conditional statements, matrix operations and applications, and vectors operations and applications. This course will be fast-paced with increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of accelerated students.

6100

Integrated Science 8: This hands-on integrated course introduces students to matter and energy, using change as an organizing concept. Students will study the energy in geological Earth processes, chemistry, physics, and ecosystems. An Honors Designation will be available to any student meeting requirements.

1021

Fitness 8: This course helps students develop positive lifetime attitudes regarding fitness. Students will practice individual and team sports, and games. The students will experience Lifetime Sports by going on **FUN** field trips! These field trips will include bowling, swimming, miniature golfing, and playing tennis!

1000

Health Education 1 (Semester): Health Education offers students an opportunity to acquire knowledge, practice skills, and develop attitudes that can benefit them throughout life. Building a solid foundation of literacy and decision-making skills can contribute to a variety of healthy choices for self and others. Students will learn about their mental, social, emotional, and physical health throughout the semester. Guest speakers are invited to speak on various topics for each component of health. This class is designed to help teens reach their potential and learn how to be the healthiest versions of themselves.

7537

Digital Literacy (Semester): This course is an introduction to computer literacy. Students will have opportunities to use technology and develop skills that encourage creativity, critical thinking, productivity, and collaboration in the classroom and day-to-day life. Skills will be demonstrated by creating a project for a different content area. This course is aligned with national and international standards and the Utah Core to prepare students across multiple levels of skills.

The following classes are FULL YEAR electives

214

LIA Peer Leadership –Latinos in Action: The mission of the Latinos in Action class is to empower our Latino youth through culture, service, leadership and excellent education with the sole purpose of graduating from college. This class trains students as paraprofessionals who visit and tutor local elementary school children. LIA students also learn and improve their leadership skills through their roles with LIA. LIA students organize activities and initiate service projects together.

Pre-requisite: GPA of 2.5 or higher and submit an application.

Beginning Band:

Want to learn an instrument? Beginning Band is a hand-on, exploratory class where you will learn an instrument of your choice! By participating in band, students will gain an understanding of how to read and interpret music, work as a unit, and express themselves through various means. This course is broken up into three sections in order to best serve the various instrumental needs and provide a more enriched classroom environment (*see the class descriptions below to determine which course to register for based on instrument preference*). Please note that home practice is required and expected for all classes. If you have previous music experience and are interested in joining Concert Band, please contact Mrs. Groneman for more information. This is a course for anyone, regardless of previous experience.

2204

Band 1 Brass: In this class, students will learn how to play either Trumpet, Trombone, or Baritone with the option to expand instrument selection to include French Horn and Tuba second semester. For anyone interested in French Horn, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that these students have previous music experience, and or be able to identify pitch matching.

2205

Band 1 Woodwind: In this class, students will learn how to play either Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, or Bassoon with the option to expand instrument selection to include Bass Clarinet and Saxophone second semester. For anyone interested in Oboe, Bassoon, or Saxophone, it is HIGHLY RECOMMENDED that these students take private lessons.

2210

Band 2: Concert Band is an intermediate ensemble designed for students that have gained some instrumental proficiency, but who still want to develop their talents. In this ensemble students will expand their music abilities through performance, theory analysis, and personal connection. Students will not only learn various musical works, but will have a knowledge of major scales, arpeggios, and improv/composition skills. This ensemble has the potential to participate and or host various events, such as District Intermediate Band Festival, State Band Festival, and Solo and Ensemble.

Pre-requisite: Students must have completed Beginning Band (Brass, Percussion or Woodwind) or by audition only.

