

Fairfield Junior High School Course Descriptions

Grade 9 Classes 2019 – 2020

Students who receive Special Education services may enroll in classes, as indicated by their IEP. Specific class registration questions should be addressed to Ms. Jen Pool, Special Education Department Head, at 402-7000.

The following classes are *required* for all 9th grade students:

9th Grade English The objective of this course is to help students master the communication skills necessary to succeed in high school and beyond. Students will read and write daily to develop literacy. Writing will focus mainly on the basics of argumentation, and students will submit multiple writing assignments each term. 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 a variety of increasingly more challenging texts, including classical mythology and Shakespeare, as well as novels, short fiction, and poetry from various cultures and genres. Independent reading (outside of class) is required, and students are expected to carry a reading book of their choice at all times.

Secondary Mathematics I: (9th grade core) will focus on developing a solid understanding of function, and use that understanding to explore many examples of functions, including sequences. It will deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships and connect that understanding to exponential functions. It will build on prior experiences with data to develop formal methods of data analysis. Students will use properties and theorems involving congruent figures to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge. Algebraic and geometric ideas will be tied together. To be successful in this class, students NEED to be fluent in solving multi-step equations, algebraic manipulations, and graphing linear equations. In addition, this course will include the Honors Concepts dealing with conditional statements, vectors and quantities of vectors, and matrix operations and their applications. This course will include elements that will

prepare students to take calculus in high school. This course will have increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of all students. Students who want Honors designation on their transcript will need to take and pass the honors versions of the chapter tests and the test on Matrices with an average of 80% or higher and have term grades no lower than a B. Honors credit will be given at the end of the year and will not show on the transcript until the summer after the Secondary Mathematics I Course is taken. A graphing calculator with statistics and matrices capabilities is required for this class. A TI-83plus or a TI-84plus is the recommended calculator.

OR

Secondary Mathematics II Honors Course: This is a very rigorous, fast-paced class. There are no retakes on quizzes or tests and students must know and remember math concepts taught in previous years. Students who did not earn A or A- grades in Secondary I Honors may struggle in this class. This class will focus on quadratic expressions, equations, and functions, extend the set of rational numbers to the set of complex numbers, link probability and data through conditional probability and counting methods, study similarity and right triangle trigonometry and study circles with their quadratic algebraic representations. Concepts will be explored in greater depth with increased use of contextual situations. In addition, they will study complex numbers and their operations on the complex plane, solve systems of equations, prove and apply trigonometric identities, express conic sections algebraically, and solve problems using volume measurements. This course will include elements that will prepare students to take calculus in high school. This course will have increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of high ability students. A graphing calculator with statistics and

matrices capabilities is required for this class. A TI-83plus or a TI-84plus is the recommended calculator.

World Geography: Students will be introduced to the inter-relationships between our physical and cultural worlds. The course will explore how geography influences human behavior and the role it plays in the economic, political, social, cultural and historic development of a country. Basic geographical skills will be emphasized including map reading and making, vocabulary, interpretations of geographical charts and diagrams, and a study of the major graphical regions of the world. First semester covers physical geography, the Americas, Europe, and northern Eurasia. 2nd semester covers the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia, Africa, Australia and the Pacific Islands.

OR

AP Human Geography: This is a college level course that introduces students to the study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. The advanced Placement (AP) program is sponsored by the college board. This program gives high school students the opportunity to take college level courses. AP classes help students prepare for college. In addition, participating colleges give credit to students who earn high enough scores on the AP exam. The exam is optional; however, every student taking the class is highly encouraged to take the test. Students who enroll in this course should meet the standards outlined in the Davis District document called "Junior High Honors courses: Indicators for Student Success." Students should be prepared to complete work that includes academic reading and writing as well as field studies and research. All 9th graders are required to take geography. AP Human Geography fulfills this requirement.

