



# **COURSE CATALOG 2023-24**



**PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Jane Lathrop Stanford Middle School**

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**PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Jane Lathrop Stanford**  
**Middle School**



**COURSE CATALOG**  
**2023-24**  
***Grades 6, 7, 8***

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*Because of generous donations to Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE), we are able to offer a wide variety of electives for our students so each child can find one (or many) that spark their interest and inspire them to explore new subjects. Thank you, PiE donors, for making the choices listed here possible.*





# INTRODUCTION

## Middle School Course Overview Required Courses

*Guidance Department: 856-5182*

COURSES		
Grade 6*	Grade 7*	Grade 8*
English/Language Arts History/Social Studies Mathematics Science Flex Period**  Physical Education/Music (alternate days) Exploratory Wheel	English/Language Arts History/Social Studies Mathematics Science Physical Education  Elective Elective	English/Language Arts History/Social Studies Mathematics Science Physical Education  Elective Elective

\* All students will have Advisory.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This catalog must be produced before decisions about budget and staffing are finalized for the 2023-24 school year. Although we hope to offer all of these classes, we may have to cancel some. We will cancel any which do not have sufficient enrollment. It is **very important** that students indicate their first seven choices in the order desired.

**NOTE:** Students and their parents have several important decisions to make in planning a school program. No catalog can answer all of your questions, so don't hesitate to speak to your teacher or counselor to get more information or assistance.

**\*\*Flex Period.** The remaining class period in our sixth grade program is our "Flex Period". During this class period, students who have academic services take their classes. All other students remain with their homeroom teachers for support and enrichment opportunities.

Flex Period course offerings for sixth grade (\*subject to change)

- Academic Communication
- Academic Language Development
- Academic Planning
- Math Intervention
- Literacy Intervention
- EL support classes
- Tools to Thrive

# 6th Grade

## Required Courses

Sixth grade core (five periods of the day) covers the subjects of English/Language Arts, History/Social Studies, Science, and Math, and includes one Flex period. Teacher teams share responsibilities for curriculum in different ways.

### English 6

Following the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), sixth-grade students build their skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language. Students read and analyze texts of varying complexity, which may include novels, nonfiction books, articles, poetry, short stories, and plays. Students will also view and analyze multimedia sources. Throughout the school year, students write argumentative, narrative, and informative pieces (including literary analysis) with a focus on the organization of structured paragraphs. Students are introduced to responding to literature with clear claims, textual evidence, proper citation, and commentary/analysis. Students practice speaking and listening skills through structured class discussions, and individual and group presentations. Grammar and mechanics are taught within the context of writing. When writing or speaking, students will practice crafting effective phrases, clauses, and sentence structures and use vocabulary that suits the audience and purpose.

### History / Social Science 6

The 6th grade program focuses on the history and geography of ancient civilizations. The units of study commence with early humans and then transition from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to permanent settlements, and eventually to the building of ancient empires. The curricular units of study address the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Kush, Israel, India, China and Greece. Students will learn about the geographic, social, political, religious, and economic systems of these cultures. Students will investigate past to present connections as they learn that contemporary cultures are the descendants of earlier civilizations. By studying the characteristics of these civilizations, students will become more aware of, and learn to appreciate the ethnic and cultural diversity in our own society, and the contributions these diverse civilizations have made to our modern world. Following Common Core and State Standards, students will use a variety of activities to examine the content and build study skills, while simultaneously practicing historical thinking, inquiry, and writing skills.

### Mathematics 6 (Foundational Mathematics)

*FOUNDATIONAL MATHEMATICS* is the first year in a three-year accelerated math course sequence preparing students for high school Algebra in 8th grade. It extends student understanding and skill to compute with rational numbers (decimals, fractions, integers) and introduces algebraic and proportional reasoning. Many of the concepts and skills will have further reinforcement in a context requiring statistical and geometric (2D) reasoning.

The content of this course is a combination of California's Common Core State Standards from Grade 6, Grade 7, and Algebra. The areas of content focus are number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, two-dimensional geometry, and data analysis and statistics. Instruction is guided by *The 8 Mathematical Practice Standards*: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reason abstractly and quantitatively; model with mathematics; attend to precision; use appropriate tools strategically; look for and make use of structure; and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

In 6th grade, students are heterogeneously grouped. Extension and enrichment opportunities are available to all students. Information about the math pathways can be found at the district website.

## **Music / Physical Education**

During one period, sixth grade students have Music and Physical Education. Students make their music selection (band, choir or orchestra) during the spring of their fifth-grade year. Sixth grade music students continue to develop as musicians and performers. There is a focus on building a strong foundation using proper posture, breath control, tone production, and reading music. In addition, students perform several times a year.

The California Physical Education Model Content Standards emphasize working cooperatively to achieve a common goal, meeting challenges, making decisions, and working as a team to solve problems.

Here at JLS students are provided an introductory exposure to a wide variety of activities, including team sports, individual & dual sports, rhythms and aquatics. Additionally, students will focus on developing an appreciation for one's own physical fitness for lifelong recreational purposes. They will focus on sport-specific movement patterns and skills through cooperative activities and develop and maintain a level of physical fitness to improve health and performance. Students in sixth grade will be provided a minimum of 200 PE instructional minutes every 10 school days.

