



Mabank ISD

Trust, Excellence, Academics, Communication, Hard Work

Mabank Junior High

Where Every Child Counts

Course Guide

2022-2023

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English/Language Arts & Reading:

7th Grade ELAR

Students will continue to expand their reading skills including decoding, vocabulary building, and comprehension. In addition to strengthening comprehension strategies, students will begin analyzing texts representing a variety of genres for abstract ideas. Using these texts as a starting point for composition, students will extend their skills in both written and oral communication by addressing these important areas: parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, sentence variety, and composition. Students will practice using language as a tool to express ideas for a variety of purposes. Students will also dive into memorable novels for enjoyment and understanding.

7th Grade ELAR Honors

Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into advanced courses at the high school level. Students will engage in reading, writing, and oral language activities at an advanced degree of depth and complexity.

8th Grade ELAR

Students integrate the skills of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills; comprehension; response; multiple genres; author's purpose and craft; composition; and inquiry and research. While the seven strands of the essential knowledge and skills for English language arts and reading are the guiding factors, the goal is to help students become more aware of the world around them by making connections through rich visual, listening, speaking, and reading experiences.

8th Grade ELAR Honors

Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

This course is designed to prepare students for entry into advanced courses at the high school level. Students will engage in reading, writing, and oral language activities at an advanced degree of depth and complexity.

Mathematics:

7th Grade Mathematics

Focus areas include: number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations and connect multiple representations of relationships. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalize procedures from measurement experiences, and use procedures to solve problems.

7th Grade Mathematics Pre-Algebra (Honors)

Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

Pre-Algebra is an “Advanced” level math course designed to challenge students and prepare them for honors level Algebra and Geometry. It is a fast-paced course, covering 8th grade math, advanced algebraic thinking and problem-solving as well as geometric concepts. Students taking this course will be skipping 7th grade math and should be advanced in mathematics. Student should possess a strong work ethic.

8th Grade Mathematics

The primary focal areas are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of real numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe and communicate increasingly complex situations. Students begin to develop an understanding of functional relationships. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. Students will use of a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model and solve mathematical and real-world situations.

8th Grade Mathematics Algebra I (High School Credit)

Prerequisite: Completion of Pre-Algebra Course

Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

Algebra I is a comprehensive course beginning with real numbers and algebraic expressions, followed by solving linear equations and inequalities with one variable; polynomials and factoring; rational expressions; linear equations with two variables; relations and functions; systems of equations; radicals; quadratic equations and probability. This course is worth 1.0 high school credit and requires the State of Texas end-of-course exam.

Science:

7th Grade Science

Focus is on living systems and how they interact with the nonliving factors in the environment. Matter and energy are conserved throughout living systems. Force, motion, and energy are observed in living systems and the environment in several ways such as interactions between muscular and skeletal systems, the direction and growth of seedlings, turgor pressure, and geotropism. Different environments support different living organisms that are adapted to different regions of the Earth. Students learn that all organisms obtain energy, get rid of wastes, grow, and reproduce. All living organisms are made up of smaller units called cells. Students study structure and functions of cells and human body systems. Students learn about plants, biodiversity, adaptations, and ecosystems. They will also study human impact on the environment. Students investigate characteristics of Earth and relationships of objects in our solar system that allow life to exist.

7th Grade Science Honors

Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

Requires the students to perform field and laboratory investigations at a more advanced level applying the scientific method. The students apply critical-thinking and problem-solving in physical, chemical, earth, and life sciences. Participation in outside-of-class scientific research projects is required. Students enrolled in this course should expect outside-of-class preparation.

8th Grade Science

Studies include planning and conducting field and laboratory investigations using the scientific method, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to collect and analyze information in the areas of physical, life and earth science concepts. Forty percent of the curriculum is devoted to using scientific and technological tools to collect and analyze data.

8th Grade Science Honors

Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

Students are prepared to enter “Advanced” science courses that are offered at the high school level. This course includes more advanced planning and conducting field and laboratory investigations using the scientific method, critical thinking and problem-solving skills to collect and analyze information about physical, life and earth science, incorporating chemistry and physics concepts. Forty percent of the curriculum is devoted to using scientific and technological tools to collect and analyze data. Participation in outside-of-class scientific research projects is required. Students enrolled in this course should expect outside-of-class preparation.

Social Studies:

7th Grade Texas History

Texas History tells the stories of people, events, and institutions from the state’s earliest civilizations to modern times. Each era focuses on the impact of key individuals, events, and issues. Students use primary and secondary sources to gain information about Texas. The goal is to help students build a foundation in history, geography, economics, government, citizenship, culture, science, technology, & society, and social studies skills to prepare them for their 8th grade and high school history courses.

