



Middle School Course Guide

2012-2013

Comal Independent School Guide

Middle School Course Guide

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District Mission Statement

The mission of the Comal Independent School District is to provide extensive learning opportunities for all students to ensure they become contributing members of our society.

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A special thanks to all Counselors and Support Staff who contributed to the update and revision of this document.

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General Information

Middle School Information

Comal ISD's (CISD) middle schools serve students in grades 6-8. CISD provides middle school students a well-balanced, rigorous curriculum that **meets and exceeds** the requirements set forth by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

A key focus of the CISD middle school academic program is to make certain all students are prepared for the high school curriculum by focusing on the attainment of the essential skills in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

In addition to certain required courses, students may choose optional courses (electives) in fine arts, languages other than English, technology education, career exploration, and physical education. Elective course offerings may vary from school to school based upon student requests and staff availability.

College and Career Readiness Curriculum (CCRC)

CISD is deeply committed to equitable access to rigorous academic experiences. Thus, the District supports College Board's premise that all students can perform at rigorous academic levels. Addressed effectively, the middle and high school years can provide a powerful opportunity to help all students acquire the knowledge, concepts, and skills needed to engage in a higher level of learning. Systems of support for accelerated and enriched learning are a key component for ensuring all students receive a high-quality instructional program of study.

The instructional program delivered at each middle school is based on the official curriculum defined by the state, known as the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS), developed in collaboration between TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). These learning standards are designed to represent a full range of knowledge and skills that students need to succeed in entry-level college courses, as well as in a wide range of majors and careers. By implementing these required standards, our schools will advance the mission of Texas to develop college and career ready students.

All core academic teachers at the middle school receive training through Laying the Foundations and/or AP Institutes. These professional development opportunities equip teachers with the strategies and tools they need to engage their students in active, high-level learning, thereby

ensuring that every student develops the skills, habits of mind, and concepts they need to succeed in post-secondary opportunities.

High School Credit Opportunities

The expectation of the district is that each middle school student will leave 8th grade with a minimum of 1 high school credit. High school courses offered at the middle school include Art I, PE, Theater I, Speech, Health, Algebra I, Principles of Human Services, Principles of Manufacturing, Social Studies Research Methods, and G/T Independent Study Mentorship (ISM). Grades earned in these classes will be calculated using the high school grading guidelines and will be applied towards high school GPA and rank, if applicable.

Alternative Credit Opportunities

Credit by Examination for Acceleration

Students may take exams offered by the University of Texas or Texas Tech University for courses in which no prior instruction has been received. A score of 90 must be achieved in order to receive credit for the course. Test dates will be published in the spring and fall. Credit by examination for acceleration may be attempted a maximum of two times in each course. Students should contact a counselor for registration information.

The following courses are approved for Credit by Examination for Acceleration:

Grade 6

English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science

Grade 7

English Language Arts, Math, Texas History, and Science

Grade 8

English Language Arts, Math, US History, Science, Spanish, Health (for HS Credit), and Speech (for HS Credit).

Credit by Examination with Prior Instruction

A student must have had prior formal instruction in a semester course to be eligible to gain credit by examination. A score of 70 or above is required on the credit by examination test. Credit by exam may be attempted two times in the same course. Some fees may apply.

Correspondence Courses

Students may use distance learning courses, including correspondence courses, as a means of earning credit in a subject or course. In order to receive credit, a student shall obtain approval from the principal or designee prior to enrollment in the course.

Grading and Evaluation

Report cards will be issued every nine weeks throughout the school year. In addition to report cards, the school will mail interim progress reports every three weeks.

Grade Conversion

The following numerical values will be used for letter grades transferred to the school:

A+ = 97	B+ = 87	C+ = 79	D+ = 74	F ≤ 69
A = 94	B = 84	C = 77	D = 72	
A- = 90	B- = 80	C- = 75	D- = 70	

Home School/Non Accredited Private School

A student returning to public middle school from home schooling or a non-accredited private school will need to demonstrate mastery of basic skills up to the grade level to which he/she is assigned. Students will be given a credit by exam assessment offered by the University of Texas or Texas Tech University.

Promotion Policy

To be promoted from Grade 6 to Grade 7, Grade 7 to Grade 8, and Grade 8 to Grade 9, students must meet all the following criteria:

1. Earn a yearly average of 70 or above in each of the subjects of English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science or Social Studies.
2. Earn an overall average of 70 when all subjects taken are averaged together.
3. Meet the 90 percent state-mandated requirement for attendance.
4. 8th graders must pass STAAR Math and Reading for promotion.