## **Science 6 Earth and Space Science**

This is a year-long, activity-based science course following the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Middle School. The course focuses on these NGSS topics: investigation and experimentation, Earth's Place in the Solar System, Earth's Systems (geology, weather, climate), and Earth and Human Activity. There is an emphasis on expository writing through individual and group work. In addition to the disciplinary core ideas, the NGSS cross-cutting concepts and science and engineering practices are explored

## **Exploratory Wheel**

The remaining period for 6th graders is the Exploratory Wheel. Students receive approximately five to six weeks of instruction in Art, Tools to Thrive, Computer Applications, Drama, Family and Consumer Science, Industrial Technology, and the Language Wheel. These courses will provide students with an introduction to courses which they may choose as electives in 7th and 8th grade.

### **Art**

The curriculum is an introduction to the 7th and 8th grade Art 1A, Art 1B, Multi-Media and Ceramics/Sculpture art classes. Students will create original artworks using a variety of materials and will bring home a portfolio of their work that will include:

- Proportional Figure Painting Students learn figure proportion and apply it to make a dynamic watercolor painting.
- Still-Life Drawing Impressionistic still-life drawings in oil pastel
- Sculpture Students create an expressive figure sculpture in Paper mâché.

### **Computers**

The Computer Wheel is designed as an introduction to the computer courses offered at JLS: Web 1A, Web 1B, Programming, Computer Keyboarding (Touch Typing). Units may include:

- Ergonomic Issues related to computer use health and safety
- Online Safety and Personal Security Issues
- Touch Typing Techniques
- Computer Graphics (Photoshop)
- The Study of Animation
- Introduction to Web Design (using HTML coding)
- Introduction to Computer Programming
- Introduction to Robotics
- Basic Computer Troubleshooting and Problem Solving
- Tour of the Video Broadcast Studio

### **Drama**

Through focus, improvisation, and collaboration, students develop as performers, writers and directors while they learn to use the lessons in class to produce shows of their own. Units include:

- Elements of the narrative “CROW”
- Basic stage terms and directions
- Audience awareness
- Character development
- Elements of conflict
- Working with sound, lights, props and costumes

### **Family and Consumer Science**

The JLS Family and Consumer Science wheel provides students with an introduction to the skills they will use as they grow and become more independent.

- Making Healthy Food Choices
- Kitchen Safety, Cleanliness, and Dishwashing
- Kitchen Tools and Measuring
- Following and Preparing Recipes
- Manners & Table Setting
- Basic Hand and Machine Sewing Skills
- Construction of a Drawstring Bag

Recipes may include Whole Wheat French Toast with Berries, Guacamole and Cheesy Quesadillas, Stuffed Baked Potatoes, Giant Whole Grain Chocolate Chip Cookies

### **Industrial Technology**

Design, Architecture, Manufacturing

Activities may include:

- Designing custom dream houses
- Making a wooden iPad/tablet holder
- Pyrography (wood burning)

Basic Industrial Technology Skills Include:

- Investigating existing house designs and dreaming up improvements
- Tool processes and safety (drills, drill presses, saws, wood burners, etc.)
- Measurement and architectural scale drawing
- Using design software

### **World Language Wheel**

Learning another language develops your world view and helps make you a productive global citizen. Taking a world language in middle school allows you to enter level 2 of that language in high school. In the Language Wheel students will:

- gain exposure to the six languages currently taught in PAUSD – ASL, French, German, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish. Also included is basic Latin vocabulary and Latin’s influence on English and the other Romance languages.
- learn cultural information about countries where these languages are spoken.
- use apps like Duolingo, Gimkit, PearDeck and Quizlet to practice the languages in an engaging way.
- see how fun and rewarding it is to learn another language
- develop a language plan for how students will fulfill the PAUSD language graduation requirements.

# 7th Grade

## Required Courses

### English 7

Following the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), seventh-grade students continue to build their skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language. Students read and analyze texts of varying complexity, which may include novels, nonfiction books, articles, poetry, short stories, and plays. Students will also view and analyze multimedia sources. Throughout the school year, students write argumentative, narrative, and informative pieces (including literary analysis) with a focus on the organization of structured paragraphs with clear claims, textual evidence, correct MLA citation, and commentary/analysis. Students practice speaking and listening skills through structured class discussions, individual and group presentations. Grammar and mechanics are taught within the context of writing. When writing or speaking, students will practice crafting effective phrases, clauses, and sentence structures and use vocabulary that suits the audience and purpose.

### History / Social Science 7

The 7th grade program will build upon previous studies of ancient world history by connecting it to the Medieval Period. This course will examine selected civilizations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas from approximately 500 BCE to 1700 CE. Students will learn about the rise and fall of empires as well as the social, political, religious, and economic systems that each civilization established. Additionally, the course will examine how sites of encounter facilitated the diffusion of religions and languages, along with the vast movement of people and ideas. Studying the development of these world cultures will encourage students to become more aware of, and learn to appreciate and value, the ethnic and cultural diversity in our own society and the modern world. Following Common Core and State Standards, students will use a variety of activities to examine the content and build study skills, while simultaneously practicing historical thinking, inquiry, and writing skills.

### Mathematics 7 (Concepts in Mathematics)

*CONCEPTS IN MATHEMATICS* is the second year in a three-year accelerated math course sequence preparing students for high school Algebra in 8th grade.

