



COURSE CATALOG 2019 - 2020



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

480 East Meadow Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94306
www.jls.pausd.org
(650) 856-5188

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Jane Lathrop Stanford
Middle School



COURSE CATALOG
2019 - 2020
Grades 6, 7, 8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
6th Grade Program	2
7th Grade Required Courses.....	5
8th Grade Required Courses.....	7
SUPPORT PROGRAMS	9
LIST OF ELECTIVES	11
Full-Year Electives.....	12
Semester Electives.....	15

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	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, 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, 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.

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, Word Web 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. Detailed information about the math pathways can be found at pausd.org/curriculum/secondary-math-placement.

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 is 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, 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

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 7th 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 7th grade CCSS, with the addition of some Standards for 8th grade, allowing students to cover 3 years of material in 2 years (7th and 8th grade). These additions from 8th 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 8th grade.

Detailed information about the math pathways can be found at pausd.org/curriculum/secondary-math-placement.

Physical Education

Physical Education is designed to develop good basic motor skills, 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, nonfiction books, articles, poetry, short stories, and plays. Students also view and analyze multimedia sources. Throughout the school year, 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 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, varied 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.

Detailed information about the math pathways can be found at pausd.org/curriculum/secondary-math-placement.

Physical Education

Physical Education is designed to develop good basic motor skills, 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.

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. It meets two days per week for 6th grade students during their core period (period 7).

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.

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.

English Learner Course Descriptions

6 th grade ELA for English Learners	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ENG LD 6A</u></p> <p>This English class is for 6th grade English Learner students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● score at the Novice and Emerging levels of English proficiency. ● score at the Intermediate and Expanding levels of English proficiency with somewhat-developed English skills. ● require substantial to moderate support. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ELL 6C</u></p> <p>This English class is for 6th grade English Learner students who score at the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intermediate and Expanding levels of English proficiency with moderately-developed English skills. ● Bridging level of English proficiency. ● Require moderate to light support.
6 th grade Social Studies for English Learners	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ENG LD 6B</u></p> <p>This Social Studies class is for 6th 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 th /8 th grade ELA for English Learners		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ELL 1</u></p> <p>This English class is for 7th and 8th grade English Learner students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● score at the Novice and Emerging levels of English proficiency. ● require substantial support. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ELL 2</u></p> <p>This English class is for 7th and 8th grade English Learner students who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● score at the Intermediate level of English proficiency with somewhat-developed English skills ● score at the Expanding level of English proficiency. ● require moderate support. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ELL 3</u></p> <p>This English class is for 7th and 8th grade English Learner students who score at the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● score at the Intermediate level of English proficiency with moderately-developed English skills. ● score at the Bridging level of English proficiency. ● require light support.
7 th /8 th grade Social Studies for English Learners		
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>ELL 7 WH</u></p> <p>This Social Studies class is for 7th 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;"><u>ELL 8 USH</u></p> <p>This Social Studies class is for 8th 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
<p>MUSIC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band, Advanced+ Band, Symphonic++ Choir Orchestra <p>WORLD LANGUAGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> French 1A French 1B* Japanese 1A Japanese 1B* Spanish 1A Spanish 1B* Chinese (Mandarin) 1A German 1A Spanish for Spanish Speakers <p>UNIQUE OFFERING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AVID ** Yearbook **? <p>* Prerequisite ** Permission of staff required + 7th grade only ++ 8th grade only ? Application required</p>	<p>ART</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art 1A (Drawing Emphasis) Art 1B (Painting Emphasis) Ceramics & Sculpture (3-D Emphasis) Multimedia Art (Technology Art Emphasis)* <p>COMPUTERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computer (Programming)* Keyboarding Video Production Web Design 1A Web Design 1B* <p>DRAMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creature Creations* Drama 1A Drama 1B* <p>FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooking (Advanced)* Skills for Living <p>INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial Technology 1A Industrial Technology 1B (Advanced)* <p>UNIQUE OFFERINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broadcast Media (KJLS) *? Creative Writing Current Events Design and Technology Studio Leadership** ++? Marine Biology Money Matters Public Speaking School Service++ Tools to Thrive

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
7th 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
8th 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
7th and 8th 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

Course Number 6886
7th and 8th 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 ILS.

