

8th Grade MTSS CORE Course Descriptions 2018-2019

Language Arts

Language! Live - INTENSIVE INSTRUCTION Students needing this program have severe deficits in academic writing, word recognition and language comprehension which impacts all areas of reading literacy. Placement criteria: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 20%ile and below, AIMSweb historical data, reading fluency and performance in core classes.

or

Inside Level C - INTENSIVE INSTRUCTION Students will develop language and have explicit and systematic instruction in reading fundamentals, vocabulary, comprehension, critical thinking, literary analysis, reading strategies and writing. Placement criteria: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 21%ile-29%ile, AIMSweb historical data, reading fluency and performance in core classes.

McDougal Littell - TARGETED INSTRUCTION Students will develop strategies for vocabulary, reading comprehension, critical thinking, literacy analysis and academic writing. Placement criteria: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 30%ile-40%ile, AIMSweb historical data, and performance in core classes.

Language Arts 8 - UNIVERSAL CORE INSTRUCTION

Eighth grade language arts emphasize the four areas of language arts: writing, reading, speaking and listening. In writing, the primary emphasis is on the writing process, leading to the 5-paragraph literary essay and a fully annotated term paper. The principles of grammar, mechanics, spelling and usage are taught to facilitate the writing process. Reading again focuses on vocabulary and comprehension with exposure to various genres, literary techniques and terminology. Group work and individual presentations are the main emphasis in speaking. Listening skills are developed as a vital part of all learning.

Language Arts 8 -Gifted and/or Enriched - ADVANCED CORE Provides the same structure as Language Arts 8 instruction with increased opportunities for differentiation in the areas of acceleration, depth, complexity, challenge and creativity. Placement criteria: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 80%ile and above, prior ability and achievement testing, AIMSweb historical data, and performance in core classes.

Mathematics

Math Support - TARGETED INSTRUCTION This course is combined with a core math course and assists students with meeting or exceeding grade level expectations. Through differentiated, small group pre and post-teaching opportunities, students will develop strategies through instruction, practice and assessment of the most essential Common Core State Standards math skills (e.g. statistics, number fluency, geometry, measurement, pattern and algebra and probability). Placement criteria: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 35%ile and below, AIMSweb historical data, and performance in core classes.

Math 8 - UNIVERSAL CORE Students will continue to practice and improve their number sense, measure sense, and estimation skills, review and extend their arithmetic, calculator, and thinking skills by working with fractions, decimals, percents, large and small numbers, and negative numbers. Students will study variable,

expressions, equations, multiple representations of data, and other algebra topics. Students will extend their understanding of geometry, including transformation and two and three dimensional figures, and their knowledge of probability and statistics. Students will also investigate the uses of mathematics outside the classroom. Successful completion of Math 7 and Math 8 will prepare a student to take Algebra I in high school.

Algebra I - ADVANCED CORE This course reviews and extends the use and understanding of the fundamental operation on real numbers as well as expressing quantitative statistics in the language of algebra and solving equations and inequalities. The second semester covers factoring polynomials, the use of rational expressions in equations, coordinate graphing, irrational numbers and the solution of simple quadratic equations. Students successfully completing Algebra will be placed in Geometry as a freshman.

Geometry- ADVANCED CORE This course covers the study of plane and three dimensional geometry. There is an emphasis on clarity and precision of language and the logical development of geometric principles in deductive reasoning and proof. This will include work with points, lines, planes, angles, congruent triangles, circles, polygons, and transformations. Prerequisite: Algebra I.

Science

Science 8 - UNIVERSAL CORE This is an integrated thematic program that teaches science the way it really is – a study of nature in which common principles operate in relationship to one another. Our program seamlessly interweaves major scientific disciplines such as life science, earth science, chemistry, physics and space science into a thematic framework. The program encourages technological and computer literacy as well as keeping abreast of scientific innovations. Students are required to plan, research and create a major term paper that sharpens and reinforces their intellectual skills. Students are encouraged to participate in the Science Olympiad, Alaska Science Fair, and other mentally stimulating competitions. Hands/minds-on activities are provided throughout the year.