It extends student understanding and skill to compute with rational numbers to irrational numbers and extends algebraic and proportional reasoning. Students solve real world problems with 3-dimensional figures (surface area, volume); draw, construct, and describe 2D and 3D figures, understand congruence and similarity of figures using models and other mathematical tools, and solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measures. Students move from plotting discrete points to graphing and manipulating linear equations in a variety of forms and investigating patterns associated with bivariate data. This Grade 7 course provides initial exposure to investigating chance processes where students develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

The content of this course is a combination of California's Common Core State Standards from Grade 6, Grade 7 and Math 8. The areas of content focus are number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, three-dimensional geometry, and probability and bivariate data. Instruction is guided by *The 8 Mathematical Practice Standards*: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reason abstractly and quantitatively; model with mathematics; attend to precision; use appropriate tools strategically; look for and make use of structure; and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

In 7th grade, students are heterogeneously grouped. Extension and enrichment opportunities are available to all students. Information about the math pathways can be found at the district website.



## **Physical Education**

The California Physical Education Model Content Standards emphasize working cooperatively to achieve a common goal, meeting challenges, making decisions, and working as a team to solve problems.

Here at JLS students are provided an introductory exposure to a wide variety of activities, including team sports, individual & dual sports, rhythms and aquatics. Additionally, students will focus on developing an appreciation for one's own physical fitness for lifelong recreational purposes.

Students will focus on refining sport-specific skills through individual and dual sports and work cooperatively in small groups. They will also develop and maintain a level of physical fitness to improve health and performance. Students in seventh grade will be provided a minimum of 400 PE instructional minutes every 10 school days.

## **Science 7    Life Science**

This is a year-long, activity-based science course following the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Middle School. The course focuses on these NGSS topics: investigation and experimentation, the structure and process from molecules to organisms; interactions, energy flow and dynamics of ecosystems; inheritance and variation of genetic traits; and the diversity of biological evolution. This course will address the expectations for instruction outlined in the California Healthy Youth Act. This course also supports scientific practices through experimentation, emphasis on scientific reading, writing, and communication, collaboration, and engineering skills through design and testing. In addition to the disciplinary core ideas, the NGSS cross-cutting concepts and science & engineering practices are explored.

# **8th Grade**

## **Required Courses**

### **English 8**

Following the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), eighth-grade students continue to build their skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, and language. Students strengthen their critical thinking skills through the study of novels, graphic novels, short stories, nonfiction texts, poetry, and plays. Students also view and analyze multimedia sources. Throughout the school year, English 8 students write argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative pieces with a focus on the organization of structured paragraphs and multi-paragraph essays. Students introduce and support thesis statements and claims with logical reasoning and evidence, use Modern Language Association (MLA) citation and format style, and develop their commentary/analysis skills. Grammar and mechanics are taught within the context of writing. Students practice speaking and listening skills through structured class discussions, group presentations, individual presentations, and/or group work. When writing or speaking, students craft effective, varied sentence structures and use vocabulary that suits the audience and purpose.

### **History / Social Science 8**

The 8th grade program will have students connect their past exploration of the Colonial and Revolutionary eras of American history to the study of the foundations and beginnings of the new Republic through the social, political, economic, and geographical growth of the nation. Students will learn about the creation and structure of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the conflicting forces that led to the growth of political parties and sectionalism, early foreign policies and conflicts with other nations, the Westward Movement ("Manifest Destiny"), the institution of slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction. By studying the ethical, social, political, and economic questions Americans have dealt with historically, students will be more aware of, and sensitive to, the issues facing America today. Following Common Core and State Standards, students will use a variety of activities to examine the content and build study skills, while simultaneously practicing historical thinking, inquiry, and writing skills.

### **Mathematics 8 (Algebra MS)**

The fundamental objectives of this Common Core-aligned course are to formalize and extend the mathematics students learned in their previous two courses in middle school. The course includes the study of both linear and non-linear functions. Topics covered include introduction to the concept of a function, solving algebraic equations, solving and graphing linear inequalities, graphing linear equations, writing linear equations for a variety of contexts, and solving systems of linear equations as well as simplifying exponential expressions, graphing exponential functions, factoring quadratics, solving and graphing quadratic functions, applications of quadratic and exponential functions and simplifying irrational and exponential expressions. The course will prepare students for one of the Geometry courses offered to entering high school students.

### **Physical Education**

The California Physical Education Model Content Standards emphasize working cooperatively to achieve a common goal, meeting challenges, making decisions, and working as a team to solve problems.

Here at JLS students are provided an introductory exposure to a wide variety of activities, including team sports, individual & dual sports, rhythms and aquatics. Additionally, students will focus on developing an appreciation for one's own physical fitness for lifelong recreational purposes.

Students will focus on sport specific skills through team physical activities. Learn offensive and defensive strategies. Develop and maintain a level of physical fitness to improve health and performance. Students in eighth grade will be provided a minimum of 400 PE instructional minutes every 10 school days.

## **Science 8    Physical Science**

This is a year-long, activity-based science course following the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Middle School. The course focuses on these NGSS topics: investigation and experimentation, matter and its interactions, forces and interactions of motion and stability, energy, waves and information technology. Students build their understanding of science phenomena and practice data analysis, math computation, reading, writing and communication skills. In addition to the disciplinary core ideas, the NGSS cross-cutting concepts and science & engineering practices are explored.



# SUPPORT PROGRAMS

JLS offers a variety of programs designed to assist students to reach their full academic potential and ensure academic success in high school and beyond. Students are placed in these courses through consultation with counselors, parents, and teachers. The number of classes and class size are dependent on the levels of student need.

