

EGJH 8th Grade Course Descriptions 2023-2024

Please look over these course descriptions as a family prior to completing the 8th Grade Course Request Google Form that will be emailed to each parent/guardian. Once you receive the course request form via email, please complete and submit that form. If you have any questions about courses, please email Mrs. Shelton at mshelton@tanq.org. If you need immediate assistance, please contact Sam Baires, Office Manager, at 749-3838. Thank you for choosing Emily Gray Junior High. We look forward to a wonderful 2023-2024 school year.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 8

Language Arts 8 explores a wide variety of literary genres as well as nonfiction texts to cultivate students' individual identities as readers, writers, speakers, and listeners. We consider the many ways in which one might become a powerful reader of books and articles. Students will be participating in book clubs where they will be collaborating with other students to better understand and learn from selected texts which relate to various themes. In this class there will be various opportunities for students to work in a group setting as well individual projects which allow them to grow in their capabilities. Students produce quality and thoughtful writing appropriate for various tasks and purposes (such as narrative writing, research papers, and argumentative essays). Finally, students hone their skills as critical thinkers and responsible citizens in our local and virtual communities.

Honors Language Arts 8

Students will expand their literacy skills as they read, discuss, and write about grade-level literature and nonfiction at an accelerated pace. Students will exercise their critical thinking and evaluative skills as they discuss, write about, and analyze the literary elements and structures of articles, essays, short stories, novels, drama, and poetry. Strong emphasis is placed on extending formal writing skills, including refining the selection of textual evidence and enhancing the composition of structured informational and argumentative essays. Students will also expand their knowledge of grammar and vocabulary through the study of advanced grammar practices and Latin and Greek roots. Multimedia presentations, small-group and whole-class discussions, and long-term, collaborative projects will also be required. Students should enjoy reading, writing, and analyzing the structure of literature. Interested students need to exceed current grade-level writing expectations and be self-motivated learners with higher-level critical thinking skills. *This rigorous course will help prepare students for Honors and AP English classes in high school. Seventh grade teacher recommendation is strongly encouraged for placement in Honors Language Arts.*

Resource Language Arts 8: Special Education Placement (IEP Required)

This course is designed to help students work towards their IEP goals in Reading and Writing. It involves the study of reading strategies that will improve comprehension, fluency and vocabulary through literature and non-fiction texts. It also involves the study of writing strategies that will improve conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, and sentence structure), fluency, and organization in writing structured paragraphs and essays. An integral part of this course is to assist students with study skills including note taking, time management, test taking strategies and organization.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies 8

This class will focus on the historical foundations and democratic principles that framed our Constitution and have influenced the development of our democracy. The content focus will be viewed through civic, historic, and economic lenses. Citizenship and civic engagement will be taught through inquiry. Eighth grade students will make connections between historical and current/recent issues as a base for implementing change in society. Students will recognize and practice their roles and responsibilities as both American and global citizens. United States History will focus on the major events that have their roots in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments. Students will also develop a comprehensive understanding of the history of the United States from early beginnings to the contemporary world. This is an integrated course, which develops an emphasis on understanding the

United States in a global society, and incorporates elements of history, geography, civics, economics, as well as an emphasis on current events and contemporary issues.

Honors Social Studies 8

This dynamic course is intended to help prepare students for *Honors and Advanced Placement Social Studies classes in high school*. The content focus will be viewed through civic, historic, and economic lenses. Citizenship and civic engagement will be taught through inquiry. Eighth grade students will make connections between historical and current/recent issues as a base for implementing change in society. Students will recognize and practice their roles and responsibilities as both American and global citizens. United States History will focus on the major events that have their roots in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the history of the United States from early beginnings to the contemporary world. This is an integrated course in which students will develop critical thinking skills to understand the diversity necessary to thrive in an interdependent world. Therefore, students will think creatively and reflect about the past to connect to the present in order to solve recurring and future problems. Students may expect to be actively involved in experiential and research activities, which challenge and require these higher level thinking skills and effective study habits. Students will be involved in a more intense and demanding study and are expected to demonstrate a superior effort toward that end. *Seventh grade teacher recommendation is strongly encouraged for placement in Honors Social Studies.*

MATH

8th Grade Math

This course is designed to deepen students' understanding of the fundamentals of Algebra with emphasis placed on preparing the student to enter Algebra I (High School). Concepts include Algebraic Expressions & Equations with both Rational & Irrational Number solutions; Solving, Graphing & Analyzing of Linear Functions and Simultaneous Pairs of Linear Equations; and Geometric Transformations & Theorems. Mathematical Practices will be enhanced through real-word application in all concept areas to foster perseverance in problem solving, develop critical thinking strategies, and increase mathematical fluency.