7th Grade Texas History Honors

Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

Students will be able to identify various aspects of the Lone Star State. The history of Texas will come alive through structured projects that give the student hands-on experiences in understanding how the people of the past affect the present and future. A major component of this course will be the interaction of students within group settings, and their ability to recognize relationships and draw conclusions among their peers. Whether students are learning how to read or use maps or determining how Texas gained its independence, organization and clarity of ideas will be important to their success. Emphasis is on development of problem-solving skills, as well as learning decision-making processes.

8th Grade American History

Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students will use a variety of skills including: note taking, critical thinking, inferencing, and analysis with evidence. The main theme of this course will be connecting the past to the present, and understanding the historic foundations for modern events.

8th Grade American History Honors

Prerequisite: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

Student's instruction is accelerated allowing for more in-depth coverage of the topics and time for project-based learning taking place. This course exposes students to materials and information covering prehistoric times through 1877. Several themes such as exploration, colonization, independence, nationalism, expansionism, conflict and resolution, and basic human rights are strongly embedded in this program. Many opportunities are provided for integrating technology through research and presentation of projects.

Electives:

*** PE Credit is State mandated for all 7th Grade Students**

7th & 8th Grades Athletics – Boys and Girls

*** PE Credit**

Prerequisites: None

Athletics offers a wide range of University Interscholastic League competitive sports in which students may participate. Athletics provides each enrolled student of secondary school age an opportunity to participate in an extracurricular athletic activity that will foster physical skills, create a sense of worth and competence, increase knowledge and understanding of the importance of sports and competition, the responsibilities and discipline of team play, and the principles of fair play.

Participation in athletics means more than competition between two individuals of two teams representing different schools. Athletics teaches fair play and sportsmanship, understanding and appreciation of teamwork, the fact that quitting means failure while hard work means success. Students may participate in Cross Country and Tennis without being enrolled in Athletics.

Sports Available: Boys – Cross Country, Football, Basketball, Tennis, Track,

Sports Available: Girls - Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Tennis, Track

Athletic students are required to participate in a minimum of two (2) sports.

7th & 8th Grades Physical Education – PE*** PE Credit**

Students acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically active lifestyle. The student exhibits a physically active lifestyle and understands the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the lifespan.

Students apply similar concepts from one sport or movement setting to another. Students can observe another individual's performance and notice key elements for success. At this grade level, students participate in physical activity both in and out of school while maintaining a healthy level of fitness as their bodies grow and change. Their knowledge of safety and the ability to manage their own behavior is enforced.

7th & 8th Grades Physical Education – Partner PE*** PE Credit**

Prerequisite: Application Required. Partner PE is a success oriented physical education program featuring supervised peer tutors and individualized learning and instruction. The purpose of the program is to encourage physical activity, increase knowledge of health and fitness strategies, and assist in the acquisition of individual lifetime recreation activities and /or skills with team sports. Partner applicant should possess a desire to work with students with disabilities. Partners, (Peer Tutors), are limited to approximately ten (10) students.

7th & 8th Grades Physical Education – Archery/Outdoor PE*** PE Credit**

The Archery/Outdoor PE class is not your traditional PE course. Students are expected to develop competency in outdoor education activities that provide opportunities for enjoyment and challenge. Emphasis is placed upon student selection of activities that also promote a respect for the environment and that can be enjoyed for a lifetime. Students will utilize the National Archery in Schools Program curriculum along with the opportunity to obtain their Hunter's Safety Certification and Boaters Safety Certification. Students will participate in angler education, boater education, hunter education, archery, orienteering and GPS, survival skills, camping, outdoor cooking, and CPR/First Aid.

7th & 8th Grades Physical Education – Competitive Archery*** PE Credit**

Prerequisites: Tryouts and Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

The Competitive Archery Class is a University Interscholastic League competitive sports program aimed at improving both educational and competitive archery skills. Through this course, students are learning focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and the life lessons required to be successful in the classroom and in life.

7th & 8th Grades Sports Medicine*** Does Not Receive PE Credit**

Prerequisites: Application Required. Class meets after school. The Mabank Junior High School athletic program has a high number of athletes to Athletic Trainer ratio. The Athletic Training Program was developed to assist with the needed medical coverage and provide hands-on medical experience for students who are interested in the medical field. The Athletic Training Student Aide, (ATSD), acts as an extension of the Athletic Trainer and provides first responder

coverage to their assigned team. Due to the extensive hands-on training, the program is limited to three (3) students. To avoid a conflict with program and practices, students who are not in athletics are preferred.

7th & 8th Grades Leadership

*** Does Not Receive PE Credit**

This course is designed to provide a basic introduction to leadership by focusing on what it means to be a good leader. Teens need help navigating the many challenges and choices they face during these critical developmental years. The course emphasis developing leadership traits, relationship building, organization skills as well as addressing leadership ethics. Students will assess their leadership traits and skills to improve their own leadership performance.