## Academic Language Development

Academic Language Development (ALD) is a class for long-term English language learners (ELL), initially fluent (IFEP) students, and recently reclassified (RFEP) students who need continued support in developing academic English. The class focuses on the four domains of reading, writing, listening, and speaking, with an emphasis on increased academic awareness, confidence, and vocabulary development. During the second semester, the class also prepares students for the ELPAC and CAASPP assessments.

## English Language Learners (ELL)

Students who register in the Palo Alto Unified School District must complete a home language survey. If that document indicates that English is not the student's primary language, the student must take a state mandated language assessment. Those who demonstrate fluency in speaking, listening, reading and writing are designated fluent and will follow the same schedule as all other mainstream students.

## Focus on Success (FOS)

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Prerequisite:** *Teacher/counselor recommendation*

This class is for 7th or 8th grade students who need help staying organized and completing homework assignments. It is designed to help struggling learners by teaching study skills strategies. Placement is based on counselor and teacher recommendations. Parents should consult with their child's counselor for further information.

## Math Workshop

This class is intended for students who would like extra help in order to be successful in their math classes. In a supportive environment with no more than 15-18 students and a math teacher who is familiar with their respective grade level program, students will learn how to succeed in math through individual and small group tutoring, organizational help, projects, games, and computer programs. This class is intended for students who are performing below grade level in math and have been recommended by their teacher and/or guidance counselor.

## Reading Enhancement

**Prerequisite:** *Teacher/counselor recommendation*

This class is intended for students who would benefit from extra reading instruction in order to be successful in their academic classes. It has a specifically designed, research-based, curriculum to aide learners with reading strategies. The course will focus on increasing comprehension and vocabulary through a combination of reading, writing, and phonics/word study. Students will learn to pay special attention to genre and the features of fiction and nonfiction texts through disciplinary reading.

## **Special Education**

Special Education services are coordinated with middle school instructional programs. Information about middle school programs and schedules is available from the JLS Special Education staff. Special Education students and their parents should consult with their current Special Education case manager prior to submitting registration materials for the 2023-2024 school year. Possible course offerings are:

- Academic Planning
- Academic Communication
- English SAI
- Math SAI
- Science SAI
- Social Studies SAI

## **Writing Workshop**

This semester-long class is intended for students who would like extra help in writing in order to be more successful in their core and elective classes. In a supportive environment with no more than 12–15 students and an English teacher who is familiar with their respective grade-level program, students will review and practice fundamental writing and language skills through individual and small group 1:1 support, group work, organizational help, and digital literacy programs. This class is intended for students who are performing below grade level in writing and have been recommended by their teacher and/or guidance counselor.

## English Learner Course Descriptions

6 <sup>th</sup> grade ELA for English Learners	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ENG LD 6A</u></b></p> <p>This English class is for 6<sup>th</sup> grade English Learner students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● score at the Novice and Emerging levels of English proficiency.</li> <li>● score at the Intermediate and Expanding levels of English proficiency with somewhat-developed English skills.</li> <li>● require substantial to moderate support.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ELL 6C</u></b></p> <p>This English class is for 6<sup>th</sup> grade English Learner students who score at the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Intermediate and Expanding levels of English proficiency with moderately-developed English skills.</li> <li>● Bridging level of English proficiency.</li> <li>● Require moderate to light support.</li> </ul>
6 <sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies for English Learners	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ENG LD 6B</u></b></p> <p>This Social Studies class is for 6<sup>th</sup> grade English Learner students at varying levels of English proficiency. Students in this class learn ancient world history in a sheltered ELD (English Language Development) environment. Students receive support appropriate to their specific English needs, ranging from substantial to light support. As a sheltered ELD history course, emphasis is placed on building students' English skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking while learning grade-level history content</p>	

7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> grade ELA for English Learners		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ELL 1</u></b></p> <p>This English class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Learner students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● score at the Novice and Emerging levels of English proficiency.</li> <li>● require substantial support.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ELL 2</u></b></p> <p>This English class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Learner students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● score at the Intermediate level of English proficiency with somewhat-developed English skills.</li> <li>● score at the Expanding level of English proficiency.</li> <li>● require moderate support.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ELL 3</u></b></p> <p>This English class is for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Learner students who score at the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● score at the Intermediate level of English proficiency with moderately-developed English skills.</li> <li>● score at the Bridging level of English proficiency.</li> <li>● require light support.</li> </ul>
7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies for English Learners		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ELL 7 WH</u></b></p> <p>This Social Studies class is for 7<sup>th</sup> grade English Learner students at varying levels of English proficiency. Students in this class learn medieval world history in a sheltered ELD environment. Students receive support appropriate to their specific English needs, ranging from substantial to light support. As a sheltered ELD history course, emphasis is placed on building students' English skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking while learning grade-level history content.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ELL 8 USH</u></b></p> <p>This Social Studies class is for 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Learner students at varying levels of English proficiency. Students in this class learn United States history in a sheltered ELD environment. Students receive support appropriate to their specific English needs, ranging from substantial to light support. As a sheltered ELD history course, emphasis is placed on building students' English skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, and speaking while learning grade-level history content.</p>		

