



# **COURSE CATALOG 2018 - 2019**



**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**  
**2018 - 2019**  
*Grades 6, 7, 8*

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# 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	English/Language Arts History/Social Studies Mathematics Science	English/Language Arts History/Social Studies Mathematics Science
Physical Education/Music <i>(alternate days)</i> Exploratory Wheel	Physical Education Elective Elective	Physical Education Elective Elective

\* All students will have Wednesday Instructional Period (WIP).

**PLEASE NOTE:** This catalog must be produced before decisions about budget and staffing are made for the 2018-2019 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. Students are assigned a counselor based on grade level.

# 6th Grade Program

Sixth grade core (five periods of the day) covers the subjects of English/Language Arts, History/Social Studies, Science, and Math. Teachers are grouped in two- or three-member teams. These 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, poems, short stories and plays. Throughout the 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, 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.

## Exploratory Wheel

The remaining period for 6th graders is the Exploratory Wheel. Students receive approximately five 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-mache.

### Computers

Units May Include:

- Ergonomic Issues related to health and safety
- Online Safety and Personal Security Issues
- Touch Typing Techniques
- Computer Graphics (Photoshop) and the Study of Animation
- Introduction to PowerPoint, Inspiration, WordWeb Design (using HTML coding) with text and image
- Introduction to Computer Programming
- Basic Computer Troubleshooting and Problem Solving
- Understanding the computer contract

### 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

We hope you all will attend the performances in class at the end of the Cycle.

### **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
- Dishwashing
- Manners & Table Setting
- Kitchen Tools
- Measuring
- Recipe Planning and Preparation
- Basic Sewing Skills
- Construction of a Drawstring Bag
- Recipes may include:
  - Whole Wheat French Toast
  - Healthy Vegetable Mini Pizzas
  - Stuffed Baked Potatoes
  - Giant Whole Grain Chocolate Chip Cookies

### **Industrial Technology**

Design, Architecture, Electricity and Electric Vehicles, Manufacturing

**Assignments may include:**

- Designing Custom Dream Houses
- Assembling Miniature Solar Cars
- Making an iPad holder
- Manufacturing an African Ring Puzzle

**Basic Industrial Technology Skills include:**

- Investigating existing Houses and Designing Improved Structures
- Exploring Circuits Using a Multi-Meter
- Tool Process and Safety

### **Tools to Thrive**

The Tools to Thrive Wheel is an opportunity for all sixth-grade students to develop skills that will help them thrive at school and in life. The goal of this wheel is to introduce students to the knowledge, attitudes and skills needed to develop their social emotional skills. The course is focused on the essential question: What does it mean to pay attention, with kindness and curiosity, to ourselves, our surroundings and our community? Topics covered in the wheel include developing positive relationships, understanding and managing emotions, identifying fixed and growth mindsets, exploring prosocial skills like kindness, gratitude and empathy, gaining confidence as a public speaker, and increasing fluency and self-awareness through journal writing. Daily routine consists of journal writing, experiencing a mindfulness practice and then exploring a particular topic for the day.

## **World Language Wheel**

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

In the Language Wheel students will:

- look at the origins of language families.
- gain exposure to the three languages currently taught at JLS - French, Japanese and Spanish.
- learn cultural information about countries where these languages are spoken.
- use apps like Duolingo and Quizlet to experience the languages firsthand.
- see how fun and rewarding it is to learn another language
- develop a language plan for how they will fulfill their PAUSD language graduation requirements.

## **History / Social Science 6**

Students will be introduced to ancient world history and will study significant periods of history that have altered and shaped human society, such as the Agricultural Revolution that transformed our pre-historic humans' hunter-gatherer societies into settled farming-herding cultures. Students will learn about the foundational elements that formed civilizations and will specifically study ancient world civilizations of Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.

Through the use of textbooks, teacher-selected materials, and research, students will learn about the geographical, social, political, religious, and economic systems of these cultures, and how various societies developed these systems.

Throughout the year students will develop historical analysis skills, research, note-taking, multiple perspectives, and presentation skills, as well as participate in a variety of classroom activities such as Socratic discussions and simulations.