Fine Arts:

The fine arts incorporate the study of dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts to offer unique experiences and empower students to explore realities, relationships, and ideas. These disciplines engage and motivate all students through active learning, critical thinking, and innovative problem solving. The fine arts develop cognitive functioning and increase student academic achievement, higher-order thinking, communication, and collaboration skills, making the fine arts applicable to college readiness, career opportunities, workplace environments, social skills, and everyday life. Students develop aesthetic and cultural awareness through exploration, leading to creative expression. Creativity, encouraged through the study of the fine arts, is essential to nurture and develop the whole child.

7th & 8th Grades Band

Prerequisite: Previous Band Experience (Director Approval)

The Bands are made up of 7th and 8th grade students divided into two class periods by grade. The 8th grade band, (Varsity Band), is the top UIL competing band and the 7th grade band, (Non-Varsity), is the second competing band for UIL. Members of these two groups must be academically eligible to participate in UIL competitions. The bands have several performances each year not limited to the following: Fall concert, Winter concert, Spring concert, Pre-UIL Concert, and UIL Concert & Sight-reading. Students are required to perform at the Cedar Creek Solo & Ensemble contest, (held in Mabank during the spring semester). In addition, students are encouraged to audition for the ATSSB all-region band in the fall. All band members are expected to participate in all sectionals, after school practices, events, and performances.

7th & 8th Grades Introduction to Flag Corps

*** PE Credit**

Prerequisite: Tryouts Audition

The Intro to Flag Corps class offers rehearsal and instruction for beginning level. Instruction will include movement basics, equipment basics on flag and rifle, performance observation and analysis, and basic design and choreography.

7th & 8th Grades Choir

Prerequisite: Students are placed in choir class with students who have comparable skills

The Choral Music program is designed to enhance the musical, creative and expressive qualities of all students. Musical opportunities are provided for every child to learn the basic skills of singing, playing and reading music, developing song repertoire, broadening listening skills and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas.

There are two choirs at Mabank Junior High including Treble Choir and Tenor-Bass Choir. The choirs sing at every pep rally, assembly and compete at UIL concert and sight-reading contest each year. Each student participating in choir will receive a choir t-shirt and uniform. Since “Every Voice Counts”, it is extremely important to attend all concerts and events!

7th & 8th Grades Introduction to Music

Prerequisite: None

Students will explore all different aspects of music, music theory, music history, different composers throughout history and their musical “thumbprints”, different instruments from around the world and how they/their music fits into the culture in that era.

7th & 8th Grades Art

The visual arts program offers students comprehensive art experiences with detailed explorations in the classics such as painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, graphic design, and crafts. In addition to gaining confidence and proficiency working with a variety of mediums, students will learn about the history, analysis, and interpretation of art.

7th & 8th Grades Theatre Arts

Theatre Arts: A foundational theatre class where students will learn the basics of acting and technical theatre. The class focuses on getting students comfortable with performing and teaches them the building blocks for being a successful performer. The class will focus on small group and individual assignments so that the student receives timely, focused feedback to help them improve at their own pace.

8th Grade Theatre Arts I (High School Credit)

Prerequisite: Theater Arts

8th Grade Students Only --A “*performance based*” class that follows the HS Theatre I curriculum. The fall semester focuses on acting, vocal, and movement basics. The spring semester will put that foundation to use and expand upon it by producing a Spring Show. Theatre I will also perform a children’s show that will perform for the elementary students.

This class is designed to challenge students that are willing to perform and enjoy being on stage. Students must be committed, willing to take chances, dedicated, and have a strong work ethic. Students will often work in groups hence, acquiring the skills to be open communicators, active listeners, and what it means to work as an ensemble. This course is worth one high school credit.

7th & 8th Grades Advanced Theatre**Prerequisite: Audition Required**

A performance based class that will perform the Fall One Act Play production. In the spring, the focus will be on experimental theatre and performing different types of theatre including, but not limited to Reader's theatre, puppetry, and historical theatre. **Students are expected to commit to the Fall One Act Play contest show, as it is a UIL event.** Rehearsals will be during class, with 2 Saturday rehearsals a month (September-December), and occasional after school rehearsals at the teacher's discretion. Students will be given plenty of notice to when the after school rehearsals are.

Advanced Theatre is designed to challenge students that are willing to perform and enjoy being on stage. Students must be committed, willing to take chances, dedicated, and have a strong work ethic. Students will often work in groups hence, acquiring the skills to be open communicators, active listeners, and what it means to work as an ensemble.

7th & 8th Grades Communication – MJH Live!**Prerequisite: Application Required**

The purpose of this class is to produce the campus announcements each day. Students will write, direct, and produce the filming of the announcements. Students will learn the aspects of video editing using a variety of sources and programs. Other technologies introduced but not limited to are the basics of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Premier. Students need to be interested in being in front of the camera and willing to work cooperatively with others. The students should be prepared to help teachers and other students in the production of videos or products.