# LIST OF ELECTIVES

FULL-YEAR ELECTIVES		SEMESTER ELECTIVES	
<b>MUSIC</b> Band, Advanced+ Band, Symphonic++ Choir Orchestra		<b>ART</b> Art 1A (Drawing Emphasis) Art 1B (Painting Emphasis) Ceramics & Sculpture (3-D Emphasis) Multimedia Art (Technology Art Emphasis)*	
<b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b> French 1A French 1B*++ Japanese 1A Japanese 1B*++ Mandarin 1A Mandarin 1B*++ Spanish 1A Spanish 1B*++ German 1A Spanish for Spanish Speakers		<b>COMPUTERS</b> Broadcast Media (KJLS) * Computer (Programming)* Design and Technology Studio Keyboarding Video Production Web Design 1A Web Design 1B*	
<b>UNIQUE OFFERINGS</b> AVID **		<b>DRAMA</b> Creature Creations* Drama 1A Drama 1B*	
		<b>FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE</b> Skills for Living Creative Sewing Gourmet Cooking*	
		<b>INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY</b> Industrial Technology 1A Industrial Technology 1B (Advanced)*	
		<b>UNIQUE OFFERINGS</b> Creative Writing Current Events Journalism Leadership Marine Biology Money Matters Public Speaking School Service++ Yearbook	

\* Prerequisite

\*\* Permission of staff required

+ 7<sup>th</sup> grade only

++ 8<sup>th</sup> grade only

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

Every effort is made to schedule your first “Elective” preferences, but often that is not possible. ***It is important that you fill out all seven of these electives in rank order. Please keep in mind that JLS reserves the right to place your child in electives to make a complete school schedule.*** Please note that only those classes with sufficient enrollment are offered.

# Full-Year Electives

## MUSIC

### Advanced Band

7<sup>th</sup> Grade / Full Year

The 7th grade Advanced Band performs a variety of styles of music at formal concerts, assembly programs, parades, festivals and other special events. Daily rehearsals focus on the development of fundamental skills, reading music notation, and playing together as an ensemble while utilizing technology for a multimedia approach to music. Opportunities exist for solos and small ensembles, as well as special collaboration with Paly and Gunn bands. Students are expected to attend possible after-school rehearsals and all evening performances. Advanced Band students are eligible to audition for Jazz Ensemble or Jazz Band.

### Symphonic Band

8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Full Year

The 8th grade Symphonic Band performs a variety of styles of music at formal concerts, assembly programs, parades, festivals and other special events. Eighth grade rehearsals dive deeper into developing intermediate instrumental technique, reading proficiency, and ensemble skills while utilizing technology. Opportunities exist for solos and small ensembles, as well as special collaboration with Paly and Gunn bands. Students are expected to attend possible after-school rehearsals and all evening performances. Symphonic Band students are eligible to audition for Jazz Ensemble or Jazz Band.

### Choir

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Full Year

In Concert Choir and Treble Choir, students will develop and improve their voices as well as learn about music through performance. Students will perform a wide variety of choral music. Opportunities exist for those who wish to sing solos or participate in small ensembles. The Choirs perform in formal concerts, as well as other activities that have included attending a CMEA music festival, a tour to elementary schools and performances and exchanges with the Gunn and Paly Choirs. Students will be expected to attend possible after school rehearsals and all evening performances.

### Orchestra

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Full Year

The JLS String Orchestra learns and performs a wide variety of music at a faster pace from the 6th grade curriculum. In addition to learning more advanced orchestral skills, students in the 7th/8th orchestra will develop individual string technique in preparation for high school programs. The JLS String Orchestra performs several times during the school year and participates in area festivals and tours. Students enrolled in String Orchestra are also eligible to audition for the All-State Jr. High School Orchestra as part of the annual California Music Educators Association state festival. Members of the orchestra are expected to attend all evening concerts and attend occasional after school rehearsals.



# WORLD LANGUAGES

French Japanese 1A Mandarin 1A Spanish 1A Spanish for Spanish Speakers German 1A	French 1B Japanese 1B Mandarin 1B Spanish 1B

***IMPORTANT NOTE: Level 1A and 1B classes are designed for students who have NO prior knowledge or exposure to the target language. These courses are not open to native and heritage speakers.*** (Estos cursos no son para los hispanohablantes.)

Four languages are currently taught – French, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish. German and Spanish for Spanish Speakers courses may be available dependent on enrollment numbers.

Each world language course develops self-confidence through the study of a second language and fosters an appreciation for that language and its culture. No homework is given.

Seventh graders enroll in the course numbered 1A. As eighth graders, they continue with the course numbered 1B. This two-year sequence in middle school is equivalent to the first year of high school study, allowing students to enter level two as freshmen.

NOTE: Eighth graders are welcome to sign up for 1A classes as preparation for entering level one as freshmen in high school. 1B courses are limited to 8th grade students only.

## General Course Descriptions

Students of French, Japanese, Mandarin and Spanish will develop growing proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and will gain an understanding of the structure of the language appropriate to the level of instruction. They will also have an opportunity to participate in cultural activities.