UNIQUE OFFERINGS – FULL-YEAR ELECTIVES

AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination) 7th and 8th Grade / Year
Prerequisite: *Teacher/counselor recommendation and interview process*

The AVID elective 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. Usually, the AVID Coordinator will contact students and their parents directly to participate in the program. More information is available at www.avidonline.org

Yearbook Course Number 6166
7th and 8th Grade / Full Year
Prerequisite: *Application with teacher and counselor approval*
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 21st 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
7th and 8th 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
7th and 8th 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
7th and 8th 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)

Course Number 6356
7th and 8th 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

Computer (Programming)

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

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 environment. There are opportunities for more advanced students to expand their personal computer programming knowledge. No homework is assigned. Topics include algorithms and problem solving, data types, control

structures, functions, arrays, 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.

Keyboarding

Course Number 6510
7th and 8th 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 life-time.

Video Production

Course Number 6648
7th and 8th 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 post production. 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

Course Number 6670
7th and 8th 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, Photo Booth, 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
7th and 8th 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

7th and 8th 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

Course Number 6512

7th and 8th 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

Course Number 6513

7th and 8th 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

Cooking (Advanced)

Course Number 6619

7th and 8th 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.

Skills for Living

Course Number 6589
7th and 8th 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.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Industrial Technology 1A

Course Number 6625
7th and 8th Grade / Semester
Prerequisite: *None*

Industrial Technology is a broad-based exploratory experience designed for all students. The program seeks to acquaint students with technology through hands-on experiences. The areas of study will focus on the constant technological changes in our society and include a broad base of career awareness.

In a modular environment of workstations, students working in cooperative pairs will have the opportunity to study: Visual Communications (which include Computer Aided Drafting and Design), Video Production, Audio Communication, Multimedia, Engineering and Structures, Transportation, Robotics, Telecomputing, Flight, Electronics, Lasers and Optics, Research and Development, Material Processes, Tool Processes, and Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM). In addition, students will be challenged with exciting engineering experiences that require group problem solving, and prototype building and testing. Digital photography and voice recognition are presently being added. Each student will manufacture a custom writing pen using various hardwoods.

Students should be able to integrate analytical thinking, scientific applications, math processes and writing skills as an end result of working in a module.

Industrial Technology 1B

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

Here students may either work in modules that they have not experienced or do advanced work in a previous module in which they have a special interest. (In Technology 1, students have studied only half of the areas of study.) In addition, students will be challenged with new exciting engineering experiences that require group problem solving and prototype building and testing. This course introduces students to skills which can lead to related jobs and academic pursuits. Each student will manufacture a pepper mill using selected hardwoods, and a Shaker clock. 3-D modeling software and 3-D printing have been added.

UNIQUE OFFERINGS – SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Broadcast Media (KJLS)

Course Number 6649

7th and 8th Grade / Semester

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

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. This course may be repeated.

Creative Writing

Course Number 6540

7th and 8th 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.

Current Events

Course Number 6064 (*pending Board approval*)

7th and 8th 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.

Design and Technology Studio

Course Number 6765

7th and 8th 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

8th 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 3169
7th and 8th 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
7th and 8th 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

Course Number 6647
7th and 8th 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 6636
8th 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
7th and 8th Grade / Semester
Prerequisite: *None*

This class is an opportunity for students to deepen their knowledge of Positive Psychology, the study of the strengths that enable us to thrive. We will do this through hands-on learning experiences, creating and conducting an experiment to increase well-being, and doing service work with our community. There will be daily journaling, mindfulness practices, and gratitude sharing. The goal of this class is for students to increase their experience of positive emotions, learn strategies to manage the difficult emotions and develop kindness and empathy for themselves and others. Coursework will be completed in class.