2214

Jazz Band: The Falcon Jazz Band is an advanced, audition-only ensemble. Auditions will be held during the first week of the new school year. Typical jazz instruments include: Saxophone (Alto, Tenor, Bari), Trumpet, Trombone, and Rhythm (Drum set, Piano, Bass, Guitar, Auxiliary Percussion, and Vocals). Additional instruments may be accepted by approval only. Students who participate in this ensemble will gain a knowledge of jazz history, improv, and various musical styles (jazz, blues, rock etc.). Students will be expected to prepare and perform solos or solo repertoire in class and at performances as a part of their music education. This ensemble meets before school 3 times a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from 7:00-8:00am. starting the third week of school. Students interested in this class will be graded and given a ½ Fine Arts Credit. Performances include, School Assemblies, Elementary School Visits, District Jazz Festival, State Jazz Festival, and other community events. The Falcon Jazz Band is open to all who choose to audition, and the top performers (regardless of grade) will be chosen.

Pre-requisite: Students must be enrolled in another band ensemble for the school year and must complete an audition.

2220

Band 3: Symphonic Band is the most advanced ensemble offered at FJH. This audition-only ensemble provides advanced instrumental students a place to hone their musical abilities and skills. Students in the Symphonic Band must demonstrate exceptional ability in music performance, understanding, and overall musicality. They are also expected to demonstrate exceptional rehearsal habits and high levels of personal commitment to the ensemble. Through participation in this ensemble, students will gain technique work, major and minor scale knowledge, and deeper insights into music theory and history. This ensemble has the

potential to perform at several local or state events, such as: Elementary school visits, school assemblies, District Festivals, State Band Festivals, Solo and Ensemble, etc. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that students in Symphonic Band are enrolled in private music lessons outside of class. **Symphonic Band is open to all who choose to audition, and the top performers (regardless of grade) will be chosen.**

Pre-requisite: Students must have completed Beginning Band, Concert Band, and complete an audition.

2307

Choir 2 Mixed Choir (Year or Semester): Students will participate in studying and performing a variety of choral music. They will sing in unison as well as in parts from a variety of musical styles. This class requires a great work ethic and musicianship skills as students create music at an intermediate level with male and female voices combined. Students will work on reading music, rhythm study, rehearsal techniques, and various aspects of choral music. They will learn music notation, vocabulary, and basic sight singing skills. They will perform in concerts each term. Specify in registration if you are taking it for a semester or for the full year.

Pre-requisite: Choir I or teacher approval.

2310

Choir 3/Concert Choir: In this auditioned choir class, singers will perform more advanced choral literature. They will represent FFJH at district and choir activities and in public performances. Students will continue their learning of music notation, vocabulary, and sight singing skills. They will learn advanced vocal skills in the development of both solo singing voice and ensemble work. They will learn a variety of choral music in advanced parts and will perform at several events including concerts, assemblies, solo/ensemble festivals, and the Davis District Choral Festival.

Pre-requisite: Audition is required.

2314

Choir 3/Show: This is FFJH's most elite choir. In this auditioned show choir students will perform more advanced choral literature often with choreography. They will represent FFJH at district and choir activities and in public performances. They will also perform in a Musical Revue in the fall. Students will continue their learning of music notation, vocabulary, and sight singing skills. They will learn advanced vocal skills in the development of both the solo singing voice as well as a quality ensemble. They will learn a variety of choral music in advanced parts and will perform at several events including concerts, assemblies, solo/ensemble festivals, as well as many other performance opportunities.

Pre-requisite: Audition required.

2405

Orchestra 1: This course is for beginning musicians. Available instruments are violin, viola, cello and upright bass. Students will refine skills in playing, listening to, reading, creating and evaluating music, and will develop valuable life skills such as teamwork, goal-setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. Sixth grade orchestra or private lesson experience highly recommended.

2406

Orchestra 2: This course is for students who have taken Orchestra 1 or have had private lessons for at least two years. Ninth graders who took Orchestra 2 in 8th grade should take this course again, as the curriculum varies from year to year. Students will refine skills in playing, listening to, reading, creating and evaluating music, and will develop valuable life skills such as teamwork, goal-setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. There will be several performances outside of the normal class times.