## Student Outcomes

By the time students leave the World Language program, they are able to:

- LISTENING: understand the language as it is spoken by a native speaker at a normal conversational rate
- SPEAKING: introduce themselves, describe themselves and others, ask simple questions and give opinions on topics such as family, school life, food, etc.
- READING: read and understand articles, stories and beginner-level novels
- WRITING: write paragraphs and short essays and/or stories
- CULTURE: gain an appreciation for the culture and celebrations of various countries  
discover differences and similarities in world views and customs to help students become global citizens

## UNIQUE OFFERINGS – FULL-YEAR ELECTIVES

### **AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination)**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Year**

**Prerequisite:** *Teacher/counselor recommendation and interview process*

The AVID class targets 7th and 8th grade students in the academic middle who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. These are students who are capable of completing rigorous curriculum but may be falling short of their potential. AVID is a year-long class where students learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and questioning techniques, get academic help from peers and college tutors and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Students are recommended by their teachers and/or counselors to apply for the program. Academic performance, attitude, and other qualifying factors make a student eligible for the AVID program. The AVID Coordinator will contact students and their parents directly to participate in the program and start an application process. More information is available at [www.avidonline.org](http://www.avidonline.org)

# Semester Electives

## ART

### **Art 1A (Drawing Emphasis)**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Art 1A is an exploratory course in the visual arts that uses the elements and principles of design as a foundation for instruction. The focus is on developing an artistic mindset that nurtures technique, creativity and a greater awareness of the world as it relates to art. In this class, emphasis is on **drawing** and ideally is taken as a sequence with one or all of the following: Art 1B (painting emphasis), Ceramics and Sculpture (3-D emphasis) and Multimedia Art (technology emphasis). Lessons are in accordance with PAUSD Standards as well as California Standards for Visual Art.

### **Art 1B (Painting Emphasis)**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Art 1B is an exploratory course in the visual arts that uses the elements and principles of design as a foundation for instruction. The focus is on developing an artistic mindset that nurtures technique, creativity and a greater awareness of the world as it relates to art. In this class, emphasis is on **painting** and ideally is taken as a sequence with one or all of the following: Art 1A (drawing emphasis), Ceramics and Sculpture (3-D emphasis) and Multimedia Art (technology emphasis). Lessons are in accordance with PAUSD Standards as well as California Standards for Visual Art.

### **Ceramics and Sculpture (3-D Emphasis)**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Ceramics and Sculpture is an exploratory course in the visual arts that uses the elements and principles of design as a foundation for instruction. The focus is on developing an artistic mindset that nurtures technique, creativity and a greater awareness of the world as it relates to art. In this class, emphasis is on **sculpture** and ideally is taken as a sequence with one or all of the following: Art 1A (drawing emphasis), Art 1B (painting emphasis) and Multimedia Art (technology emphasis). Lessons are in accordance with PAUSD Standards as well as California Standards for Visual Art.

### **Multimedia Art (Technology Art Emphasis)**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Recommended prerequisites or concurrent classes: Art 1A, Art 1B, Computer (Programming), Web Design 1A, or Web Design 1B**

Multimedia Art is an exploratory course in the visual arts that uses the elements and principles of design as a foundation for instruction. Students will work with different Adobe software and create digital art. Students will have the chance to create professional designs such as logos, poster designs, animations, calligraphy, board game designs, and other various projects.

# COMPUTERS

## **Broadcast Media (KJLS)**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Recommended prerequisite: *Video Production***

Broadcast Media is an advanced class for students to take after they have taken Video Production. Students in this class will learn to produce a live broadcast of the morning announcements. In our own studio, students will use journalism and video production skills to create news and educational programming including preproduction (planning and preparation of logos, jingles, public service announcements, and special reports) and production (a variety of jobs both in the studio and control room). Announcements and special segments are broadcast from KJLS to the school and to local access television. This is a collaborative, project-based, and technology-oriented real-world learning experience.

## **Computer (Programming)**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

No previous knowledge of computer programming is necessary. This is a broad-based, fundamental exploratory course in computers, designed to encourage students to explore the basics of computer science and computational thinking in an encouraging and fun gaming environment as you solve puzzles and learn to make your own coding games from basic block based to Python. There are opportunities for more advanced students to expand their personal computer programming knowledge. No homework is assigned, but all assignments should be done in class. Topics include algorithms and problem solving, data types, control structures, functions, arrays, conditional statements, and the mechanics of running, testing, and debugging. Units of study may include major people and events in the development of the modern computer, robotics, major parts of the computer and their functions, the five generations of computers, and computer job categories. Don't just play computer games, learn to code them.

## **Design and Technology Studio**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

This is an exciting hands-on project-based elective. Students will work in groups or as individuals to complete projects in multiple challenge areas. These challenge areas include graphic design, video game design, 3-D printing and carving, VR/AR design, robotics, and more. Projects include use of programs like Adobe Illustrator, Stencyl, Blender, CoSpaces Edu, and such equipment as Legos robots, graphing tablets, and a Cricut cutting machine to name a few. No prior tech background is necessary. Instruction is set to be accessible to beginners, but projects are flexible enough in their design that they can challenge advanced techies as well. In short, there is something for all ability levels in this class. There is structure for beginners and autonomy for intermediate and advanced tech users.

## **Keyboarding**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Students and adults use computers every day for work and for pleasure. Competent touch-typing keyboarding skills are an important 21st century lifetime skill that is becoming a necessity for students in coursework, state testing and personal use, as well as in the workplace. This is a structured touch-typing course for motivated individual. You will not memorize the keyboard; you will learn the keyboard and develop accuracy through touch typing techniques. Emphasis will be placed on consistent safe ergonomic techniques (how to work at a computer to avoid repetitive stress injuries). Enrichment activities are available to the motivated student who first achieves touch typing and accuracy proficiency. Learning to touch type is an investment that will pay off for students by drastically cutting down on the amount of time it takes to correctly type projects and will allow students to direct their focus on the content. Some jobs in the workplace expect that their applicants will have touch typing skills before hiring. Middle School is the perfect time to acquire touch typing skills for a lifetime.