Students will investigate past to present connections as they learn that contemporary cultures are the descendants of earlier civilizations and are influenced by historical events. By studying the characteristics of these civilizations, students will become more aware of, and learn to appreciate and value, the ethnic and cultural diversity in our own society and the contributions these diverse civilizations have made to our modern world.

## **Math 6**

Students will follow the 6th grade Common Core Content Standards. Sixth grade mathematics focuses on ratios and proportional reasoning. Students connect ratios and rates to whole number multiplication and division. They use the concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems. Students complete their understanding of fractions and extend the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which include negative numbers. Students write, interpret and use expressions and equations and develop an understanding of statistical thinking. The Mathematical Practice Standards will be used to build on the student's ability to make sense of a variety of problems. Students are heterogeneously grouped in 6th grade and work both independently and in cooperative group situations with instruction that is differentiated to appropriately challenge students. Extension and enrichment opportunities are available to all students.

## **Music / Physical Education**

During one period, sixth grade students spend alternate days in 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. Physical Education consists of a program of activities that are designed to develop good basic motor skills, nutrition, physical fitness, and fundamental movement patterns. Emphasis is placed on the importance of positive sportsmanship and cooperation, including respect for one another.

## **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 & engineering practices are explored.

# 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, non-fiction books, articles, poems, short stories and plays. Throughout the 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, proper 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

Students will connect their past studies of world history to new studies of medieval world history in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas from approximately 100 A.D. through 1700 A.D.

Through the use of textbooks, teacher selected primary and secondary source materials, and research, students will learn about the social, political, religious, and economic systems of these cultures, and how various societies developed these systems.

Throughout the year students will develop historical analysis skills, research, note-taking, multiple perspectives, and presentation skills, as well as participate in a variety of classroom activities such as Socratic discussions and simulations.

Students will investigate past to present connections as they learn that contemporary cultures are the descendants of earlier civilizations and are influenced by historical events. By studying the historical, political, economic, religious, and social implications of these world cultures, students will become more aware of, and learn to appreciate and value, the ethnic and cultural diversity in our own society and the modern world.

### Mathematics

**MATH 7:** Students will follow the 7<sup>th</sup> grade CCSS. Seventh grade mathematics focuses on the application of ratios and proportional reasoning. Students develop an understanding of and apply proportional relationships. They develop a further understanding of operations with rational numbers and work with expressions and linear operations. Students solve problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions. They work with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume. They draw inferences about populations based on samples. Students will solve problems, communicate ideas in both oral and written form, analyze and organize information, evaluate alternative mathematical approaches, and interpret results. The Mathematical Practice Standards will be used to build on the student's ability to make sense of a variety of problems.

**MATH 7A:** This is the first year in a two-year accelerated course. Students will cover all of 7<sup>th</sup> grade CCSS, with the addition of some Standards for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, allowing students to cover 3 years of material in 2 years (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade). These additions from 8<sup>th</sup> grade include having students develop the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships as well as analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angles, similarity and congruence. They grasp the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. Students learn and apply the Pythagorean Theorem. The Mathematical Practice Standards will be used to build on the student's ability to make sense of a variety of problems. Students are expected to maintain a B- or better for placement into the Algebra 8 course in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## **Physical Education**

Physical Education consists of a program of activities designed to develop good basic motor skills, nutrition, physical fitness and fundamental movement patterns. Emphasis is placed on the importance of positive sportsmanship and cooperation, including respect for one another. Students are provided an introductory exposure to a wide variety of activities, including team sports, individual and dual sports, rhythms and aquatics.

## **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, short stories, poetry, plays, and nonfiction. Throughout the year, students write argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative pieces with a focus on the organization of structured paragraphs and essays. Students introduce and support 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, and individual presentations. When writing or speaking, students craft effective sentence structures and use vocabulary that suits the audience and purpose.

### History / Social Science 8

Students will connect their past studies of American history to new studies of the foundations of the United States including the social, economic, religious, political, and geographical growth of the nation from the mid-1700's to the turn of the 20th century.