3110

Spanish 1: This course emphasizes the development of conversational skills and will be conducted in the target language. There will also be an introduction to basic reading and writing. This class is designed for non-native speakers who want to learn a second language, those with previous experience with the language should enroll in Spanish for Spanish Speakers. *Students need to have above average scholastic aptitude to succeed in this course and should be able to read at grade level.*

3120

Spanish 2: This course is a continuation of Spanish 1. The class will be conducted in Spanish and students will be engaged in speaking the target language in conversations, class discussions, question/answer activities, and stories. There will also be continued development in basic reading and writing. This class is designed for non-native (Spanish) speakers who want to continue learning a second language.

Pre-requisite: Passed Spanish 1 with a C or better or must demonstrate Novice High proficiency.

3190

Spanish for Spanish Speakers: This course is designed for students who already speak Spanish. This course will help students to be able to have the proficiency needed to take the AP test later in high school. Students will read and write daily to develop literacy in Spanish. They will learn the conventions of Spanish grammar and usage, increase vocabulary, read literary and informational texts in Spanish.

3210

French 1: This course emphasizes the development of beginning speaking skills in French. There will also be an introduction to basic reading and writing. It is designed for learners with no previous experience in French. Students previously enrolled in Dual Language Immersion French should not enroll in this level. Students should have above average scholastic aptitude to succeed in this course and should be able to read at grade level.

3220

French 2: This course is a continuation of French 1. The class will be conducted in French and the students will be engaged in speaking the target language in conversations, class discussions, question/answer activities, and presentations. There will also be continued development in reading and writing. This class is designed for non-native French speakers who want to continue learning a second language. Students previously enrolled in French Dual language Immersion should only enroll in this level after consulting with the teacher and counselor.

Pre-requisite: Passed French 1 with a C or better or must demonstrate Novice Mid proficiency.

3235

DLI French Culture/Media: This class is an elective within the French Dual Language Immersion Program for French Dual Language Immersion students only. It is recommended that students take this course once in either seventh or eighth grade. Ninth grade students may also enroll. Through cultural media sources with both historical and contemporary focus, students deepen their understanding of the Francophone world and become more fluent culturally and linguistically. Furthermore, with the additional exposure to Advanced Placement themes and the French language over the course of the year, students will become better prepared for the AP exam at the end of ninth grade.

Pre-requisite: Passed DLI French Grade 6. For continuing Dual Language Immersion students only.

3242

French 4 DLI Honors: This course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. Narratives and dialogues are used to teach structure and vocabulary. Culture and geography of the native country are taught through reading selections.

Pre-requisite: For dual immersion students only (7th and 8th grade).

4365

Yearbook 1/Publications: Students will work to design and produce the school yearbook, the school newspaper and Falcon TV. Students will learn multi-media skills as they work on our publications team. Students will be required to attend school events outside of school hours.

Pre-requisites: 3.3 GPA and application.

The following classes are ONE SEMESTER electives:

211

Teacher Assistant: This semester offering is for students desiring practical experience in daily classroom teacher activities. Students may apply for a TA position at the beginning of the desired semester and must be approved by the requested teacher. Grading is Pass/Fail.

Pre-requisite: Application and teacher approval.

400

Study Skills: In this course you will learn how to get organized, the most beneficial ways to study and have time to use your new skills to complete homework and class assignments. This is a great course for students who are involved in extra-curricular activities who need more time to complete their studies, and for those who want to improve their skills as a student.

1021

Fit 8: This course helps students develop positive lifetime attitudes regarding fitness. Students will practice individual and team sports, and games. The students will experience Lifetime Sports by going on **FUN** field trips! These field trips will include bowling, swimming, miniature golfing, and playing tennis!

2101

Art Foundation I: Explore the exciting world of art. This amazing class is an introductory art class that is required before enrolling in advanced art classes. Each student will have the opportunity to use a variety of materials such as drawing, painting and ceramics. Students will also develop a general knowledge and understanding of basic art terms, styles, skills, and techniques

2102

Foundation 1A 2-D Art: This course is designed to provide an enhanced experience with the artistic issues of Art Foundation 1 through traditional, two-dimensional art media. There is a continuing emphasis on studio production as the application of the elements and principles of art are used to assist the student in expressing him/herself through the creation of works of art. In this course, traditional 2-D art media may include such things as drawing, painting, and/or printmaking. The term "traditional" is used to refer to the materials used in the creation of artworks and not to the subjects portrayed.