## **Video Production**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Join us in Video Production and learn the basics of how to plan, film, and edit your own movies! Students will understand the three stages of filmmaking, pre-production, production, and postproduction. Students will learn how to use video equipment, as well as a variety of techniques used in producing digital films. Working alone and in small teams, students share ideas through storyboards, then use cameras and tripods to set up and film a variety of camera shots. Projects vary each semester, but may include silent films, different film genres, and documentaries.

## **Web Design 1A**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Students use the internet for research and enjoyment, but what do they know about designing and creating for the internet that they access every day? In this fun, hands-on course, students will have the opportunity to create webpages and websites using HTML coding. Previous knowledge of web design or coding is not required. Topics covered may include features that make a page attractive, easy to navigate and that will attract visitors. This course will include planning a webpage, basic design, layout, construction and visual design using the principles of art and good navigation. Students will have the opportunity to use Adobe software including Photoshop. Students will also use Photo Booth, GarageBand and other software that will extend their learning. This course is taught in a Mac environment using html and CSS coding, but all skills are transferable to the PC environment.

Students who grasp the concepts presented in this class will have the opportunity to extend their own learning through the use of software, online resources or classroom resources to create personal sites or sites for non-profits.

## **Web Design 1B**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *Web Design 1A***

The Advanced Web Design course is designed for the motivated student who has completed the Web 1A course and wants to continue to extend their web design skills. This course will offer opportunities to further explore HTML coding, as well as CSS. Students will be introduced to Adobe Dreamweaver and will have access to the full Adobe Suite of software. Students may choose other opportunities to explore original music creation, photo editing, and animation. Students are encouraged to seek out real world applications for their work.

# **DRAMA**

## **Creature Creations**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Recommended Prerequisites or concurrent classes: *Art 1A, Ceramics and Sculpture, Creative Writing, Drama 1A, Multimedia Art, or Video Production***

Creature Creations students will study the work of notable creature creators of stage and film such as Ray Harryhausen, Jim Henson, and Julie Taymor. Applying “old-school” methods like puppetry, masks, and stop-motion filmmaking, students will design and build creatures to be filmed and performed in class. They will apply art skills and creative writing to projects centered around unique building materials and performance techniques. Collaboration is a key component as creature creators apply prior learning to class projects (see recommended prerequisites or concurrent classes). Students can showcase some of their work for families and friends at the end of the semester.

## **Drama 1A**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Drama 1A is a beginning theater course that will encourage students to develop as performers and collaborators. 1A students will explore their skills as set and costume designers, directors, playwrights and stage managers in the Folktales Unit. They will develop scenes through improvisation and the study of Commedia dell'Arte and finish the semester with a solo performance. Very little homework is required. Students can showcase some of their work for families and friends at the end of the semester.

## **Drama 1B**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *Drama 1A***

Drama 1B is advanced drama study for those motivated students who wish to continue developing their acting skills. Through monologues, scene work, and play script analysis, 1B students will collaborate on "Passion Pieces" to showcase their work as performers. Be prepared to attend a theatrical production outside of class, and a performance after school or outside of school may be required. Students can showcase some of their work for families and friends at the end of the semester.

# **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**

## **Skills for Living**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Skills for Living is an exploratory course covering multiple areas of Family and Consumer Science. This class helps you prepare for your future by teaching some basic life skills. Fun, hands-on activities explore many of the areas of FACS education. Units of study include selecting and preparing foods, making nutritious food choices, constructing a simple sewing project, learning to do your laundry, organizing/arranging your personal space, and child development/childcare.

During the cooking portion of the class, students learn the proper use and care of equipment, kitchen safety rules, good manners, table setting, how to read and prepare a recipe, use of some specialized equipment, and, of course, eating the delicious outcome. The semester ends with preparation and assembly of homemade ice cream sandwiches. Food restrictions due to allergies and special diets will be accommodated as much as possible.

## **Gourmet Cooking**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *Skills for Living***

Students will build on their prior knowledge of working with a small group in a cooperative kitchen, (proper use of equipment, safety, manners, table setting, organization, and keeping your kitchen clean). Students will learn how to analyze a recipe, evaluate its nutritional content, determine how to prepare it efficiently, make adjustments to fit the number of people being fed, figure out how much it will cost to prepare, make a shopping list and prepare recipes of increased complexity and/or specialized equipment. Units include breakfast, lunch favorites, snacks and appetizers, dinner, and cake decorating. Student input is gathered when choosing recipes.

Past recipes have included assorted smoothie recipes, homemade granola bars and cookies, bread, quesadillas with homemade tortillas, pasta from scratch with assorted sauces, and berry crisp with fresh whipped cream. On some occasions this class will open and run "Ms. Jane's Café," a classroom restaurant, serving invited adults. Food restrictions due to allergies and special diets will be accommodated as much as possible.

## **Creative Sewing**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Students will master basic skills of controlling and operating the sewing machine while making and designing fiber arts. They will learn to make informed decisions with the purchase and use of patterns, fabrics, and notions. Students will work individually on projects, which may include sewing cool accessories, fun crafts, gift items and creative clothing. Project selection will be individualized to meet students' needs, abilities, and experience levels with a special emphasis on creative embellishment and customization whenever possible.

The course includes a field trip to purchase textiles for a culminating individual project of student choice, using the engineering process as a guide to design their own creations. Units on textile types, apparel quality, costumes, refashioning, sustainability, machine quilting, embroidery, and interior design will be explored.