8th Grade Resource Math: *Special Education Placement (IEP Required)*

Students learn the state standards for Math at the 8th grade level taught by a Special Education teacher. Students will learn math skills focusing on number sense, word problems and operations of more complex math problems. Math instruction occurs at individual grade levels with emphasis on math domains as identified by state standards.

High School Algebra I - 9th Grade Math (Teacher recommendation is required)

Emphasis is placed on teaching the concepts, fundamentals, application and word problem solving of the first year of high school algebra. Algebra standards include solving and graphing linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. Additional standards include linear systems, statistics, and probability. This is a **high school course** and will prepare students for high school geometry and other high school advanced mathematics courses. Completion of a summer math readiness packet is recommended prior to the first day of school. A grade of an "A" in 8th Grade Math and a teacher's recommendation is required to advance to High School Algebra 1. Students are required to maintain an "A" for each quarter in order to receive a recommendation for advancement to High School Geometry. Current EG students attempting to move from 7th Grade Math to Algebra 1 must have earned an "A" for each quarter of 7th grade and acquire math teacher recommendation. Qualifications for incoming students from another district, incoming 8th graders, and any student that has not yet taken 8th Grade Math may be required to provide documentation, and/or a recommendation indicating they are prepared for the rigors of Algebra 1. Note: An override of teacher recommendation requires a signed Parent Waiver & Academic Agreement Form.

High School Geometry - 10th Grade Math (Teacher recommendation is required).

Emphasis is placed on using formal and informal proofs to derive theorems about angles, parallel lines, triangles, parallelograms, polygons and circles. Students make conjectures and conclusions based upon these geometric principles and relationships. They use algebra and probability skills to solve geometric problems. Additional standards include coordinate geometry, solid geometry, transformations, and introduction to trigonometry. This is a **high school course** and will prepare students for Algebra II and

other high school advanced mathematics courses. Completion of a summer math readiness packet is recommended prior to the first day of school. A grade of an "A" in High School Algebra I and a teacher's recommendation is required to advance to High School Geometry. Students must earn an "A" for each semester in order to receive a recommendation to advance to Algebra II. Incoming students from another district, incoming 8th graders, and any student that has not yet taken Algebra I (and received an "A") may be required to provide documentation and submit a teacher recommendation indicating they are prepared for the rigors of this course. Note: An override of teacher recommendation requires a signed Parent Waiver & Academic Agreement Form.

SCIENCE

Interactive Science 8

Students will learn the 8th grade curriculum through the inquiry process and developing science and engineering practices by engaging in hands-on activities, projects and labs. Students will develop good note taking, graphing, organizational, communication and collaborative problem solving skills to take them to the next level of science. Students will have the opportunity to develop both the skills and content knowledge necessary to be successful in high school, including keeping a scientific notebook as evidence for learning.

Honors Interactive Science 8

Students will learn the 8th grade curriculum through the inquiry process and learn science and engineering practices by engaging in hands-on activities, projects and labs. Students will develop good note taking, graphing, organizational, communication and collaborative problem-solving skills to take them to the next level of science. Students will have the opportunity to develop both the skills and content knowledge necessary to be successful in high school as well as scientifically literate members of the community. Writing highly proficient work in notebooks is expected. A STEM project requiring students to research, execute and present is mandatory. Seventh grade teacher recommendation is strongly encouraged for placement in Honors Science.

Electives

Physical Education 8

The general purpose of physical education is to provide each student the opportunity to participate in a variety of physical activities. These activities are designed to promote physical fitness through individual and team activities that will encourage students to have a positive attitude towards physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle. Physical Education will meet every day. Physical Education is a co-ed class for 8th graders.

Spanish IB: High School Credit Eligible (in most cases take this if you took Spanish 1A in 7th grade)

The fundamentals of all four areas of communication: listening, speaking, reading and writing will be further developed from the Spanish 1A course. Vocabulary building and conversational enrichment activities will be implemented to enhance communication skills. Grammar is introduced through stories as well as traditional methods to develop a strong base necessary for proficiency in second-language learning. Cultural topics are integrated throughout the curriculum to develop an appreciation of the Spanish speaking world. Students must earn an A, B or C in Spanish 1A to continue to Spanish 1B.