Science 8 -Gifted and/or Enriched - ADVANCED CORE provides the same structure as Science 8 instruction with increased opportunities for differentiation in the areas of acceleration, depth, complexity, challenge and creativity. Placement criteria: Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) reading scores 80%ile and above, prior ability and achievement testing, gifted certification, AIMSweb historical data, and performance in core classes.

Social Studies

Social Studies 8: This course is an introduction to the various areas that a student may study in the senior high school social studies program. Such areas as anthropology, psychology, economics, and government will be examined in an exploratory manner; current development in these areas will be integral to the course. Multicultural perspectives and issues will be infused throughout the course.

Specialized courses are available to those students who qualify for Special Ed. or Gifted Ed. services. You will be automatically registered for these courses if you are currently in one of these programs.

8th Grade Elective Descriptions 2018-2019

Physical Education/Health

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH (Integrated):

Physical Education is a curriculum that emphasizes life span fitness and the latest development in Sports Science. Traditional team sports such as basketball, volleyball, and soccer are offered as well as recreational units such as ping pong, dancing, and pickleball. Anatomy, cardiovascular fitness, sports nutrition, and basic exercise physiology are infused into instruction. Running, aerobics, strength training and personal fitness planning units are also integrated throughout.

The health portion of this class is designed to help students explore the human environment, including interpersonal relationships, personal decision making, and understanding emotions, mental health, anatomical and physiological aspects of sexual development and behavior, drug use, preparation for medical emergencies, nutrition and physical fitness, and personal hygiene, violence as a public health issue, parenting, personal safety, and related issues.

Electives (Year Long)

Band Advanced: Prerequisite is previous band experience or director approval. A sequel to intermediate band for those students wishing to continue their musical growth in a basically performance-oriented setting. Includes study of music theory and history relevant to the music being learned and continued work on more advanced technique of the instrument. Annual performance includes a minimum of two school concerts and festival. Participation in solo/ensemble festival also possible. Placement dependent upon band director's approval. Home practice is required.

Choir Advanced: Advanced Choir is designed for students who have considerable singing experience. A challenging class - this ensemble will be expected to perform multiple concerts throughout the school year which may involve several performances community-wide. Open to audition for boys and girls, the Advanced Choir is designed for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. Members will also be performing all songs prepared in the Intermediate Choir. Students wishing to join must audition

Choir Intermediate: This class is designed for students who wish to explore the art of singing or continue membership in a vocal performance ensemble. Emphasis will be the basics of proper singing technique: posture, breathing, pronunciation, quality tone production, and projection. Music theory and history will be introduced as well as song in multiple languages. Multiple performances will be presented in this yearlong course including festivals and special appearances. All singers have the option of participating in our annual out-of-state spring tour if and when a tour is approved. Students may participate in solo/ensemble with permission of instructor. Open to all levels of singing and both grade levels.

French B: Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing of French. Thematic topics such as courtesy expressions, home, school, city, country, animals, nature, transportation, careers, nationalities and geography are continued. Communicative activities in French will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further development of their oral fluency and written language skills. More in-depth studies of French and Francophone cultures as well as grammatical structures are done

to assist students in building a strong foundation for entry into the high school French II course. Prerequisite is the successful completion of French A.

Orchestra Advanced: This class is a sequel to String Ensemble for students wishing to continue their musical growth in a basically performance-oriented setting. (Advanced seventh graders may audition for this mostly eighth grade class.) Less individual help is given than in String Ensemble. Private lessons are highly desirable and strongly recommended. It is preferred that students enrolling in this class have had some experience in third position. Annual performances include two evening school concerts, three assemblies, an area festival, a solo/ensemble festival for selected students, a tour to surrounding elementary schools, and a mall performance. Auditions are held in the fall for the even more advanced double quartets. Students should provide their own violins and violas. Cellos will be available for school use. (Another cello should be obtained for home practice.) String basses are provided by the school. Entrance to this class is by audition or orchestra teacher recommendation.

Spanish B: Students continue to develop and expand their proficiency in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing of Spanish. Thematic topics such as courtesy expressions, food, clothing, the body, nature, transportation, careers, nationalities and geography are continued. Communicative activities in Spanish will involve students in a variety of practical situations for further independent development of their oral fluency and written language skills. There is a more in-depth study of Spanish grammatical structures as well as language and culture to assist students in building a strong foundation for entry into the high school Spanish II course. Prerequisite: Spanish 1A (C or higher) or pass the Spanish A comprehensive final exam with 80% or higher.