7th & 8th Grades Communication – Yearbook**Prerequisite: Application Required**

The goal of this class is to market and produce the yearbook for the campus. This is a student-produced product and the students will be creating the pages that will make up the book. Students must be able to stay after school to take photographs of school events such as football games, concerts, and other evening activities. Each student is assigned activities to photograph. Students will also be responsible for helping generate outside revenue from business advertising. Students are not restricted from this class due to athletics or other activities. Students will have to schedule their time wisely to accomplish their activities with the requirements of the class. (If a student plays a sport, they can take photos before or after their game without conflicting with their athletic event.) Students grades will be based on completing their ad sales, their photography events, and overall work performance in class.

7th & 8th Grades Career and Technology - Tech Apps

This elective is designed to develop and enhance computer skills that are needed by all students as they prepare for high school, college, and future careers. Students will learn keyboarding, networking concepts, digital citizenship, Microsoft Office, Google Suite, Internet research strategies and basic coding. The curriculum also includes real-life projects that combine specific skills from each of the programs studied.

8th Grade Career and Technology - Tech Apps I

Prerequisite: Tech Apps

8th Grade Students Only. This course is designed to continue building on the computer skills acquired in 7th grade. The goal is to familiarize and reinforce student understanding of computer applications including word processing, coding, spreadsheets, database, drawing, presentations and creating websites. This course equips the student with essential skills and knowledge necessary to use computer hardware and software in daily life and occupational tasks.

8th Career and Technology – Transitions (Career Investigation)

Prerequisite: Required 8th Grade Elective (1 Semester)

Students learn and analyze themselves to discover a path for the next four years of high school to establish a strong foundation for a successful career. By self-analysis through research, this course empowers students to make clear, informed choices. As they progress through one semester, students will evaluate their unique strengths and interests, investigate a variety of career options, explore an array of post-secondary education opportunities, set goals, learn about the job application process and refine the skills needed to be competitive and ultimately successful in each of their lives.

8th Career and Technology – Touch Systems (Keyboarding)

Prerequisite: Required 8th Grade Elective (1 Semester)

This class is designed to provide students the opportunity to develop lifelong skills including correct keyboarding technique, formatting, and document processing. Throughout this course, students receive instruction on proper keyboarding techniques, proofreading and editing skills, as well as proper layouts for business letters, memos, envelopes, and reports.

Acceleration and Remediation Labs:

7th & 8th Grades– Math

Prerequisite: Approval Through Campus and District Process-Based on State Guidelines

Math lab provides instructional support for students who failed to meet the passing standard on a state assessment or who exhibits academic difficulties. This course is designed to fill academic gaps providing accelerated instruction in mathematics. MJH determines the appropriate form, content, and timing of the instruction based on individual student needs.

7th & 8th Grades Reading

Prerequisite: Approval Through Campus and District Process-Based on State Guidelines

Intervention individualized to each student's specific needs. Students work self-paced in areas of reading, spelling, vocabulary development, comprehension and writing. To improve reading skills, students also work with instructors in a small group setting. Intense reading intervention is a successful tool in helping student's close gaps in reading and increasing grade level performance.

This course is required for those students who have not demonstrated mastery in reading on the state assessment. The course design helps the student find success with reading in authentic situations, as well as on student assessments. Reading intervention aligns with the student's grade level ELAR course; pre-teaching key skills, developing students' independent reading level and bridging those skills to state assessments.

7th & 8th Grades Take Flight

Prerequisite: Approval Through Campus and District Process-Based on State Guidelines

Take Flight is a Dyslexia Intervention class for students identified with the characteristics of dyslexia. Emphasis is on reading fluency, comprehension, spelling and writing to gain skills and confidence in their reading and writing abilities.

****IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Honors classes are for students who are highly motivated and have demonstrated the ability and interest above and beyond that which is offered in the regular course. Honors classes are designed to give students the opportunity to practice skills, through enriched activities, enabling them to be successful in the advanced classes at an upper level. Honors classes are academically accelerated and cover the same objectives as the regular class but in more depth and complexity, allowing students the opportunity to participate in discussions using higher level thinking and create in-depth projects to demonstrate mastery of concepts. Honors classes may have additional requirements on projects and assignments.

Honors courses will be determined from the following sources: STAAR Data, benchmarks, class averages, and teacher recommendation. Honors placement may be limited.

****IMPORTANT NOTE:** It is within the school's discretion whether or not to schedule a student in certain classes. Class size, scheduling conflicts, grades, special abilities, and other factors may be considered in filling class rolls. Just because a student pre-registers for a class does not automatically assure that they will be assigned to that class. Mabank ISD does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, age, color, sex, religion, national origin, or handicapping condition.