Through the use of textbooks, teacher selected materials, and research, students will learn about the causes of the Revolutionary War, creation and implementation of the Constitution, formation of political parties, foreign policies and conflict between nations, the Westward Movement (Manifest Destiny), slavery and the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Industrial Revolution. The students will learn about the diverse peoples who immigrated to America and their profound influence in America's development.

Throughout the year, students will develop historical analysis skills, research, note-taking, multiple perspectives, and presentation skills, as well as participate in a variety of classroom activities such as Socratic discussions and simulations.

Students will investigate past to present connections as they learn that contemporary society has been influenced by historical events. 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.

### Mathematics

**MATH 8:** Students will follow the 8th grade CCSS. Eighth grade mathematics focuses on the algebra of linear relationships. Students formulate and reason about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear expression and solving linear equations and systems of equations. They grasp the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. Students analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and learn and apply the Pythagorean Theorem. Students continue to use and improve their skills in problem-solving, communicating mathematical ideas in oral and written form, analyzing complex situations, organizing information, using computers and graphing calculators, and working independently and in groups. The Mathematical Practice Standards will be used to build on the student's ability to make sense of a variety of problems.

**ALGEBRA 8:** This is the second year in a 2-year accelerated course. This course completes the 8th grade CCSS in addition to the Algebra Content Standards. Students deepen and extend their understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying models to data. Students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. Students analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence. In addition to analyzing bivariate data, students will also focus on data distribution and correlation. The focus is on solving linear, quadratic and exponential functions. The Mathematical Practice Standards will be used to build on the student's ability to make sense of a variety of problems. Students are expected to maintain a B- or better for placement into

Geometry in 9th grade. **Prerequisite:** Math 7A or satisfactory completion of the Summer Bridge to Algebra course.

## **Physical Education**

Physical Education consists of a program of activities that are designed to develop good basic motor skills, nutrition, physical fitness and fundamental movement patterns. Emphasis is placed on the importance of positive sportsmanship and cooperation, including respect for one another. Students are provided an introductory exposure to a wide variety of activities, including team sports, individual and dual sports, rhythms and aquatics.

## **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.

## **Academic Enhancement**

This class is a comprehensive reading/language arts program designed to bring students up to proficiency in literacy skills. The program includes three comprehensive teaching models: whole group, small group and one-on-one instruction with adaptive technology. This class meets in blocks of two periods, four times a week. Parents should consult with their child's counselor for more information.

## **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 exam. Those who demonstrate fluency in speaking, listening, reading and writing are designated fluent and will follow the same schedule as all other mainstream students. Non-English fluent students receive English language instruction according to the following model:

- Sixth grade students in the 6A and 6B class(es) of the English Language Learners Program will have two periods of ELL daily for English language acquisition. The 6C class will have only one period of ELL daily.
- Seventh and eighth grade students in the beginning, intermediate, and early advanced range take ELL classes in place of mainstream English and social studies courses. Some early advanced level students will only be enrolled in an EL English class. ELL classes will account for two periods of required course work. All other course selections will be made following instruction for all other 7th and 8th graders.

Please consult with the English Language Development Coordinator if further clarification is necessary.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CLASSES

### 6<sup>TH</sup> Grade

<p><b>ELL 6A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Beginning proficiency level.</li> <li>● ELL substitutes for mainstream English and social studies classes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ELL 6B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Intermediate proficiency level.</li> <li>● ELL substitutes for mainstream English and social studies classes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ELL 6C</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Early Advanced proficiency level.</li> <li>● ELL substitutes for the mainstream English class.</li> </ul>
<p><i>* Depending on enrollment, ELL 6A and ELL 6B may be combined</i></p>		