Communications / Announcements: This course will introduce students to a variety of broadcast technologies as well as communication skills. Students will be producing and anchoring not only daily school-wide announcements, but also video clips including interviews and human interest stories, and short documentaries. Skills being emphasized include: public speaking, interviewing, storyboard organization, video technology, and basic communication skills. Students will be selected for the class through an interview process. ***Application required and can be found on GV website.**

Electives (Semester Long)

Aide Positions: (semester) Office: An office aide performs a wide variety of assigned duties in the front office. These duties include the collecting of attendance, delivery of call slips, messages and filing. Regular attendance and 3.0 grade point average is required. Signature is required by office staff on elective choice form. **Teacher:** Aides are selected by individual teachers. Teacher aides assist teachers in filing materials, bulletin board preparation and various other duties. Grades are based on attendance, attitude and performance. Teacher signature required on elective choice form.

Alaska Driver: (semester) In this class students will explore road and driving safety for various vehicles. The skills/knowledge acquired will support learner permit basics. Students will be expected to complete a series of written assignments on various topics. The Alaska State Division of Motor Vehicles Manual will serve as the "textbook." This is a non-driving course. Final exam is administered at the end of the course.

8th Grade Elective Descriptions 2018-2019

Applied Tech: (semester) In this course students will learn about how to use technology to solve problems, design projects, and create products. Projects are assigned and students are challenged to design solutions by using information, teamwork, technology, and their creativity. Solutions will be constructed using a variety of materials, hand tools, power tools, and computerized equipment. Some examples of projects include CO2 dragsters, air foil design, bridge construction, egg drop design, computer aided drafting, power boat construction, and many, many more. Projects will be different for each semester.

Art Expanded: (semester) Art Expanded covers a variety of art disciplines including: drawing, painting, ceramics, collage, printmaking, and sculpture. Every semester, there is a basic introduction to drawing and shading, color concepts, and the *Elements and Principles* of art and design. Students will keep a sketchbook, in which they will practice drawing techniques, record relevant information, and plan for more involved projects. Five weeks of each semester are spent working with clay. After learning the basics, students will work on several projects designed to challenge their creative problem solving skills and their technical skills within the medium. This class is appropriate for serious artists, but also for those students who would just like to learn more about the art making process and have a fun, creative outlet during their school day. No prior art experience required, and this class can be taken multiple times; the projects are not repeated.

Art Advanced: (semester) Advanced Art class is designed for dedicated artists who are creative, hardworking, and passionate about visual art. The course is geared toward students who have completed Art Expanded, at least once, and are looking for a challenge. As in Art Expanded, we will cover a variety of art disciplines including: drawing, painting, ceramics, collage, printmaking, and sculpture, however, we will be exploring these in further depth. Students are required to keep a sketchbook as evidence of growth in drawing and visual thinking throughout the semester. We will spend four to five weeks at the end of each semester working with clay. Advanced Art students are expected to demonstrate depth of thought, creative problem solving skills, as well as skill with media.

Business Education: (semester) Be a part of a developing a small GV business! This class will use creativity, planning, marketing, sales, organization, and leadership to start an actual business at Goldenview with guidance from Junior Achievement.

Computer Technology: (semester) Computer Technology is an introduction to coding and programming languages in self-guided online coursework through Google's Computer Science Courses. Once the basics have been introduced, students will apply coding to robotics. Students will build, maintain, and program robots. Students will then be introduced to drones. Student will learn the fundamentals of flight and programming drones. The course is designed to introduce students to practical, exciting applications of computing languages.

Creative Writing: (semester) Creative Writing explores different genres of writing, through both reading and writing, as well as the other necessary elements needed to improve writing and composition skills. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas. Writing genres covered are journaling, fiction and non-fiction, and light journalism. The course will culminate in the creation of an audio podcast with recordings of student written stories.