Pre-requisite: Art Foundation I.

2104

Adv Foundation 1C 3-D Art: This popular course provides an overview and introduction to 3-Dimensional art. Students will have the opportunity to use a variety of materials for projects. They will learn how to use paper mache, create masks out of plaster, and create artwork out of clay.

Pre-requisite: Art Foundation I.

2304

Choir 1 Girls Choir Soprano/Alto: Beginning choir is an introduction to music and the beginning of vocal training. This class will have engaging learning activities focused on listening, performing, creating, and analyzing choral music. Students will participate in one concert each term.

2305

Choir 1 Boys Choir Tenor/Bass: Beginning choir is an introduction to music and the beginning of vocal training. This class will have engaging learning activities focused on listening, performing, creating, and analyzing choral music. Students will participate in one concert each term.

2307

Choir 2 Mixed Choir: Students will participate in studying and performing a variety of choral music. They will sing in unison as well as in parts from a variety of musical styles. This class requires a great work ethic and musicianship skills as students create music at an intermediate level with both male and female voices combined. Students will work on reading music, rhythm study, rehearsal techniques, and various aspects of choral music. They will learn music notation, vocabulary, and basic sight singing skills. They will perform in concerts each term. Specify in registration if you are taking it for a semester or for the full year.

Pre-requisite: Choir I or teacher approval.

2316

Music Exploration: Students in this class will be introduced to the world of music through a variety of experiences including listening, performing, creating, and analyzing music.

2401

Guitar: This course is a beginning guitar class. **Students with any significant guitar experience will not benefit from this class.** Students will learn the basics of how to play basic guitar chords and strums through playing, listening to, reading, creating and evaluating guitar music. Through involvement in this class, students will develop an appreciation for music while learning valuable life skills such as teamwork, goal-setting, proper social skills, personal responsibility and integrity. Students must provide their own acoustic (non-electric) guitar and their class book.

2502

Theater I: This course is an introduction for students to the basic elements and disciplines involved in Theater, public speaking and musical performance. Activities include storytelling, poetry, musical theater, debate, pantomime, improvisation, relaxation, and dramatic performance. No pre-requisite is required for this course.

2503

Theater 2: This course is designed for those students who have taken Theater 1 and would like to explore acting techniques more fully. Students will focus on performance techniques such as pantomime, lip syncing, physical acting, characterization, monologues, oratory, scenes and one acts.

Pre-requisite: Theater 1.

3790

World Language Survey: In this course students will learn about many cultures as they explore the diversity of language, food and customs of countries around the world.

4230

Enrichment Reading/Book Club: This course can be taken in either the 7th or 8th grade year but not both. Students are expected to be reading on grade level or above according to their RI score. This class is tailored to students who enjoy reading and discussing literature. Strategies for reading comprehension and high-level literary discussion will be covered. Students will be required to read outside of class in preparation for classroom discussion.

4335

Creative Writing 1: This course is designed to give young writers the guidance and the inspiration to create written works of art. They will be led through a variety of writing styles and genres to broaden their experience with these literary forms. Emphasis will be placed on the creativity of the work over the precise accuracy of the mechanics, though there will be practice to improve spelling and punctuation throughout the semester.

4365

Yearbook 1/Publications: Students will work to design and produce the school yearbook, the school newspaper and Falcon TV. Students will learn multi-media skills as they work on our publication team. Students will be required to attend school events outside of school hours.

Pre-requisites: 3.3 GPA and application.

4385

Debate 1: This year-long course introduces students to debate. It will provide students with a set of portable argumentation and advocacy skills that can be used in a variety of life situations and educational pursuits. Students will initially learn about and practice structured extemporaneous speeches with emphasis on verbal and nonverbal delivery skills. Students will participate in "SPAR" debates and present research-based persuasive speeches on official debate resolutions. This class is ultimately for students who want to explore debate and participate on junior high and/or high school debate teams.