### 7<sup>TH</sup> / 8<sup>TH</sup> Graders

<p><b>ELL 1 (two periods)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Beginning proficiency level.</li> <li>● ELL substitutes for mainstream English class.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ELL 2 (two periods)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Intermediate proficiency level.</li> <li>● ELL substitutes for mainstream English class.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ELL 3 (one/two periods)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Early Advanced - Advanced proficiency level.</li> <li>● ELL substitutes for the mainstream English class.</li> </ul>
<p><i>* Depending on enrollment, ELL 1 and ELL 2 may be combined</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>ELL World History: 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELL 1, ELL 2. ELL 3 students who are not at grade level can be recommended.</i></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>ELL U.S. History: 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELL 1, ELL 2, and ELL 3 students who are not at grade level can be recommended.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>ELL World History: 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELL 1, ELL 2. ELL 3 students who are not at grade level can be recommended.</i></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>ELL U.S. History: 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELL 1, ELL 2, and ELL 3 students who are not at grade level can be recommended.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>ELL World History: 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELL 1, ELL 2, ELL 3 students who are not at grade level can be recommended.</i></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>ELL U.S. History: 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELL 1, ELL 2, and ELL 3 students who are not at grade level can be recommended.</i></li> </ul>

## 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 or guidance counselor.

## Special Education

Special Education services are coordinated with middle school instructional programs. Information about middle school programs and schedules are available from the JLS Special Education staff. Special Education students and their parents should consult with their current Special Education teachers prior to submitting registration materials for the 2018-19 school year.



# LIST OF ELECTIVES



FULL-YEAR ELECTIVES	SEMESTER ELECTIVES
<p><b>MUSIC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Band, Advanced+</li> <li>Band, Symphonic++</li> <li>Choir</li> <li>Orchestra</li> </ul> <p><b>WORLD LANGUAGES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French 1A</li> <li>French 1B*</li> <li>Japanese 1A</li> <li>Japanese 1B*</li> <li>Spanish 1A</li> <li>Spanish 1B*</li> <li>Chinese (Mandarin) 1A</li> <li>German 1A</li> <li>Spanish for Spanish Speakers</li> </ul> <p><b>UNIQUE OFFERINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AVID **</li> <li>Yearbook **☐</li> </ul> <p>* Prerequisite            ** Permission of staff required            + 7<sup>th</sup> grade only            ++ 8<sup>th</sup> grade only            ☐ Application required</p>	<p><b>ART</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art 1A (Drawing Emphasis)</li> <li>Art 1B (Painting Emphasis)</li> <li>Ceramics &amp; Sculpture (3-D Emphasis)</li> <li>Multimedia Art (Technology Emphasis)</li> </ul> <p><b>COMPUTERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer (Programming)</li> <li>Keyboarding</li> <li>Video Production</li> <li>Web Design 1A</li> <li>Web Design 1B*</li> </ul> <p><b>DRAMA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creature Creations</li> <li>Drama 1A</li> <li>Drama 1B*</li> </ul> <p><b>FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooking (Advanced)*</li> <li>Skills for Living</li> </ul> <p><b>INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Industrial Technology 1A</li> <li>Industrial Technology 1B (Advanced)*</li> </ul> <p><b>UNIQUE OFFERINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Broadcast Media (KJLS) *☐</li> <li>Creative Writing</li> <li>Design and Technology Studio</li> <li>Leadership**++☐</li> <li>Marine Biology</li> <li>Money Matters</li> <li>Public Speaking</li> <li>School Service++</li> <li>Tools to Thrive</li> </ul>

## **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

**Course Number 6882**  
**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 iPads 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.

### Symphonic Band

**Course Number 6884**  
**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 iPads. 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.

### Choir

**Course Number 6888**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Full Year**

In Mixed 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

**Course Number 6886**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Full Year**

Students in Orchestra work on expanding their string technique, ensemble skills, and musical knowledge by exploring and performing a wide variety of music of differing styles, historical periods, forms, and genres. The Orchestra performs in formal evening concerts as well as other activities that have included attending a music festival, a tour to elementary schools, collaborative performances with other schools, and playing in small chamber ensembles. Students will be expected to attend all evening performances. Students enrolled in orchestra are eligible to audition for the Chamber Orchestra.