Earth Systems: Students who take this class will earn one unit of high school earth science credit through laboratory experiences, investigational research, field work and problem-solving techniques. This class integrates astronomy, biology, chemistry and physics. Students will explore the energy, interactions and environmental impacts within the biosphere, geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and solar system. *This class will help 9th graders to meet graduation requirements, prepare for higher education, and perform well on the ACT. Lab fee: \$15.*

OR

Biology: Students who take this class will earn one unit of High School Biology credit through laboratory experiences, investigational research and problem-solving techniques. The learning objectives that will be covered include classification, ecology, cells, anatomy, genetics and evolution. **This is a 10th grade curriculum that most 9th grade students will find very challenging.** *This class will help 9th Graders to meet graduation requirements, perform well on the ACT, and enter higher education. This class is highly recommended for students participating in the Utah Scholars program and the Regents Scholarship. Lab fee: \$15.*

Physical Education 9 (Semester): This course focuses on a variety of team sports, games, and individual sports with emphasis on leadership, courtesy, respect and sportsmanship. This course also provides instruction aimed at improving and maintaining physical fitness and continuing team sports participation. *PE uniform available for purchase.*

The following classes are FULL YEAR electives:

French or Spanish I (Core Elective): This course emphasizes the development of conversational skills. The class will be conducted in the target language. Students need to have above average scholastic aptitude to succeed in this course, and should be able to read at grade level. It is designed for non-native (French/Spanish) speakers who want to learn a

second language. Native speakers will be moved to a more appropriate course. There will also be an introduction to basic reading and writing. It is not recommended for students struggling with English skills to take this course.

French or Spanish II (Core Elective): This course is a continuation of Spanish I/ French I. You must have a novice mid proficiency level in order to take this class. The class will be conducted in the target language and the students will be engaged in conversations, class discussions, question/ answer activities, and stories. Students need to have above average scholastic aptitude to succeed in this course. This class is designed for non-native (French/Spanish) speakers who want to continue learning a second language. There will also be continued development in basic reading and writing. It is not recommended for students struggling with English skills to take this course.

French or Spanish III (Core Elective): This course is a continuation of Spanish II/ French II. The class will be conducted in the target language with a high amount of student interaction. Students need to have above average scholastic aptitude to succeed in this course. Students need to be at novice high proficiency in order to take this class. This class is designed for non-native (French/Spanish) speakers who want to continue learning a second language. There will also be continued development in basic reading and writing. It is not recommended for students struggling with English skills to take this course.

French 5 DLI Honors (Core Elective): This course continues the development of speaking, listening, reading and writing skills from the DLI 3 Honors and DLI 4 Honors courses. Reading selections, narratives and discussions are used to reinforce structure and vocabulary. The AP themes are integrated, and students are provided with many opportunities to develop the ability to express and support their opinions and ideas. Students may opt to take the AP French Language & Culture exam in

May. **For dual immersion students only. (9th grade)**

Beginning Band (Brass or Woodwind) (Fine Arts): This class is for students with little or no experience. The class will be split into two – Brass – (Trumpet, Baritone, Tuba, Trombone); and Woodwind – (Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, and Bassoon). Basic playing techniques will be stressed with emphasis on tone production and rhythm. Students will be in the Excellence in Music Program that is designed to prepare them for success for playing in any high school band organization. Woodwind students will be allowed to choose between clarinet, flute, oboe and bassoon. (For oboe and bassoon it is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that these students take private lessons). If Saxophone is desired it is expected that they will play clarinet for ½ the year and then audition for saxophone. Brass students will be allowed to choose between tuba, baritone, trombone and trumpet. (If a student wishes to play French horn, they are expected to begin playing the trumpet for ½ the year, demonstrating pitch matching, then will have the opportunity to audition for French horn mid-year.) All 7th graders and beginning 8th /9th graders will be in this class. If a beginning player has previous experience, that student may audition for the intermediate group after approval from the teacher. Some early morning rehearsals and public performances are required. Home practice is expected and required.

Intermediate Band (Fine Arts): Mainly made up of 2nd and 3rd year students, this group is made up of winds, brass and percussion instruments. Intermediate playing techniques will be stressed with emphasis on playing harmony, all twelve major scales and arpeggios. There will be some public performance required, as well as district intermediate band festival. Home practice is required and expected. **Prerequisite: Beginning Band (brass or woodwind), Percussion I, or previous experience, audition and teacher approval.**