# **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

## **Industrial Technology 1A**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Industrial Technology is an exciting and fun project-based class where students design and build projects out of wood. Through hands-on experiences, students will design and build projects using a mix of hand and power tools such as the bandsaw, miter saw, drill press, lathe, laser cutter, and router table. Students will also use an entry level CAD program called TinkerCad to make 3-D models of their projects. Past projects have included a bridge building competition, building a custom wooden treasures box, an organizing tote, a passive speaker for the phone, and a hardwood pen on the lathe.

## **Industrial Technology 1B**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *Industrial Technology 1A***

Industrial Technology 1B continues where Tech1A left off. Students build more complex projects out of wood and gain more skill and confidence using power tools. Students will expand their skills in CAD by learning 3-D modeling using OnShape. OnShape is a feature full CAD program used by the high school engineering classes at both Gunn and Paly. Past projects have included building a wooden board game, an end table, and more lathe projects (mechanical pencil, pepper grinder, bowl, etc).

# UNIQUE OFFERINGS – SEMESTER ELECTIVES

## **Creative Writing**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Students will keep a notebook of unique writing exercises that encourage both an enjoyment of writing and a development of narrative writing skills, such as point of view, characterization, sensory detail, effective dialogue, foreshadowing, and more. In addition to daily writing, students will learn to read as writers, studying technique and craft by great writers. All students receive personalized feedback (from the teacher as well as from peers) throughout the writing process. The atmosphere is a fun, safe community of writers who honor each other's attempts to capture their world in words. Three main genres of creative writing – poetry, creative non-fiction, and short fiction – will be deeply explored, culminating in a digital portfolio of at least four fully developed, finished pieces: one from each genre and one of free choice.

## **Current Events**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Do you like discussing, debating, and thinking about current events? This elective course focuses on world, national, and local issues that impact our everyday lives. In the course, students will read and analyze primary source materials and opinion pieces in order to better understand the world around them, participate in group projects, discussions and debates, and create their own pieces of media. Through the lens of current events, students will learn the skills to critically analyze news sources and understand how cultural, national, religious, and political experiences affect personal beliefs. Students will learn how to have respectful, civil discourse about controversial issues and opposing viewpoints.

## **Journalism and Multimedia Newspaper Production**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Through reading and analyzing professional models of non-fiction writing, students will learn to plan, write, and revise news stories, editorials, features, and reviews. Students will acquire the skills of fact gathering and note-taking through interviews with primary sources and research of secondary sources. Students are expected to work both independently and as a staff, meet deadlines, and maintain high journalistic standards. Students will produce a digital school newspaper using Google Sites.

## **Leadership**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

The Leadership class is designed to create a community of student leaders who organize, craft, and lead student activities at JLS. Students seek to create enjoyable and meaningful activities that enhance the community environment on campus and contribute to student growth. Students will be expected to spend time beyond the class period and outside the school day to perform these tasks. Additionally, students are expected to maintain adequate grades in all their classes and to demonstrate behavior commensurate with a leader.

Leadership students will learn to concurrently manage multiple projects with varied amounts of lead time. Practice with organization, initiative, and problem-solving skills and the ability to work as a team will be crucial components of the course. Special emphasis will be placed on developing students' leadership skills and service learning. Students will participate in at least one community service project.

## **Marine Biology**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

This hands-on course explores ocean creatures and their watery environments. Learn about marine biology through a variety of labs, activities, and projects – dissect a squid and a fish, build supersize models of plankton and test them, observe and identify live plankton, take a field trip to see marine creatures up close. All activities and labs take place in the classroom. There is no homework in this class.



## **Money Matters**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Students will learn about saving money and investing. Students will complete projects involving budgeting, credit, purchasing a car, career and college. Students will play the minimum wage game, participate in a banking simulation, participate in a statewide (or nationwide) stock market competition, complete comparison-shopping activities and a variety of other activities. Projects will be tracked and managed via spreadsheets. Coursework will be completed during class.

## **Public Speaking**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Do you want to gain confidence and skills in your ability to present your ideas to others? If so, Public Speaking is the class for you! Students will learn how to effectively prepare and give speeches and presentations. We begin by playing speaking games to get you feeling comfortable in front of an audience as you learn delivery techniques. In addition to traditional (storytelling, protest and powerful people) speeches, students will participate in a debate, learn how to create slides that enhance presentations, and create and sell an original product in an advertising unit.

## **School Service**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite: *None***

Students in School Service work in school offices, in the library, or serve as department or teacher assistants. School Service students must be reliable and able to work with a minimum of supervision. Library School Service students learn library circulation, shelving, and filing. They also learn customer service, computer, and business machine skills.

## **Yearbook**

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Recommended prerequisites or concurrent classes: *Art 1A, Art 1B, Computer(Programming), Web Design 1A, Web Design 1B, Multimedia Art***

This class is designed for highly motivated students who wish to contribute to creating our school yearbook as a journalist and member of a collaborative staff. The majority of the class will focus on the design and content of the yearbook. Students will develop skills in digital photography, Web-based design, layout and other 21<sup>st</sup> century skills applicable to the real world. Students exhibit individual responsibility by keeping track of multiple assignments and various deadlines, and devoting time outside of class in order to cover the entire JLS community. Students will also have the opportunity to apply for leadership positions on the staff. Students are expected to demonstrate professional behavior commensurate with a member of the press.