State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR)

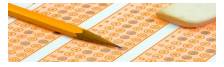
The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) will replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS), which is the criterion-referenced assessment program that has been in place since 2003. STAAR includes the 12 high school end-of-course (EOC) assessments mandated by SB 1031 in 2007 and the new grade 3–8 assessments mandated by HB 3 in 2009. The new tests will be implemented in the 2011–2012 school year and are **more rigorous than TAKS, with a greater emphasis on alignment to college and career readiness standards.**

The following tests are required at each grade level:

6th Grade: Math and Reading

7th Grade: Math, Reading, and Writing

8th Grade: Math*, Reading, Science, and Social Studies



(*Note: Students taking Algebra I or Geometry in 8th grade will be required to take the 8th Grade STAAR test along with the corresponding EOC Math test. In accordance with SB 1031, a student's score on each EOC assessment will be worth 15% of the student's final grade for that course.)

6th Grade Course Options

All 6th grade middle school students will attend the following classes:

ELA	Daily
Math	Daily
Science	Daily
Social Studies	Daily
Wellness: PE	Daily
(1) Elective	Daily
Computer Applications	Daily (1 Semester)
Youth Leadership	Daily (1 Semester)

7th Grade Course Options

All 7th grade middle school students will attend the following classes:

ELA	Daily
Math	Daily
Science	Daily
Social Studies	Daily
PE/Athletics	Daily
(1) Elective	Daily
Exploring Careers	Daily (1 Semester)
(1) Additional Semester Elective	Daily (1 Semester)

8th Grade Course Options

All 8th grade middle school students will attend the following classes:

ELA	Daily
Math	Daily
Science	Daily
Social Studies	Daily
3 Electives	Daily

Note: Pursuant to HB 3, all middle school students must complete at least one fine arts course while in middle school. This requirement may be fulfilled during their 6th, 7th, and/or 8th grade school year.

Physical Education Requirement

State law requires that students complete at least 4 semesters (or 2 years) of Physical Education in grades 6-8. Students in middle school may fulfill the requirement for physical activity by:

- Taking a TEKS-based physical education class or a substitute approved by the District;
- Participating in a TEKS-based structured extracurricular activity or in an approved private or commercially sponsored physical activity program; or
- Participating in an Olympic-caliber physical activity program approved by the District.

Private or commercially-sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Student participation of at least five hours per week must be required. Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.

Olympic level participation and/or competition include a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intensive, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of exceptional quality. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one hour per day and may not miss any class other than physical education. The certified instructor must provide grades to the school each nine weeks.

Summer School

Students may attend an accredited summer school, provided that approval of the principal or counselor is obtained before enrolling. Summer school work can be used for the purpose of acceleration, making up work that has been failed during the regular term, or strengthening areas where a student is weak.



Course Descriptions For Students and Parents



Please Note:

Courses in this guide may not be available on all campuses or may not be offered in a given year. Other than required courses, courses may vary based on the number of student requests for the course.

6th Grade

English Language Arts (ELA) - 1162 **Full Year** **Grade: 6** **Prerequisite: None**

College and Career Readiness ELA for 6th grade is a course designed to stimulate students to engage in deeper levels of thinking and higher levels of reading comprehension and writing utilizing pre-AP strategies. Through the incorporation of Laying the Foundation strategies, students will strengthen their understanding of reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of the English language. Emphasis will be placed on developing students' skills in critical, analytical and creative thinking, close reading, grammar, and composition. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis.

English for Speakers of Other Languages - 1401, 1402, 1403 **Full Year** **Grade: 6** **Prerequisite: State and District Criteria**

ESOL is the language arts class for students for whom English is their 2nd language. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, grammar, usage, and spelling. Listening and speaking skills, composition, language usage, and visual literacy are also developed through the study of literature.

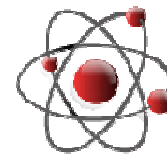
Mathematics - 2162 **Full Year** **Grade: 6** **Prerequisite: None**

College and Career Readiness Math for 6th grade is a course designed for all students that utilizes Pre-AP strategies to enhance the development of higher level thinking and problem-solving skills. Through the incorporation of Laying the Foundation strategies, students will use reasoning about multiplication and division to solve rate, ratio, and proportion problems, write mathematical expressions and equations, and derive and use formulas to connect the learning to real-world problem solving. Special emphasis is placed on problem-solving and applying concepts learned to real-world situations. This course will compact new and aligned TEKS within the 6th and 7th grade curriculum.