Advanced Band (Fine Arts): This class consists of woodwind (flute, clarinet, saxophone, oboe, bassoon, etc.) brass (trumpet, French horn, trombone, tuba, baritone and percussion instruments. This is an audition-only band for advanced instrumental students who have demonstrated exceptional ability in musical performance. There will be required public performances throughout the school year. These students are expected to demonstrate exceptional rehearsal habits and high levels of personal commitment to the group. Personal preparation for all concert material is expected. This group is open to all who choose to audition. Top players, regardless of age or grade, will be selected to participate in this band. 9th graders should plan on registering for intermediate band and the advanced band list will be given to the counselor's office. **Prerequisite:** *Beginning or Intermediate band (brass/woodwind), Percussion II, audition and teacher approval.*

Percussion II (Fine Arts): This class prepares percussion players in intermediate concert percussion techniques. Snare drum, mallet percussion, and tympani, will be the core focus. At home practice is expected and required. Percussion II students will be the percussion section for the Intermediate Band (Band II). **Percussion I pre-requisite.**

Percussion III (Fine Arts): This class prepares percussion players in advanced concert percussion techniques. At home practice is expected and required. Percussion III students will be the percussion section for the Advanced Band (Band III). **Percussion I & II pre-requisites.**

Jazz Band (Fine Arts): This class consists of woodwind (Saxophone – other woodwind instrument by approval); Brass (Trumpet & Trombone – other brass instruments by approval only), and a Rhythm Section (Piano, Drumset, Bass, Guitar, Auxiliary Percussion, Vocals). This class is open to all 2nd and 3rd year players. This class meets 3 times a week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from 7:15 a.m. to 8:00 and begins the first Tuesday of the second term. This class has an extra fee of

\$30 per term. Students will also be graded and given a ½ Fine Arts Credit. Some public performances are required, including district jazz festival and school concerts. **Registration in Band II or III, Intermediate Orchestra, or Advanced Choir, or private piano/guitar lessons is required. See Mr. Bailey for details.**

Band Peer Tutor: By invitation only – This class is set up to allow advanced (9th grade) students to become peer tutors to the beginning woodwind, brass, and percussion classes. Peer tutors are needed to tutor Beginning Flute, Clarinet, and Saxophone (2nd semester), Trumpet, Trombone/Baritone/Tuba, and French Horn. Students interested should speak to Mr. Bailey to receive a teacher recommendation form. Students will be expected to help with playing/performance issues that beginning students may have, along with helping assessments through monitoring computer software testing (Smart Music/Charms). Students are required to maintain a 2.5 GPA and should be invited to participate in the Symphonic Band.

Intermediate Orchestra (FINE ARTS): This course is for students who have taken 6th grade orchestra or have had at least 1 year of private lessons. Available instruments are violin, viola, cello and upright bass. Beginners may join if they have taken piano lessons or are willing to find a private instructor. 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. It is a full year class. All students are required to pay the \$10 participation fee and provide all black dress clothes for performances. Optional class fees are \$95 school instrument rental, \$10 method book, \$26-\$30 personalized orchestra class hoodie and \$12 SmartMusic Access: Although a SmartMusic home subscription is not required, all tests in the class are submitted through this software program and students are accountable. SmartMusic will be available at the school for those choosing not to purchase SmartMusic,

but only during intervention time. Depending on the quality of your computer's microphone, there may be a one-time microphone purchase of \$19.95.

Advanced Orchestra (FINE ARTS): This course is for students who have taken intermediate orchestra or have had private lessons for at least 2 years. 9th graders who took advanced in 8th grade should take advanced 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. It is a full year class. There will be several performances outside of the normal class time. All students are required to pay the \$10 participation fee and provide all black dress clothes for performances. Optional class fees are \$95 school instrument rental, \$10 method book, \$26-\$30 personalized orchestra class hoodie and \$12 SmartMusic Access: Although a SmartMusic home subscription is not required, all tests in the class are submitted through this software program and students are accountable. SmartMusic will be available at the school for those choosing not to purchase SmartMusic, but only during intervention time. Depending on the quality of your computer's microphone, there may be a one-time microphone purchase of \$19.95.

Choir 2 S/A or T/B (Fine Arts): This class is for young women (S/A) or young men (T/B) who want to learn choral skills. The curriculum includes singing parts, music fundamentals, and performance.