6600

Hacking STEM: This STEM focused class is a true problem-solving course. You will delve into sensor development, coding and electronics as you engage in innovation and invention! If you are looking for some real relevant STEM experiences, this is it. This class will get you wondering about the world, making sense of how things work, and solving some hard problems in a collaborative creative environment.

6630

Science Olympiad: Science Olympiad class is a second semester class for those on the Fairfield Science Olympiad team. This program allows students to dive deep into scientific subjects and study them at collegiate level. In addition to specific scientific subjects, students learn study skills, test-taking skills, design/engineering, and leadership. Some of the events for this year are Anatomy & Physiology, Boomilever (bridge-cantilever construction), Circuit Lab (electrical engineering/physics), Crime busters (forensics and chemistry), Density Lab (applied Chemistry), Elastic I Launched gliders (building balsa wood planes), Dynamic Planet, Experimental Design, Food Science, Fossils, Game On (game programming), Heredity & Genetics, Simple Machines, Mission Possible (Rube Goldberg machine), Mousetrap Vehicle, Ping Pong Parachute, Road Scholar (maps and topography), Water Quality & Oceanography, and Write it Do it.

7403

FCS Exploration: Do you want to eat while you're at school? Do you like to work with your hands? Do you feel stressed? Worried about relationships? Do you like to engage in hands-on, creative projects? Do you want to design your own room? Use your creativity? Then FCS Exploration is for you! This course provides every student with the opportunity to develop essential skills in the various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences which include food and nutrition, childcare, interior design, clothing and textile construction, family relationships/personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks.

Highly recommended as a prerequisite for Sports Outdoor Sewing, Child Development, Interior Design, and Foods)

7552

Keyboarding 1 with Coding Concepts: In this beginning semester keyboarding course, the student will master touch operation on a computer keyboard. Correct fingering by touch and good techniques will receive primary emphasis; speed and accuracy will be given secondary emphasis. The fourth-row number and symbols and 10-key pad will also be taught. The student will use basic word processing functions on a variety of document types. Students will be introduced to basic coding concepts. *Any student who has not achieved keyboarding proficiency should take this course during 7th or 8th grade as it is not offered to 9th graders.*

7743

Creative Coding 1: Do you enjoy computers? Do you enjoy games? Then this is the course for you! Join our introductory coding course where we'll learn how to code by working in various environments to design, program and publish work. Be ready to explore real-world problem-solving, acquire design and development skills, implement creations with Project-Based Learning and of course, learn to program. Learning to code by creating authentic artifacts, students engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun.

Pre-requisite: Keyboarding 1 or typing 25 wpm (or teacher permission).

7744

Creative Coding 2: Building on the foundational skills learned in Creative Coding 1, students will learn and apply further knowledge and skills of computational thinking, collaboration, computing practice and programming to create more complex games, apps and web pages. Learning to code by creating real products, students discover how to make amazing things and have an impact on their community. Students will also explore global and ethical impacts related to computer science.

Pre-requisite: Creative Coding 1 (or teacher permission).

7810

Exploring Technology I: Exploring Technology is a comprehensive, action-based course where students will use the design process to solve problems as they create models and build prototypes from a variety of materials (including 3-D printing). This course introduces students to technological systems in areas such as: engineering, medicine/agriculture/biotechnology, energy/power/transportation, information/communications, manufacturing, and construction. Students will develop problem-solving skills, improve career awareness, and relate technology to math and science. Emphasis is placed on broad exploration in cooperative and individualized activities in a 'hands-on' classroom.

7811

Exploring Technology 2: This is a comprehensive, action-based course that continues students' study of technology and its impact on society. Students will develop problem-solving skills, and build understanding of the relationship between science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will explore engineering and several technology areas as they create models and prototypes using the engineering design process.

Pre-requisite: Exploring Technology 1