# WORLD LANGUAGES

French 1A.....6562 Japanese 1A.....6570 Spanish 1A.....6560 Spanish for Spanish Speakers.....6568 Chinese (Mandarin) 1A.....6939 German 1A.....6564	French 1B.....6563 Japanese 1B.....6571 Spanish 1B.....6561

**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 speakers.**

Three languages are currently taught – French, Japanese, and Spanish. German and Mandarin may be available if at least 24 students pre-enroll.

Each world language course develops self-confidence through the study of a second language and fosters an appreciation for that language and its culture. Capable students who wish to study more than one language at a time may do so. Homework in world language classes averages no more than 30-40 minutes *per week*.

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.

## General Course Descriptions

Students of French, German, 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.

**\*NOTE:** The Japanese writing systems (Hiragana and Katakana) are introduced gradually during the first-year course and Kanji (Chinese characters) throughout each year.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers is designed for students who are native speakers of Spanish and is composed of 7th and 8th graders. It is to give students knowledge and appreciation of Spanish-American culture. They will learn to distinguish and value the difference between colloquial and academic language. They will perfect their writing as well as their speaking ability in Spanish. Placement at the high school level for Spanish for Spanish Speakers 2 is determined by the teacher. A grade of “C” is generally necessary to advance to the next level.

## Student Outcomes

The expected student outcomes in the five areas of language acquisition are:

- LISTENING:** To understand the language as it is spoken by a native speaker at a normal conversational rate with the vocabulary and grammatical structures appropriate to the level of instruction.
- SPEAKING:** To communicate with reasonable fluency in real-life situations at a level commensurate with the vocabulary and structure appropriate to the level of instruction.
- READING:** To read materials appropriate to the level of instruction; both silently and aloud with understanding.
- WRITING:** To write clearly and correctly within the limits imposed by the vocabulary and grammatical structures at the level of instruction.
- CULTURE:** To gain familiarity and appreciation of the culture and to learn differences and similarities in world views, customs, beliefs, and social conventions of the linguistic community.

**\*NOTE:** Spanish for Spanish Speakers, Chinese (Mandarin 1A), and German 1A are not currently offered at JLS.

# UNIQUE OFFERINGS – FULL-YEAR ELECTIVES

## **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Year** **Prerequisite: *Teacher/counselor recommendation and interview process***

The AVID elective targets 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>-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. Usually, the AVID Coordinator will contact a student and his/her parents directly to participate in the program. More information is available at [www.avidonline.org](http://www.avidonline.org)

## **Yearbook** **Course Number 6166** **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Full Year** **Prerequisite: *Application with teacher and counselor approval***

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. This course may be repeated.

# Semester Electives

## ART

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

**Course Number 6492**  
**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)**

**Course Number 6493**  
**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)**

**Course Number 6230**  
**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 Emphasis)**

**Course Number 6356**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**  
**Prerequisite: *None***

Multimedia Art 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 **technology** and ideally is taken as a sequence with one or all of the following; Art 1A (drawing emphasis), Art 1B (painting emphasis) and Ceramics and Sculpture (3-D emphasis). Lessons are in accordance with PAUSD Standards as well as California Standards for Visual Art.

## COMPUTERS

### **Computer (Programming)**

**Course Number 6515**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**  
**Prerequisite: *Some keyboarding skills are helpful***

No previous knowledge of computer programming is necessary. It is a broad-based fundamental course in computers designed to encourage students to explore the basics of computer science and computational thinking in an encouraging environment. No homework is assigned. Units of study may include major people and events in the development of the

modern computer, a robotics unit featuring sphero robots, the major parts and functions of the computer and its most common peripherals, the five generations of computers, basic computer history, job categories related to computer programming, salaries and educational requirements. Students will develop their problem-solving skills using fun software designed to introduce students to all levels of programming in a 3-D environment. Students will create a story by programming (giving instructions) to the 3-D characters and develop their computational thinking using online coursework from Stanford developed for middle school students. There are opportunities for more advanced students to expand their personal computer programming knowledge.