Choir 3 (Fine Arts): This choir is a performance group designed to develop competency as singers and musicians in choral music. This class moves at a more accelerated pace and has more performances. Performances and fundamentals are included in the curriculum. **Prerequisite:** *Beginning Chorus/musical experience and application. Approximate cost of uniform is \$75.*

Show Choir (Fine Arts): This is an audition choir for 9th grade boys and girls who have demonstrated ability in choral performance. Audition and application are required. *Fee: \$75.00*

Theater Foundations II (Fine Arts): This class gives students, who are extremely interested in drama, opportunities to perform and to expand their knowledge of the performing arts. The focus will be on theatrical processes and application. Participating in the class will prepare them to advance to community, high school and professional theater. *Prerequisite: Theater Foundations I*

Released Time: Released Time is an opportunity for the student to be released by the parent from the school proper for one period for religious or other unique educational pursuits. *Released Time does not generate academic credit toward graduation.*

The following classes are ONE SEMESTER electives:

Theater Foundations I (Fine Arts): This course introduces students to the basic elements of drama and develops their public speaking ability through activities such as storytelling, voice/diction exercises, readers' theater and scene performances.

Foundation Art II (9th Grade Beg. Art) (Fine Arts): This introductory course offers instruction in various art media and the basic principles of art. Each student will have the opportunity to develop a general knowledge and understanding of basic art terms, styles, skills, and techniques. *This class is for 9th Grade students who did not take an art foundations class in 7th or 8th grade. Lab Fee: \$15.00*

Studio Art (Foundation Art II Advanced) (Fine Arts): Studio Art is designed as an honors course for high school credit. It is designed for more advanced art students who may desire art to be a part of their future. Strong emphasis will be placed on drawing techniques, watercolor, oil pastels and design. This class may be taken for one semester or a full year. *Minimum grade of B in Art II required. Lab Fee: \$15.00 per semester.*

Painting (Fine Arts): This course is for a high school visual arts credit. Students will learn techniques associated with water color, acrylic, and oil painting. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking, art-related technology skill, art criticism, art history, and aesthetics. *Pre-requisite – either Art I or Art II. Lab Fee: \$15.00.*

Photography 1 (Fine Arts): Photography 1 is an introduction to the art and technology of still photography. Students will be introduced to digital and film cameras and will learn to process photos in the dark room and with computer software. *Students should have access to a digital or 35 mm film camera. Lab Fee: \$15.00*

Art 3-D Design (Fine Arts): This course is for the High School Visual Arts Core Curriculum. 3-D Design provides an overview and introduction to fine crafts, their media, and the cultures they represent. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher level thinking, art-related technology skill, and aesthetics. *Prerequisite for this course is Foundations I or II. Lab Fee \$15.00*

Creative Writing (Elective): 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.

Introduction to Manufacturing Technology 1 (Technology): This is a hands-on course that introduces students to changing raw materials into a finished product. Examples of these materials include but are not limited to: woods, metals, composites, and plastics. This course will also explore the many careers associated with manufacturing. *Lab fee of \$10.00 and successfully passing safety tests are required before beginning*

projects. (This class is for 9th graders who have NOT taken Exploring Technology in 8th grade.)

Introduction to Manufacturing Technology II (Technology): This is a hands-on course that introduces students to changing raw materials into finished project. Examples of these materials include but are not limited to: woods, metals, composites, and plastics. This Course will also explore the many careers associated with manufacturing. *Lab fee of \$10.00. Pre-requisite: C or better and satisfactory or better citizenship in Exploring Technology in 8th grade. (This class is for 9th graders who HAVE taken Exploring Technology in 8th grade.*

Construction Technology I (Technology): Construction systems provide students with an understanding of how construction impacts society both socially and professionally. These impacts are explored using elements that include: Career opportunities – the past, present, and future state of construction as a career; Design – benefits/limitations of modern design; Measurements– basic measurement principles including applications related to construction practices; Tools and construction – common tools, materials, and procedures used in the construction industry. *Prerequisite: C or better and Satisfactory or better Citizenship in Technology Education. Lab Fee: \$10.00. Students will additionally be responsible for paying the cost of materials for their personal projects or providing their own materials prior to commencement of the project.****

Engineering Technology I: (Technology): A foundational engineering design course that introduces basic problem-solving and documentation skills. Students in engineering teams apply research, technology, science, and mathematical concepts and skills to design, test, and analyze engineering projects. Criteria used can include design effectiveness, public safety, human factors, and ethics. *Lab Fee: \$10.00*

Exploring Computer Science I (Technology): This course is designed to introduce students to the breadth of the field of computer science through an exploration of engaging and accessible topics. Rather than focusing the entire course on learning particular software tools or programming languages, the course is designed to focus the conceptual ideas of computing and help students understand why certain tools or languages might be utilized to solve particular problems. The goal of Exploring Computer Science I is to develop in students the computational thinking practices of algorithm development, problem solving and programming within the context of problems that are relevant to the lives of today's students. Students will also be introduced to topics such as interface design, limits of computers and societal and ethical issues.