Science - 3162 **Full Year** **Grade: 6** **Prerequisite: None**

College and Career Readiness Science for 6th grade is a course designed for all students that utilizes Pre-AP strategies to enhance the development of critical and creative thinking skills. Through the incorporation of Laying the Foundation laboratories and project based

learning, students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on physical science. Topics of study include elements, compounds and mixtures, energy resources, potential and kinetic energy, energy transformations, force and motion, solar system and space exploration, taxonomic classifications and levels of organization in ecosystems. Students will learn about safe behaviors, puberty, and the reproductive system through the "Worth the Wait" curriculum. *Students are required to complete a project based on the ARASE guidelines but will not participate in the official (ie. campus, district, regional, state) science fair competition. They will have the opportunity to learn all aspects of building a quality project at an adjusted pace. Students will have the option to display their project at the end of the year at their campus.*



Social Studies - 4162 **Full Year** **Grade: 6** **Prerequisite: None**

College and Career Readiness Social Studies for 6th grade is designed for all students. The course utilizes Pre -AP strategies which develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed for higher level thinking. Students study people, places and societies of the contemporary world, the influence of individuals on events and the differing nature of citizenship. Students will identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. Students will compare institutions and the effects of technology on societies and identify different points of view about events. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed in the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. *Students are required to complete a project based on National/Texas History Fair guidelines but will not participate in the official (i.e. Campus, District, Regional, State and National) History Fair competition. They will have the opportunity to learn all aspects of building a quality project at an adjusted pace. Students will have the option to display their project at the end of the year at their campus.*

7th Grade

English Language Arts - 1172 **Full Year** **Grade: 7** **Prerequisite: None**

College and Career Readiness ELA for 7th grade is a course designed to develop an understanding for reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of the English language. Emphasis is placed on developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required

reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis.

English for Speakers of Other Languages - 1401, 1402, 1403

Full Year

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: *State and District Criteria*

ESOL is the language class for students for whom English is their 2nd language. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, grammar, usage, and spelling. Listening and speaking skills, composition, language usage, and visual literacy are also developed through the study of literature.



7th Grade Pre-Algebra - 2172

Full Year

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: *None*

College and Career Readiness Math for 7th grade is a course designed for all students that utilizes Pre-AP strategies to enhance the development of higher level thinking and problem-solving skills. This course covers mathematical knowledge and skills leading to 8th grade algebra and subsequent advanced mathematics courses at the high school. This course reviews arithmetic procedure and begins a student's investigation of algebraic concepts.

Students will use linear equations to represent real-world situations, and develop an understanding of slope as rate of change. They will increase fluency in number, operation and quantitative reasoning; analyze 2- and 3-dimensional space and uses of statistical data; and develop and describe geometric and mathematical patterns all leading to sustainable algebraic thinking.

Science - 3172

Full Year

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: *None*

College and Career Readiness Science for 7th grade is a course designed for all students that utilizes Pre-AP strategies to enhance the development of critical and creative thinking skills. Through the incorporation of Laying the Foundation laboratories and project based learning, students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on organisms and the environment. Topics of study include the flow and conservation of energy through living systems, force, motion, and energy observed in living systems and the environment, Earth and space phenomena, relationships between living organisms and their environment, genetics, plant and animal cell structures, and human body systems. Students will be engaged in relevant and rigorous hands-on laboratory investigations that emphasize process skills, such as experimental design, and use tools and technology to collect, record, and analyze data. In addition, students will learn about safe behaviors, puberty, and the reproductive

system through the "Worth the Wait" curriculum. Students may choose to independently complete a science fair project based on the ARASE guidelines and to participate in the science fair competition.

Texas History - 4172

Full Year

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: *None*

College and Career Readiness Texas History for 7th grade is designed for all students. The course utilizes Pre -AP strategies which develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed for higher level thinking. Students will study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Areas of study will include Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras.



Students identify the regions of Texas and describe the structure and functions of government. Students will examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens, identify different ethnic groups who contributed to Texas culture, and analyze the impact of science and technology on the development of Texas in various industries. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed in the TEKS. Students may choose to independently complete a history fair project based on the NHD guidelines and to participate in history fair competition.

8th Grade

English Language Arts - 1181

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

Students will develop an understanding for reading, writing, research, listening, speaking, and the oral and written conventions of the English language. Students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. In addition, students will continue to address earlier standards as needed while they attend to standards for their grade level. Students will be expected to read and write on a daily basis. (*Note: Beginning in 2013-14, 8th grade ELA will transition to the college and career readiness curriculum*)

Pre-AP English Language Arts - 1182

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

Pre-AP curriculum serves as the foundation for the Advanced Placement Program. Emphasis is placed on

developing critical and creative thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. Summer reading will be required. *(Note: Beginning in 2013-14, 8th grade ELA will transition to the college and career readiness curriculum)*

English for Speakers of Other Languages - 1401, 1402, 1403

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *State and District Criteria*

In eighth grade, ESOL students continue to develop skills in listening, speaking, composition, language, literature, and visual literacy. Spelling, vocabulary, grammar, usage, and mechanics are all integral parts of the program. Emphasis is placed on the writing process and improving reading comprehension.



8th Grade Pre-Algebra - 2181

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

This course reviews arithmetic procedure and begins a student's investigation of algebraic concepts.

