



Mabank ISD

Trust, Excellence, Academics, Communication, Hard Work

Mabank Junior High

Where Every Child Counts

Course Guide

2026-2027

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Reading, Language Arts:

7th Grade RLA

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 RLA 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 RLA

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 RLA 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 (1.0 High School Credit)**Prerequisite: Completion of Pre-Algebra Course****Approval through Campus and District Placement Process**

Algebra I is the first course required for students participating in the regular high school math program. This is a comprehensive course beginning with the real numbers and Algebraic expressions, followed by solving linear equations and inequalities in one variable; polynomials and factoring, rational expressions; linear equations in two variables; relations and functions; systems of equations; radicals; quadratic equations, and probability.

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: Completion of all athletic requirements and approval of coaching staff

Participation in athletics and extracurricular activities is a PRIVILEGE, not a right. Therefore, higher standards are expected from all participants as it pertains to grades, behavior both in and out of school, attendance, work ethic, and commitment. Any behavior that is deemed unbecoming of an athlete will be subject to consequences or removal from the program. The Athletic Program is an integral part of the total school experience for both boys and girls. It offers a variety of sports and activities to students who have the desire to participate. The athletic program is a vital part of education. The rules, regulations, and standards set forth are designed to provide for the efficient operation of such a program. The athlete will be held accountable and responsible for the athletic program policies and for any additional expectations set forth by the coaching staff.

The athletic period is a STRENGTH and SPEED development class that exists for students who are participating in a sport offered by Mabank ISD. Students must participate in at least one of the sports below to be in the athletic period. Participating in a sport is defined by starting and completing that sport.

Sports Available: Boys –Football, Basketball, Cross Country

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

Other Sports that do NOT require participation in the athletic period: Tennis, Soccer, Baseball, and Softball.

***Please see the Athletic Handbook for all expectations of a Mabank Athlete.**

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 – Competitive Archery

*** PE Credit**

Prerequisites: Approval through Campus and District Placement Process

The Competitive Archery Class is a 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.

Wildlife, Fisheries, & Ecology Management (1.0 High School Credit)

Outdoor Education

*** PE Credit**

7th and 8th Grades

Wildlife, Fisheries, and Ecology Management is designed to examine the importance of wildlife and outdoor recreation while developing skills in management, identification of fish and wildlife, laws, policies and regulations, hunter safety certification, career investigation, and leadership activities.

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 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.

Art Appreciation (1.0 High School Credit – One Semester Course)

Prerequisite: Must be enrolled in Professional Communication

8th Grade Only

This is a one semester course. It will introduce learners to the various forms of the visual arts, such as painting, sculpture and more. Students will learn how to look at a work of art, identify and compare key characteristics in artworks, and understand the role art has played throughout history. Through hands-on activities, discussion, and research, learners will develop an overall appreciation for the art they encounter in their daily lives.

*Note this course is only one semester but student will receive two semester credits

7th & 8th Grades Band

Prerequisite: Previous Band Experience (or Director Approval)

The Jr. High Bands are made up of 7th and 8th grade students divided into three ability-based performing ensembles. The Wind Ensemble Band (Varsity) is the top UIL competition band with both 7th and 8th grade students. The Symphonic Band (Non-varsity) is the second UIL competition band with both 7th and 8th grade students. Our Concert Band (Sub Non-Varsity) is our third concert band (optional to participate in UIL competition) that has both 7th and 8th grade students.

Members of these three ensembles must be academically eligible to participate in UIL competitions. The bands have several performances each year not limited to the following: Holiday Concert, Pre-UIL Concert, UIL Concert & Sight-Reading, Solo/Ensemble Contest, and Spring Concert. In addition, students are highly encouraged to audition for the ATSSB All-Region band in the Fall semester. Participation and attendance in sectional rehearsals, after school practices, events, and performances are all part of each band student's grade.

7th & 8th Grades Color Guard

*** PE Credit**

The Introduction to Color Guard class offers rehearsal and instruction in the beginning techniques of color guard & winter guard. Instruction will include movement and dance basics in the styles of ballet, modern, and contemporary dance. Equipment techniques will be taught in a split manner with 7th grade focusing solely on flag, and 8th grade gaining introduction to rifle techniques in preparation for HS guards. Students will also participate in interactive projects and discussions themed around adjudication, design, staging, and costuming. Both performance and competitive opportunities will be offered in this class, and PE credit is given for participation in this course. Students are required to dress-out daily for group participation.