## **Keyboarding (Touch Typing Skills)**

**Course Number 6510**  
**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 skill that is becoming a necessity for students in coursework and personal use, as well as in the workplace. This is a structured touch-typing course for motivated individuals looking to develop their touch typing and accuracy skills. Emphasis will be placed on touch typing, accuracy and using the keyboard with consistent safe ergonomic techniques. Enrichment activities are available to the motivated student who first achieves touch typing and accuracy proficiency. Students are expected to work during the entire class period. Homework is usually not assigned. Learning to touch type is an investment that will pay off by drastically cutting down on the amount of time it takes to correctly type course work and allow students to direct their focus on the content.

## **Video Production**

**Course Number 6648**  
**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 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 shots. Students will import the footage on to the computer for editing, creating special effects and adding sound. Projects vary each semester, but may include commercials and public service announcements, dramas, comedies, documentaries, special effects, and animations.

This course is a pre-requisite for Broadcast Media (KJLS).

## **Web Design 1A**

**Course Number 6670**  
**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 everyday? 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 Photoshop, Adobe Flash, Inspiration, PhotoBooth, GarageBand and other software that will extend their learning. This course is taught in a Mac environment, 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**

**Course Number 6671**  
**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 wants to continue to extend their web design skills. Students will have the opportunity to use HTML coding as well as Adobe Dreamweaver. This course will offer opportunities to explore animation using Flash, original music using GarageBand, and graphics using Adobe Photoshop. This course encourages students to seek out real world applications for their work, possibly for the JLS website, teacher websites or outside community members.

# DRAMA

## **Creature Creations**

**Course Number 6767**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**  
**Prerequisite: *None***

Students will learn about character development and design. Students will design a minimum of two imaginary creatures and build at least one to be performed in their choice of media. Creature performances will be showcased at end of the semester. Students will learn art skills, writing strategies, and explore various performance techniques including puppetry, mime, mask work, and film. Students will learn about aesthetic valuing as they share prototypes with the class and participate in and receive feedback. Students will apply this knowledge toward the rendering of a fictional “living creature” with a backstory. Projects will be shared using Schoology as students participate in online discussions, share design ideas and building strategies, and share drafts of character backstories. A final showcase at the end of the semester will give all students a chance to perform their creatures for an audience. Throughout the course, students will engage in activities and be assessed in ways that address standards in Visual and Performing Arts as well as writing and Applied Arts. Most coursework will be completed during class.

## **Drama 1A**

**Course Number 6512**  
**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. Working from the concept of CROW (Character, Relationship, Objective and Where) students will develop scenes through improvisation and the study of Commedia dell'Arte. 1A students will also explore their skills as set and costume designers, directors, playwrights and stage managers in the Folktales Unit and finish the semester with a professional quality audition piece. Very little homework is required. Students can showcase some of their work for families and friends at the end of the semester.

## **Drama 1B**

**Course Number 6513**  
**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 performance skills while adding to their theatrical portfolios. Through scene work and play script analysis, 1B students will collaborate on “Passion Pieces” to showcase their work as actors. Be prepared to attend a theatrical production outside of class, and an after-school performance 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**

**Course Number 6589**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**  
**Prerequisite: *None***

Skills for Living is a broad-based exploratory course designed to cover the seven areas of Family and Consumer Science. The class is designed to help you prepare for your future by teaching some basic life skills. Units of study may include the skills needed to select and prepare foods, make nutritious food choices, construct a simple sewing project, learn to do your laundry, hair, skin and nail care, personal hygiene, cleaning your room and starting a babysitting business. Fall semester includes the construction of an edible gingerbread house and in the spring classes learn basic cake decorating skills.

This class utilizes fun, hands-on activities to explore many of the areas of Family and Consumer Science education. Students will spend one quarter in the cooking lab learning the proper use of equipment, kitchen safety rules, good manners, table setting, kitchen organization techniques and how to read and prepare a recipe. They will also spend one quarter exploring an area of Family and Consumer Science and complete a sewing project.

This course is taught in a two-year cycle. Each semester covers different topics.