Students will use linear equations to represent real-world situations, and develop an understanding of slope as rate of change. They will increase fluency in number, operation and quantitative reasoning; analyze 2- and 3-dimensional space and uses of statistical data; and develop and describe geometric and mathematical patterns all leading to sustainable algebraic thinking. *(Note: Beginning in 2013-14, 8th grade mathematics will transition to the college and career readiness math configuration.)*



Algebra I - 2191

HS Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**

Prerequisite: *Successful completion of 7th Grade Pre-Algebra OR demonstrated ability according to District criteria*

Algebra I will expand students' understanding of number, operation, and quantitative reasoning; patterns, relationships, and algebraic thinking; geometry; measurement; and probability and statistics. Special emphasis is placed on problem solving and application of skills and concepts. Students will also be instructed in the

use of the graphing calculator. **Upon successful completion, this course grants high school credit, which may be applied toward one of the four required high school math courses. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA and class rank.**

Science - 3182

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

College and Career Readiness Science for 8th grade is a course designed for all students that utilizes Pre-AP strategies to enhance the development of critical and creative thinking skills. Through the incorporation of Laying the Foundation laboratories and project based learning, students analyze real-world situations through scientific problem solving. Concepts covered are interdisciplinary in nature with a focus on earth and space science. Topics of study include properties of matter and chemical reactions, relationship between forces and motion explained by Newton's three laws, cycles within the Sun, Earth, and Moon systems (seasons, tides, lunar phases, origin of universe, plate tectonics, topographic maps, interaction of solar, weather, and ocean systems, interactions within ecosystems, and environmental changes. Students will be engaged in relevant and rigorous hands-on laboratory investigations that emphasize process skills, such as experimental design, and use tools and technology to collect, record, and analyze data. In additions, students will learn about safe behaviors, puberty, and the reproductive system through the "Worth the Wait" curriculum. Students may choose to independently complete a science fair project based on the ARASE guidelines and to participate in the science fair competition.

US History - 4182

Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

College and Career Readiness U.S. History for 8th grade is designed for all students. The course utilizes Pre -AP strategies which develop the skills, habits of mind, and concepts needed for higher level thinking. Students study the history of the United States from colonization through Reconstruction. Students analyze political, economic, religious and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges of the early Republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction. Students examine the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on how and where Americans lived, the American beliefs and principles reflected in historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution, the effects of major Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of science and technology on the development of the U.S. A wide variety of primary and secondary source material is used to teach the strands of knowledge and skills listed in the

TEKS. Students may choose to independently complete a history fair project based on the NHD guidelines and to participate in history fair competition.

ELECTIVES - CONTENT COURSE DESCRIPTIONS for 6th - 8th Grade

Electives will be offered subject to minimum enrollment and teacher availability.

English Elective

Communications Applications (Speech) - 1291

HS Credit: 1/2, Semester **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: None

This course focuses on understanding and developing skills in oral communication. Using technological resources, students will be expected to identify, analyze, develop, and evaluate communication skills needed for success in interpersonal, social, and academic situations.

Communications Applications is a high school credit Speech course. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA.

FINE ARTS

Art, Beginning – 6101, 6106

Semester or Full Year **Grade: 6 - 7**
Prerequisite: None

Beginning Art is a creative performance class designed to help develop perception, expression, historical heritage, and critical evaluation through the following activities: drawing, design, painting, sculpture, and crafts. A list of needed supplies to be purchased by the student is furnished for each student at the beginning of this course.

Art, Intermediate – 6102, 6126

Semester or Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**
Prerequisite: Beginning Art

Intermediate Art is designed to further inventive and imaginative expression through the following activities: drawing, design, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and crafts. Art II helps develop visual judgment, critical thinking, and awareness of creative job opportunities. A list of needed supplies to be purchased by the student is furnished for each student at the beginning of this course.



Art I - 6191

HS Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**

Prerequisite: None. *Art fees are assessed

Students may fulfill fine arts or elective requirements for HS graduation by successfully completing this course. Art I encompasses a wide variety of experiences, from elements and principles of art to art history. Students are exposed to a variety of media both two and three dimensional; pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, tempera, watercolor, clay, and printmaking. Some media may vary. The goal is for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of art. **This course is for High School credit. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA.**

Band I - 6201

Full Year

Grade: 6

Prerequisite: None

This course is the beginning study of instrumental music. A rental fee is charged to offset any repair costs on instruments owned by the school district.



Band II - 6202, 6203

Full Year

Grade: 7 - 8

Prerequisite: District recommendation

Grades 7 and 8 Band are full year courses of the study of instrumental music. There are several concert performances, parade performances, and competitions in solo and ensemble each year. These band members perform individually at concerts and may compete at the University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading Competition in the spring. Attendance at rehearsals and all after-school performances is required. A rental fee is charged to offset any repair costs on instruments owned by the school district. The Director assigns course numbers based on student ability.

Choir I - 6301

Full Year

Grade: 6

Prerequisite: None

The primary focus of choral music is to instruct students in the basic skills of voice production, choral technique, and musicianship in order to sing as a performing group. Sight-reading, voice control, harmony, and ear training are emphasized. Choral Music serves as an initial study of vocal music.