SPANISH 1 (equivalent to TVHS Freshmen level Spanish)(take this if you did not have Spanish in 7th grade)

The goal of this course is to provide students with a firm foundation in the fundamentals of listening, reading, writing and speaking in Spanish. Students develop and demonstrate proficiency through the introduction of vocabulary, grammar, sentence structures, and immersive practice. Students are also presented with the history and culture of Spanish-speaking people and communities from Europe, Africa, and the Americas in order to compare and contrast the similarities and differences between communities. Students should be aware that this course is a one year course at a high school level pace and is eligible to receive high school credit if the student earns a B or higher in the course. If you took Spanish 1A in 7th grade and choose to take this course (receiving a B or better), this Spanish 1 Course will replace your Spanish 1A for high school credit.

Spanish 2 (take this if you took Spanish 1 as a 7th grader TVHS Sophomore level Spanish)

The goal of this course is to provide a more extensive study of the structural grammar and other basic fundamental skills of the Spanish language. Emphasis is placed on increasing the student's ability to read, write, listen and speak Spanish. Students develop and implement communicative skills through the introduction of vocabulary, grammar, and sentence structures. Cultural aspects are presented to enable students to understand the differences and nuances of the Spanish speaking people and their language community. **Prereq:** Must have taken Spanish 1 and earned an A, b, or C in it before taking Spanish 2.

Beginning Band (New Class)

No Band experience; no problem. This class is for students interested in band with no prior experience playing at school or in an organized group. Emphasis is placed on introducing students to counts, individual skill and learning to play together as a group. No prior band experience required. This is your opportunity to try an instrument for the very first time, or try a new instrument you have never played before.

Cadet Band: (Bobcat Band)

Bobcat Band offers the intermediate level student an opportunity to play instrumental music. Emphasis is placed on playing and improving individual instrumental skill, including (but not limited to) tone, intonation, technical ability, and blend. Emphasis is also placed on developing more life skills for students, such as leadership, independence, confidence, and hard work. This is a performance based class. **Prereq:** One year of previous experience recommended.

Advanced Band: (Emily Gray Wind Ensemble)

This course offers the advanced level student an opportunity to play instrumental music. Emphasis is placed on playing and improving individual instrumental skill, including (but not limited to) tone, intonation, technical ability, and blend. Emphasis is also placed on developing more life skills for students, such as leadership, independence, confidence, and hard work. This is a performance based class. **Prereq:** Three to four years of playing experience, teacher recommendation and/or audition required.

String Orchestra (must have prior playing experience)

The course is open for all students who have some experience playing the violin, viola, cello, and double bass, either through a previous orchestra class at a different school or through some teacher instruction. Students will need to rent or purchase their own instruments for the program. Fundamentals will be built upon through the use of technique books and various styles of music. This class will emphasize tone production, instrument technique, music theory, and ensemble playing. Students will perform at semester performances and district festivals. Grades are based upon in-class participation, concert performances, and at-home practice. **Prereq:** One year experience

Chamber Orchestra (audition required)

This class is designed for all advanced orchestra students who play the violin, viola, cello, and double bass. Students will need to rent or purchase their own instruments for the program. Students will continue to develop individual and ensemble playing skills, advanced techniques, ear training, listening skills, and music reading through a varied repertoire of music. More emphasis will be placed on developing musicianship skills: leadership, independence, collaboration, and musicality. Students will perform at semester performances, district festivals, school events, and advanced/honor festivals. Grades are based upon in-class participation, concert performances, and at-home practice. **Prereq:** Audition or teacher approval.

Music Theory & Composition

This course is designed for students who would like to have a deeper understanding of the way in which music functions, and utilizing those skills to create it. While being an extremely rigorous course, it is ultimately rewarding and will benefit the student's musical pursuits and passions. Students will hone and develop their musical language skills, including elements of written and aural theory. Students will take these skills and apply them to the composition process in a variety of styles. Students in grades 7 and 8 may participate, but **MUST** have had at least one school year of some type of Band, Orchestra, or Choir.

Performance Choir

This is a performance-based class focused on developing proper singing techniques, intonation, rhythm and harmony. Music theory will also be taught so students will be better equipped to sight-read songs. Students will sing a wide variety of songs from different music genres including Pop/Modern, Oldies, Broadway, Classical and Folk. Students are expected to participate in choir performances throughout the year.

Musical Theater

This class will focus on all performance aspects of Musical Theater: acting, singing and dancing. Students will perform junior versions of Broadway musicals, and/or create their own musicals or Broadway revue shows including popular songs and themes. Instruction will focus on the fundamentals of stage acting, vocal technique, and dance/choreography to enhance performance. Students are expected to participate in two musical productions over the course of the school year which will include some rehearsals outside of school hours.