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 three choirs at Mabank Junior High including Treble Choir, Varsity 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 Theatre Arts I

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.

7th & 8th Grades Theatre Arts II

JH Theatre Arts II: A continuation of the Junior High Theatre I class. Theatre II builds on foundational performance and technical skills developed in Junior High Theatre I, offering students an intermediate exploration of dramatic arts. Students will deepen their understanding of character development, script analysis, and collaborative stagecraft while building confidence as performers and creative problem-solvers. This course will require one after school performance for parents as JH Theatre II students will perform in a class play.

7th & 8th Grades Production Theatre

Prerequisite: Audition Required – See Director to schedule

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 required after school rehearsals and Fall One Act Play contest show in December, as it is a UIL event. Rehearsals will take place during class and after school, per the schedule given by the director. Students will be given plenty of notice to when the after-school rehearsals are.

Production 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.

Digital Media:

Digital Design and Media Production – (MJH Live)

7th Grade – MJH Live I

8th Grade – MJH Live II (1.0 High School Credit)

In Digital Design and Media Production students demonstrate creative thinking, develop innovative strategies, and use communication tools in order to work effectively with others as well as independently to produce and broadcast announcements. Students will gather information, problem solve, and make informed decisions regarding scripts, filming, editing, and broadcasting.

7th Grade – Yearbook I

8th Grade – Yearbook II (1.0 High School Credit)

In Digital Media, students develop an understanding of photography, journalism, and design elements, while planning, developing, and creating an innovative yearbook that captures the moments of the school year. Throughout the course students will develop skills in page design, publishing techniques, copywriting, editing, and photography. Reading, writing, computing, communication, and critical thinking skills are required.

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.

Engineering:

Principles of Applied Engineering (1.0 High School Credit)

Prerequisite: Must be enrolled in Algebra I

8th Grade Only

Principles of Applied Engineering provides an overview of the various fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and their interrelationships. Students will develop engineering communication, computer graphics, modeling, and presentation skills by using a variety of computer hardware and software applications to complete assignments and projects, including group or team projects. Upon completing this course, students will understand the various fields of engineering and will be able to make informed career decisions.

Programming and Software:

Fundamentals of Computer Science (1.0 High School Credit)

8th Grade Only

Fundamentals of Computer Science is the first course for students beginning the study of computer science. Students will learn about computing tools and will be provided opportunities to design, implement, and present solutions to real-world problems. Students will collaborate and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. Students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results.

7th & 8th Grades Principles of Information Technology – (1.0 High School Credit)

This elective is designed to assist students developing computer literacy skills to adapt to emerging technologies used in the global marketplace. Students will implement personal and interpersonal skills to prepare for a rapidly evolving workplace environment. Students will enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the information technology environment.

Language Other than English:

Spanish I (1.0 High School Credit)

8th Grade Only

Spanish I includes basic objectives to help students attain proficiency in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. This course provides a base knowledge to students of the contemporary Spanish speaking world and its culture.

Miscellaneous Electives:

7th Career and College Exploration (Career Investigation)

Required 7th Grade Elective (1 Semester – Paired with Touch Systems)

In this investigative course students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students will use aptitude and interest inventory assessments, software, or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students use this information to explore a variety of career paths, especially those in demand, and begin mapping their anticipated secondary coursework and potential postsecondary experiences that align with their career and/or postsecondary goals.

7th Touch System Data Entry (Keyboarding)

Required 7th Grade Elective (1 Semester High School Credit – Paired with Career and College Exploration)

In Touch System Data Entry students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment.

8th Grade Leadership (1 Semester – Paired with Professional Communication)

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.

8th Grade Professional Communication (1 Semester High School Credit – Paired with Leadership or Art Appreciation) (Art Appreciation is 1.0 High School Credit)

This class is designed to prepare students for effective communication practices in the professional environment by developing interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Students will prepare and present various oral and written assignments to fulfill the requirements outlined by the Texas State Board of Education. The course covers verbal, written, and electronic communication used in various situations, but especially in a professional setting. As rapidly as corporate systems are evolving, they continue to demand strong leadership skills, verbal and non-verbal skills, listening skills and critical thinking; this course will facilitate the beginning of a life-long ability to serve as a competent communicator in the ever-changing professional environment.

7th & 8th Grades Sports Medicine

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 five (5) students. To avoid a conflict with program and practices, students who are not in athletics are preferred.

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 RLA 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.

No Course Request Changes Will Be Accepted After May 20, 2026.