Choir II – 6302, 6303

Full Year

Grade: 7 - 8

Prerequisite: None

The choir director assigns the course number as appropriate for the student. The primary focus of choral music is to instruct students in the basic skills of voice production, choral technique, and musicianship in order to sing as a performing group. Sight-reading, voice control, harmony, and ear training are emphasized.

These choir members perform individually at concerts and may compete at the University Interscholastic League Concert and Sight-Reading Competition in the spring. Attendance at rehearsals and all after-school performances is required. Choral Music (Choir) serves as an initial study of voice music or as a continuation of previous year studies.

Theatre Arts, Beginning - 6601
Semester or Full Year **Grade: 6 - 7**
Prerequisite: *None*

Theatre Arts I encourages self-expression through a study of pantomime, interpretive speaking, and dramatic interpretation. Facets of producing a one-act play including staging, property maintenance, lighting, and acting are introduced in this course.

Theatre Arts, Intermediate- 6602
Semester or Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**
Prerequisite: *None*

These advanced level courses emphasize in-depth development of the individual actor and the honing of performance skills. It focuses on the presentation of a final dramatic production.



Theatre Arts I - 6691
HS Credit: 1, Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: *None*

This course will focus on performance. Special emphasis will be given to character development, voice, diction, and body control. This course will begin the study of theatre history and acting styles. Directing will be studied. All aspects of production from a technical standpoint (set design, lights, sounds and etc.) will be explored. This course requires extended rehearsals with some after school, nights and weekends. **This course is for High School credit. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Athletics - Boys: 7171, 7181; Girls 7271, 7281
Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**
Prerequisite: *Sports Physical*

Athletic Physical Education may include football, basketball, volleyball, track and field, golf, and tennis. Some of the sports meet before or after school. These students also participate in strength and conditioning activities during off-season to enhance their opportunities for success in seasonal competition.

Attendance at all practices and competitions is required. Students must have a physical examination by a medical doctor to participate in competitive athletics.

Health - 7691
HS Credit: 1/2, Semester **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: *None*

Health is a study of the care of the body and its systems, as well as the relationship of personal behavior to wellness. Some topics covered are consumer health, nutrition, sex education for family living, use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and drugs, and growth and development. Community health, environmental studies, disease, fitness, first aid and safety are also studied. **This course yields high school credit. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA.**

Wellness: Physical Education – 7000's
Full Year **Grade: 6-7**
Prerequisite: *None*

Students will continue to improve and develop their fitness knowledge and level through a variety of individual and team sports and activities. All activities are designed to improve their personal fitness level and acquire health and fitness information necessary to become healthy and active adults. State fitness testing will also be included in this course. Students are required to dress out in campus specific fitness attire. Grades are based on participation, skills, and written tests.

Foundations of Personal Fitness – 7391
HS Credit: 1/2-1, Semester/Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: *None*

Foundation of Personal fitness provides students with a range of knowledge and skills that will enable them to understand the importance of an active lifestyle and to design effective and appropriate fitness programs throughout their lives. This course will include a wide range of individual, team, outdoor and recreational activities and sports. **This course yields high school credit. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA.**

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Exploring Agriculture - 8181
Semester **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: *None*

This comprehensive basic agriculture course is designed to introduce the areas of agriculture. The course includes leadership activities, communications, and animal science.



Exploring Careers - 9271

Semester

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: *None*

This course is an activity-based career development course which provides linkages between classroom experiences, community resources, and career choices to real world outcomes. Opportunities to develop and/or improve self-awareness in relation to career opportunities and options and related education, training and lifelong learning, and success in all adult roles will be provided through classroom activities and job shadowing experiences in the community. Opportunities to explore a variety of career options within a specific career concentration will be provided to all participants. Each student will develop a six year plan to include opportunities to plan for and earn dual credit while in high school.

Skills for Living - 8401

Semester

Grade: 7

Prerequisite: *None*

This is an activity based course providing students with practical information in the areas of personal development, family and community responsibilities, parent-child relationships, food and nutrition, clothing care and construction, housing, and career preparation. Students are required to apply academic learning toward the solutions of real-world responsibilities. This class is full of new and exciting information that you will find helpful during Middle School and high School as well as the rest of your life.

Principles of Human Services - 8191

HS Credit: 1/2-1, Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

Learn about life. Map out your future and start deciding what you want to do when you grow up. This comprehensive laboratory course enables students to investigate careers in the human services career cluster, including counseling and mental health, early childhood development, family and community, and personal care services. This introductory course provides practical information in the areas of self-discovery, relationships, consumer resource management, housing/interior design, child care and development, nutrition and food preparation, clothing selection and maintenance, and career preparation essential for becoming successful personally and in the work place. **This course yields high school credit. The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA.**

Technology Education (Shop) - 8501

Semester

Grade: 7-8

Prerequisite: *None*

An overview course designed to increase the student's understanding of the development and use of technology. The course provides an introduction to technology in the areas of bio-related technology, communication, computer applications, construction,

energy, power, transportation, and manufacturing. Using hands-on problem solving and creative activities, students develop an understanding of technology and its impacts. Activities in this course may include designing and making products, assessing technology, constructing models of buildings, using computers, investigating solar energy, and using tools and machines.