Foods and Nutrition (Technology): This course helps students understand the principles of nutrition and healthy lifestyles. It covers the relationship of nutrition to health and well-being; the selection, preparation and care of food; and economic practices for the best use of food. *Lab Fee: \$15.00*

Apparel Design and Production I (Clothing I) (Technology): This is an introductory-level sewing course. Subjects include sewing tools and equipment, basic clothing construction techniques, safety procedures, and how to read and follow patterns. Projects may include pajama pants, apron, pin cushion, zipper pouch and more. *Students will be supplying their own sewing materials and supplies. Lab Fee: \$7.00*

Interior Design I (Technology): This hands on course enables students to explore their creativity in the field of interior design. They will study careers in interior design, elements and principles of design, color use and theory, floor plans and space arrangement, background treatments, accessories, comprehensive single room design, professional presentation methods and architectural lettering. *Lab Fee: \$10.00*

Child Development I (Technology): This course focuses on the development of children from birth to age 5. Subjects include: the responsibility of parenthood, the cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of children, the process of pregnancy and childbirth, developmental theories, age-appropriate activities, and positive guidance techniques. *Lab Fee: \$8.00*

Teaching as a Profession I (Technology): A course designed to help students learn about the role and characteristics of an effective educator. Students will observe and participate with teachers and students in the classroom. Major topics include exploring current teaching methods and instructional strategies, assessments and when/how to use them, and how students learn and what instructional strategies can be implemented to assist all learners.

Yearbook (Elective): Students will work to design and produce the school yearbook. Students who are industrious, self-disciplined, motivated and responsible will do well in this class. The class will attend school events, photographing and documenting what happens. Each person will need to dedicate time before and/or after school and some evenings to attend these events and work on getting the book completed. If you cannot commit to before and after school time, this class may not be the best option. *Requirements: 3.3 or better GPA that must be maintained because you will be required to do work during some classes and attend away events, keyboarding skills, some basic photography skills, 8 teacher recommendations or 7 if you have Seminary and a completed application and portfolio are required to be considered for this class. Key staff members may take second semester to complete Yearbook production.*

Peer Support (Elective): This is a special class designed for 9th grade students who would like to improve their own life skills and who want to help others. The course focuses on self-awareness, healthy life skills, and communication. Students have the opportunity to practice these skills here at school, in the home, in

elementary schools and in the community. Some responsibilities of Peer Support students include: tutoring, ushering assemblies, welcoming new students, helping 7th graders adjust to junior high, and performing random acts of kindness. Peer Support students represent our school and are held to strict standards for good citizenship. *Minimum GPA of 2.5 and no N or U citizenship. Submission of an application may be required. May be taken for 2 semesters.*

Peer Tutor (Elective): This class is for students who would like to assist their classmates in various learning environments. The course requires a project each term as the student learns skills to tutor and support others. *Teacher approval required.*

Latinos in Action (Elective): 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 within LIA. LIA students organize activities and initiate service projects together. *In order to participate in the Latinos in Action class, students must maintain a GPA of 2.5 or higher and submit an application. May be taken for two semesters.*

Instructional Media Assistant (Elective): This class focuses on increasing reading engagement by reading for personal pleasure and understanding research. Students will learn library procedures such as circulation and shelving, and will be reading and completing monthly book spotlights. Students will also be conducting research and will complete a research project. A letter grade is earned. *Library Media Teacher approval and minimum 3.0 GPA and satisfactory citizenship required.*

Office Assistant (Elective): This semester offering is for students desiring practical experiences in office routine. Students will be selected on the basis of academic achievement, attendance, citizenship and teacher recommendations, and may be assigned to the Main Office or the Counseling Center. Grading is Pass/Fail. *Office approval and minimum 3.0 GPA and satisfactory citizenship required.*

Teacher Assistant (Elective): 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.*