## **Cooking (Advanced)**

**Course Number 6619**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**  
**Prerequisite: *Skills for Living***

This class offers the opportunity to research recipes from cookbooks, magazines and the Internet. The class will try out student-selected recipes in our JLS test kitchens. Students will build on their prior knowledge of working with a small group in a cooperative kitchen, learning the proper use of equipment, kitchen safety rules, good manners, table setting, kitchen organization techniques, 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 their own choosing.

On some occasions, this class will open and run "Miss Jane's Café," a classroom restaurant, serving lunch to staff. Fall semester includes the construction of an edible gingerbread house.

# **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY**

## **Industrial Technology 1A**

**Course Number 6625**  
**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 works of art out of wood. Through hands-on experiences, students will design and build projects using hand tools and many other power tools such as the bandsaw, drill presses, lathes, and a router table. Students will design and draw their projects to scale by hand. Students will also use CAD (Computer Aided Drafting) to draw their projects. Students will build a custom pine table and a hardwood pen/mechanical pencil on the lathe.

## **Industrial Technology 1B**

**Course Number 6626**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**  
**Prerequisite: *Industrial Technology 1A***

Industrial Technology 1B is a very exciting and fun project-based class where students design and build more complex projects out of wood. Through hands-on experiences, students will expand their skills in CAD and with woodworking hand and power tools. This course introduces students to a variety of skills which can lead to related jobs and academic pursuits. Students will design and build a pine folding chair and a mechanical pencil on the lathe.

# UNIQUE OFFERINGS – SEMESTER ELECTIVES

## **Broadcast Media (KJLS)**

**Course Number 6649**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite:** *Video Production or equivalent experience and approved application*

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.

## **Creative Writing**

**Course Number 6540**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite:** *None*

Students will keep a journal of unique writing exercises that encourages both an enjoyment of writing as well as practice in various writing skills, such as point of view, characterization, sensory detail, free association, effective dialogue, creating suspense and much 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 which addresses the efficacy of the writing. The atmosphere is a fun, safe community of writers, who honor each other's attempt to capture their world in words. Three main genres of creative writing – creative non-fiction, short fiction, and poetry – will be deeply explored, culminating in a portfolio of at least four fully developed, finished pieces: one from each genre and one of free choice.

## **Design and Technology Studio**

**Course Number 6765**  
**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 roller coaster design, graphic design, electronics, 3-D printing, biotechnology, Android app development, robotics and more. Each challenge area has multiple levels of projects that allow students to dive deeply into a focus area or to dabble in different challenges. Projects include hands-on use of materials such as circuitry components, wind turbine, or Sparki robots. Others incorporate a rich set of digital media tools for mixing music, designing and printing in 3-D, creating mobile games or creating custom stickers. This is a STEAM-based course that combines activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Design, and Math.

## **Leadership**

**Course Number 6635**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**

**Prerequisite:** *Application with teacher and counselor approval*

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 per semester.

## **Marine Biology**

**Course Number 3168**  
**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**

**Course Number 6400**  
**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 stock market competition, complete comparison shopping activities and a variety of other activities. Projects will be tracked and managed via spreadsheets. Most coursework will be completed during class.

## **Public Speaking**

**Course Number 6647**  
**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. By emphasizing such skills as research, writing, organization, listening, and presentation techniques, the class helps reinforce skills students will also use in other academic subjects. In addition to traditional speeches, students will participate in a debate, create and sell an original product in an advertising unit, learn how to make a podcast in a digital storytelling unit, and play public speaking games.

## **School Service**

**Course Number 8385**  
**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.

## **Tools to Thrive**

**Course Number 6768**  
**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade / Semester**  
**Prerequisite: *None***

This is a fun and engaging semester long elective. In this class, we will build a tight knit community, learn about understanding and managing our emotions, develop kindness and empathy by engaging in community service, and explore the science behind gratitude, happiness, and much more. The goal of this class is for you to be able to recognize and manage your emotions and to interact with others in a fun, caring, and empathetic way. In class you will journal daily, practice gratitude and mindfulness, work to improve the lives of those around you, and hopefully become a bit happier in the process. There will be no daily homework in this elective.