Principles of Manufacturing - 8791

HS Credit: 1/2-1, Full Year

Grade: 8

Prerequisite: *None*

This course is an introductory course **offered for HS credit**. Students will gain knowledge and skills in transforming raw materials into finished products. Students study common manufacturing tools, machines, materials, and processes. The class will include design, budget, marketing, production and sales of a product(s). Students will explore organizational structures as well as career opportunities available in manufacturing. **The grade earned will be factored into the student's high school GPA.**



LOCALLY DEVELOPED COURSES & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Science Research and Experimental Design - 3190

Fall Semester

Grade: 7-8

Prerequisite: *None*

In this course, students will choose a scientific problem for which they will design and execute a formal research project based on the ARASE guidelines:

<http://www.arase.org/student.html>. **Students will be required to participate in the science fair competition which will involve time commitments outside of the CISD academic calendar.** Students will be provided

ample guidance to conduct thorough research about their chosen topic and to complete all necessary and appropriate scientific forms prior to experimentation. Students will be actively engaged as they design a research plan and execute their experimental protocol. Students will also have the opportunity to use scientific equipment and probe ware in lab to collect, record, and analyze their data. Students will culminate the semester by displaying their research and results on a scientific tri-board as they prepare for the exciting science fair competitions. *For 8th grade students, course projects, if of professional quality and meeting the guidelines of the Independent Study Mentorship (ISM) Program, may earn HS Credit and meet the Advanced Measures requirement of the Distinguished Achievement Program. In this case, the student should register for the ISM class.*

Social Studies Research Methods - 4190
HS Credit: ½, Fall Semester **Grade: 7-8**
Prerequisite: None

In this course students with an interest in history and project based learning will choose historical topics related to an annual theme chosen. Students will be guided through the process of conducting extensive primary and secondary research that will lead to a quality project based on the National History Day guidelines. Work will be presented in original papers, websites, exhibits, performances or documentaries. Students will also have the opportunity to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, research and reading skills, written and presentation skills, self esteem and confidence and a sense of responsibility for the democratic process. **Students will be required to participate in history fair competitions which will involve time commitments outside of the CISD academic calendar.** Both 7th and 8th Grade students enrolled in this class will earn HS elective credit. For 8th grade students only, if the course project is of professional quality and meets the guidelines of the Independent Study Mentorship Program, the student may earn HS Credit and potentially an Advanced Measure toward the Distinguished Achievement Program. In this case, the student should register for the ISM class. For further information on the application process for ISM, please see your counselor.

G/T Independent Study Investigation Program Seminar (ISM) - 9191
HS Credit: ½ -1, Sem./Full Year **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: None

This course is based on the Exit Level *Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP)* for gifted/talented (G/T) students. It offers a non-traditional learning experience to those students who have the ability to create innovative products or performances. Students will work individually with a teacher/facilitator who will help them develop a topic for investigation; arrange field work/visits, interviews; and monitor their long-term projects. Students will develop a product proposal, compile a portfolio, conduct in-depth research, and prepare for a public presentation to be evaluated by an audience that includes experts in the field of study. The product is required to have real-world application and tangible documentation. Course projects, if of professional quality, may meet the Advanced Measures requirement of the Distinguished Achievement Program. **This course is not limited to identified GT students.** Any interested student is encouraged to take the course. Please contact your school counselor for further information and a program application. Information regarding the TPSP may be found at <http://texaspsp.org/>.



Critical Thinking through Cultural Awareness I - 9163
Full Year **Grade: 6**
Prerequisite: GT Identified

This class is designed to meet specific needs of identified Gifted and Talented students. Emphasis is on intellectual exploration and the development of critical thinking and problem solving through an appreciation of cultures. An enrichment curriculum integrates core content areas and explores the process of problem solving through both independent and team-based development of advanced projects. This class incorporates aspects of communication, character development and effective use of technology/resources. Assessment is based on both product quality and process skill.

Critical Thinking through Cultural Awareness II - 9173
Full Year/Semester **Grade: 7**
Prerequisite: GT Identified

This class is designed to meet specific needs of identified Gifted and Talented students. Students will continue to explore the process of critical thinking and problem solving and begin to implement and expand the process through an appreciation of cultures. Research skills and opportunities for creativity will be promoted. High level products and the process associated with critical thinking will be assessed.