Yearbook-Student Publications

Students taking this class will be responsible for all aspects of producing the school yearbook. Students will learn and develop skills in advertising, journalistic writing, digital photography, page design, and online publishing. As part of their yearbook responsibilities, students will be required to attend events and activities before and after school, present the daily, school-wide announcements, and interact regularly with members of the school community. Interested students should enjoy writing, be able to work independently and collaboratively, and have creative ideas. Keyboarding and a basic knowledge of computers are also needed since all publications are computer generated.

Art

During this semester-long class, artists will further develop their technical skills in a variety of media types in both two-dimensions as well as three-dimensions. Artists will practice techniques in drawing, painting, sculpting, and printmaking. Students will apply knowledge, experience, and inspiration to their art planning, designing, making, and presenting. Artists will follow the artistic creative process to develop projects that are original and personal. Art builds on previous skills but is a time for experiment and growth, giving students the opportunities to develop new skills as well as allowing more choices and exposure to art materials.

Advanced Art (new class)

This course is designed for the serious art student who is considering studying art in high school or who is interested in acquiring new skills and further developing their talents. Students are encouraged to pursue new avenues in the field of drawing, painting, graphics, printmaking, and sculpture, while studying in depth the areas of art and design that are of greatest interest to them. Advanced students will create artwork with a greater emphasis on choice. Students will be continually encouraged to expand their creative ideas as well as their technical potential. Seventh grade teacher recommendation is required.

Art Animation (new class)

During this course students will develop skills in multiple areas required to create stop motion animations. Students will create fictional stories as well as nonfiction and instructional animations using storyboards to determine the story sequence and visual layout of each scene. These young animators will have access to over one hundred different animation techniques. They will learn about special effects, voice acting, and character creation, while calculating spacing, timing, and movement. These animating artists will also build their own scenery as well as working with lighting and sound for each animated production they create. This class will use the Stop Motion Studio app to create animations with high standards for appropriate use and responsibility with digital media.

Health

This course is a comprehensive study of all current health issues that challenge young teens. This course explores the opportunity to get a better understanding of issues that encompass mental, social and physical health. Areas of study in health include nutrition, communication skills and fitness for life. Students will learn and set goals for lifetime fitness, create personal menus for nutrition and practice

methodology for active communication skills. Additional areas of interest in health are human body systems, substance abuse, disease, personal hygiene and sun safety.

Strength & Fitness

This course is an opportunity for boys and girls to become physically stronger and improve cardiovascular fitness. The course is based on the principles of weight training and cardiovascular endurance. Students will understand human musculature and the proper mechanics and technique to improve overall fitness and strength. All students will develop individualized exercise programs that are designed specifically for the body type and personal experience.

Computer Science

This course introduces students to the fundamental applications of computer programming, the basics of programming languages, coding, graphic creation, memory, resolution, and data storage. Students will learn about occupations in the ever changing world of computer science. This course will explore legal and ethical issues associated with computer use and ways computers influence modern society. Students do not need prior experience with coding or extensive knowledge of computers to take this course.

STEAM

Calling all innovators! Do you like designing, developing, and creating solutions? The goal of STEAM is to foster a learning environment in which students are challenged to produce original ideas and structures using concepts and skills from Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. Through these disciplines students will actively engage in critical thinking, research, and project development. There will also be a strong robotic component as students learn to define STEAM related concepts through Friction Force, Mission to Mars, Rovers, and Python programming. This class focuses on project based learning with many hands-on activities and challenges to propose solutions to real world problems.

Stagecraft Essentials

Stagecraft Essentials is a non-performance class that focuses on the planning and creation of all aspects of the visual stage including set and costume design, along with stage crew work. Students will design and create background scenery, set pieces, props, and costumes for the actors. Also, students serve as the stage crew for a musical production assisting with set changes, prop placement, sound production, lighting, and assisting with hair and makeup, as needed. Students are expected to provide stage crew support for one musical theater production which will include some rehearsals outside of school hours.

Teen Leadership

In this class, we use creative and fun ways to learn real-world leadership skills. Through films, role-plays, games, community involvement, and public speaking, we learn to set goals, work to achieve personal and group goals, and be a healthy part of a team.

Teacher Aide

Teachers may invite students to support the learning environment if they have exceptional skills in a specific area or subject. Students must be responsible, organized and display a willingness to help the teacher and others. Student aid positions are limited and at the discretion of each teacher.