Debate: (semester) If you are competitive and like to argue, this class is for you! Students in this elective will choose topics, research evidence and give persuasive speeches. The research, writing, and practicing will be done mostly during class, though some out of school time will be necessary. A willingness to research, write, and speak is necessary.

Family & Consumer Science: (semester) This course is designed for students to work in small groups and individually to explore all areas of the family and consumer sciences: food preparation and nutrition, care giving, textile creations and clothing care, living environments, personal finances, strictly personal issues and careers. Technology in the home and organizational management will be integrated into the studies. Students will complete activities that include research and a variety of hands-on and computer activities.

Forensics-Science Seminar: (semester) GV CSI Crime Lab! This class is primarily lab-based involving aspects of Forensic Science. In this class, we analyze hair samples, bullet striations, bite marks, tire and foot prints, DNA, glass fragments, ink, and much more. Students will scientifically investigate crime scenes by collecting and analyzing data, performing experiments, determining the validity of tests, and forming conclusions based off of the evidence and facts collected. If you love science, experimenting, and solving mysteries, this class is for you.

Guitar-Beginning: (semester) This class will introduce students to the traditional 6 string acoustic guitar. **This class is for the beginning guitarist.** In this class, the student will learn how to apply basic musical concepts, such as rhythm, harmony, and melody to the guitar. Concepts taught will include tuning, note reading, strumming, and chord reading. Student must provide his/her own **acoustic guitar**, set of strings and guitar picks.

Law Studies: (semester) This course is patterned after the Anchorage Youth Court. Students will be trained in court procedure and specific positions. Enrichment field trips are scheduled for the crime lab and courthouse.

Literature Book Club: (semester) Students who love to read for fun but are just too busy should sign up for this alternative elective. Book Club membership includes: being surrounded by a variety of exciting books, spending time in the library, seeing what's new in the publishing world via the Internet, talking about good books with others who love to read, writing a weekly journal entry, and participating in special literacy events. There is no outside homework in this class.

Math Student Tutor: (semester) Math tutors are selected by individual math teachers. Tutors will assist students individually or in small groups, helping them improve their **math** skills. Tutors will help with re-teaching concepts, homework completion and test preparation. Student math tutors will work directly with math students in a lower math class. Grades are based on attendance, attitude and performance. Math teacher signature is required on elective choice form.

Percussion Ensemble: (semester) Percussion Ensemble offers music students the opportunity to play traditional and non-traditional percussion instruments in a group setting. Basic drum rudiments will be taught in addition to mallet percussion techniques. A wide variety of instruments will be performed including the snare drum, drum set, xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, including non-traditional instruments such as trashcans,

8th Grade Elective Descriptions 2018-2019

brooms, chairs, and wooden poles. This group is offered by teacher approval only. Students need to have prior music experience.

Science Projects (semester): This class is for you if you enjoy making things, working with others, and being a part of friendly competition! You will be given a task to do and materials to use for building your project. You and your talented partners will design and test your project then compete against other teams. Come ready to share ideas and think creatively!

Strategies of Success: (semester) This elective is designed to assist students who are struggling in their core classes. Through careful monitoring of daily assignments and assistance from a core team teacher, students will learn to organize, manage time more efficiently, prioritize daily work, and plan for long-term assignments. Students will also learn a variety of study skills to apply in all of their classes.

Student Government: (semester) School spirit! Community Spirit! This elective provides students with the opportunity to identify and implement projects that benefit the school and community. Each week students will be involved in a formal meeting to brainstorm, discuss and ultimately implement project ideas that will benefit our school and community. Come ready to get involved and bring ideas.

Suns Café (School Business Partnership): (semester) Learn how to run a real business! Students learn interviewing, budget and advertising methods and are each given a specific job title; they fill out time sheets, are responsible for daily ledger entries, and actually work in the café before school. Revenues from sales are used for community service projects that the class selects, such as books for the homeless, funds for Science Olympiad, canned foods for one of the food banks, etc.

Video Production: (semester) This course is designed for students to learn proper techniques for filming video and editing video and photos. Students will use a variety of editing software such as Adobe Premiere Pro, Photoshop and iMovie. Students will also learn how to properly use an SD card, a video camera, a point-and-shoot camera and a tripod.