Critical Thinking through Cultural Awareness III - 9183
Full Year/Semester **Grade: 8**
Prerequisite: GT Identified

This class is designed to meet specific needs of identified Gifted and Talented students. Students will apply the process of critical thinking and creative problem solving through an appreciation of cultures. The course requires high-level, independent and team-based cooperative experiences leading to the development of advanced products. **Students will be required to participate in the Texas Performance Standards Project in an area of their interest as a final product.**

Accelerated Math Strategies - 2569, 2579, 2589, 2509
Full Year **Grade: 6 - 8**
Prerequisite: Campus recommendation

The course is in addition to the grade level mathematics course. It is designed to assist students who have not performed well on the mathematics portion of STAAR. The course includes reviewing addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division; decimals; perfect squares; integers; mental math skills; estimation skills; and analysis of word problems. Placement in this course is by campus recommendation.

Accelerated Reading Strategies- 1569, 1579, 1589, 1509

Full Year **Grade: 6 - 8**

Prerequisite: *Campus recommendation*

This course is in addition to the grade level language arts course. It is designed for students who are reading below grade level. The course provides for individualized instruction, including Read 180, to meet each student's unique need in decoding, fluency, vocabulary development and comprehension.

Spanish, Exploratory - 1801

Semester **Grade: 7, 8**

Prerequisite: *None*

Exploratory Spanish introduces the students to the Spanish language and culture. Students learn through a variety of activities, including games, partner interaction, use of textbook, video programs, computer software, and audiotapes.



Introduction to Spanish - 1802

Full Year **Grade: 8**

Prerequisite: *None*

This course prepares students for Spanish I at the high school level. Students will build their Spanish vocabulary and develop basic communication skills in Spanish, as well as learn about the people, practices, products and perspectives of the various Spanish cultures.

Student Aide - 9281, 9282

Full Year/Semester **Grade: 8**

Prerequisite: *Administrator Approval*

A course designed to allow students the opportunity to learn responsibility through assisting educational professionals. Skills that may be learned are as follows: filing, phone etiquette, peer assistance, use of office equipment, communication skills, and others. Because confidentiality and quality of work are essential for this position, the student may not have a history of disciplinary infractions,

and will need a teacher recommendation and an administrator's approval.

Technology Applications/Multimedia - 5201
Semester **Grade: 6**

Prerequisite: *None*

Technology Applications/Multimedia focuses on the use of applications, including word processing, graphics, spreadsheets, databases, and communications, to introduce a broad spectrum of computer fundamentals. Additionally, students will learn to create multimedia presentations, learn the basics of creating and/or enhancing digitized computer art and animation, and accessing needed information from LAN's, and the Internet. In this class, students will implement various types of hardware and software to explore computer concepts. This course also provides the student with the history of the computer and the impact of the computer on society.

Yearbook - 1781

Full Year **Grade: 7 - 8**

Prerequisite: *Teacher Approval*

This course is designed for highly motivated, independent and creative individuals who wish to learn how to create and design a school yearbook using desktop publishing software. Students are asked to bring a 3 or more mega pixel digital camera, if they own one, for the lesson on photography.

Youth Leadership - 4201

Semester **Grade: 6**

Prerequisite: *None*

This class consists of 4 basic units of study:

- utilizing resources (Middle School transition, time management, study skills, multi-media tools);
- communication (building positive relationships and presenting information effectively);
- critical thinking and problem solving; and
- character development (anti-bullying, citizenship, and positive behavior development)

Notes:

Grade Level Classifications

Freshman	1st year	0-4.5 earned credits
Sophomore	2nd year (+) and	5-9.5 earned credits
Junior	3rd year (+) and	10-17.5 earned credits
Senior	4th year (+) and	18 earned credits

These classifications are based on the number of credits actually completed prior to registration. Students are not reclassified during the school year except for students who will graduate within the current school year.

Grade Point Average

The GPA is a cumulative average of all semester grades of all courses taken.

Class Rank

Official class standing reports shall be issued to students following each semester of high school of the regular school year. Class rank shall be determined using a weighted system that supports academic achievement and rigor. The report shall designate the position of each student relative to other students in the graduating class.

The position or rank shall be reported as “number (____) out of (____) students in graduating class.” Example: Student A is ranked number 6 out of 480 in graduating class.

Senior class ranking for the purpose of determining Valedictorian and Salutatorian is calculated at the end of the 4th nine weeks.

Please refer to Board Policy EIC Local for further details regarding the Calculation of Class Rank and Academic Honors for Seniors.

Distinguished Achievement Program

The Distinguished Achievement Program (DAP) recognizes students in CISD who:

- Demonstrate levels of performance equivalent to college students; or
- Demonstrate work done at a professional level in the arts, sciences, business, industry, or community service.

The Distinguished Achievement Program requires students to:

- Complete the graduation requirements for the Distinguished Achievement Graduation Plan; and
- Complete a total of four advanced measures from the following categories:

Advanced Measures

1. Original Research and /or Project which is:

- Judged by a panel of professionals in the field that is the focus of the project; or

- Conducted under the direction of mentor(s) and reported to an appropriate audience; and
- Related to the required curriculum set forth in §74.1 of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

(May not be used for more than two of the four measures)

2. Test data where a student receives:

- A score of three or above on a College Advanced Placement examination;
- A score of four or higher on an International Baccalaureate examination; or
- A score on the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) that qualifies a student for recognition as a Commended Scholar or higher by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, as part of the National Hispanic Scholar Program of the College Board, or as part of the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students. The PSAT score may count as only one advanced measure regardless of the number of honors received.

(May be used for all four measures)

3. College coursework/credit through the following means:

- Concurrent enrollment in a college course and a grade of 3.0 or higher;
- Approved dual credit courses where a student earns a grade of 80 or higher;
- Any Technical Preparation (Tech Prep) coherent sequence of courses offered by CISD in which the student earns an 80 or higher and/or receives specific certification or professional licensure;
- Advanced Technical Credit (ATC) courses offered by CISD. Student must be a junior or senior and earn a grade of 80 or higher

(May be used for all four measures)

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) and Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) Courses

Pre-AP courses at the high school include activities and strategies designed to engage students in active, high-level learning. Students will develop the skills, habit of mind, and concepts needed to succeed in college. Depth of material requires students to read and write extensively in and out of class. All students are encouraged to take at least one advanced academics course each year of their high school experience.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

AP Courses are developed by the College Board and are designed to provide college level studies for high school students using college level materials and strategies. Amount and depth of material require students to read and require students to develop advanced reasoning and problem solving skills.

AP and Pre-AP Grading Policies

Student performance is evaluated on rigorous standards appropriate for the grade and content of the course. Courses are weighted when figuring class rank; however, actual grades earned will appear on all report cards and transcripts. In order to receive weighted points at the semester for an AP or Pre-AP course, the student must be enrolled in the advanced course for the entire semester and fulfill all requirements for the course. If the course is dropped within a semester, the un-weighted grade transfers to the new class.

AP Examinations

Students enrolled in an AP course are **required** to take the corresponding AP examination in order to fulfill the requirements of the course to earn weighted points. The cost of exams is shared by the student and the district. Fees are greatly reduced for students with proven financial need as evidenced through the free or reduced lunch program. Please refer to Board Policy EIC Local, Exhibit C, for further details regarding AP requirements.

Should students take all Pre-AP or AP Classes?

Students are encouraged to challenge themselves but also to find a balance among advanced courses, extra-curricular activities, and outside activities. Students should not feel that they have to take all classes at the Pre-AP/AP level. The decision on the number of Pre-AP/AP classes should be an individual decision based on the schedule and interest of each student.

Credit Obtained through College Programs

Comal ISD (CISD) provides college level opportunities for credit. Students must meet eligibility and enrollment requirements at the participating college. To receive DAP credit, the grade must be a "B" or better.

- Dual Credit – Dual credit courses are college level courses that students can take for both high school graduation credit and college credit. All college level courses are not "dual credit" courses. CISD has analyzed college courses against the state curriculum and has determined which courses will be accepted as dual credit. This list may be obtained from the school counselor.
- Concurrent Enrollment – Concurrent enrollment courses are college courses students can take for college credit while enrolled in high school. Students should check with their high school counselor to determine if the concurrent course can be applied to high school graduation requirements. (Core subject courses should not be taken for concurrent enrollment.) Concurrent courses also count for DAP advanced measures.
- Credit in Escrow – A course that is part of a Tech-Prep Articulation Agreement is a credit-in-escrow course. The course is taken at the high school level and the student receives state graduation credit.

College credit is based on the articulation agreement with the respective college. For information on the Tech-Prep Articulation Agreements contact the school counselor.

Automatic Admission to Texas Public University for Top 10%

Top students in Texas are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas under state admissions policies. Under House Bill 588 passed by the 75th Legislature in 1997, students who are in the top 10 percent of their graduating class are eligible for automatic admission to any public university in Texas. However, SB 175 caps the number of students admitted under the top 10% law to 75% at UT Austin; thus, acceptance rates will vary. The acceptance rate for the class of 2013 will be the top 8%.

To be eligible for the top 10 percent automatic admission, a student must:

- Graduate in the top 10 percent of his/her class at a public or private high school in Texas;
- Enroll in college no more than two years after graduating from high school; and
- Submit an application to a Texas public university for admission before the institution's application deadline. Since deadlines vary, please check with the specific university to verify the application deadline.

Once a student is admitted, a university may review a student's high school records to determine if the student is prepared for college-level course work. A student who needs additional preparation may be required to take a developmental, enrichment, or orientation course during the semester prior to the first semester of college.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board was responsible for creating rules for this new admissions policy and adopted the "top 10 percent" rules in October 1997. For more information, see Appendix A.



