

Palestine Junior High

Course Guide

2018-2019

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**Palestine Junior High
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GENERAL INFORMATION

The Palestine Junior High School Course Guide has been designed to provide course selection information for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Students are encouraged to consult with parents, counselors and teachers for assistance in selecting courses that will meet personal needs for the future.

The course guide describes academic and elective offerings planned for Palestine High School in 2018 – 2019. This material is published early in the preceding school year, so some changes in procedure, policy, or course offerings may be required. Students and parents may access updates on the PISD website.

Information in this publication is subject to changes by action of the Board of Trustees of the Palestine Independent School District or the Texas Education Agency. Palestine Junior High School reserves the right to add courses not described herein and to delete courses described if minimum enrollment criteria are not met or if certified teachers are not available.

STATE OF TEXAS ASSESSMENTS OF ACADEMIC READINESS (S.T.A.A.R.)

STAAR Assessments that are administered at Palestine Junior High are:

- 7th grade – Reading, Writing, and Math
- 8th grade – Reading, Math, Science and Social Studies

Students in 8th grade are required to pass both the Reading and Math Assessments in order to advance to high school. The state provides three administrations of these two tests: April, May, and June. After all testing is complete; a grade placement committee will meet to determine if a student will advance to the high school. No student, requiring the third administration of STAAR, may be placed in high school if they do not attend summer school.

CREDIT BY EXAM GUIDELINES (CBE)

Credit by Examination *WITHOUT* prior instruction/examinations for acceleration:

With Board approval, the District shall develop or purchase examinations for acceleration that thoroughly test the essential knowledge and skills for each secondary school academic subject. The District shall give a student in grades 6-12 credit for an academic subject in which the student has received no prior instruction if the student scores 80 percent or above on a criterion-referenced examination for acceleration for the applicable course. If such credit is given, the District shall enter the examination score on the student's transcript. The dates for testing will be the first Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of June following the conclusion of the school year, and the first Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in December.

Credit by Examination *WITH* prior formal instruction:

A student with a 60 or higher grade in prior formal instruction may gain credit for the course by passing a proficiency examination on the essential knowledge and skills of the course. However, a student may not use this examination to regain eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities. The attendance committee may allow a student with excessive absences to receive credit for a course by passing an examination. The District shall give a student in grades 6-12 credit for an academic subject in which the student has received prior instruction if the student scores 70 percent or above on a criterion-referenced examination for acceleration for the applicable course.

Students who receive course credit through credit by examination ARE required to take the STAAR EOC.

PRE-AP COURSE

A Pre-AP course curriculum is enriched and accelerated and is based on introducing and developing College Board Strategies. Compared to regular classes, Pre-AP courses expect a greater retention and appreciation of prior knowledge, as well as a deeper understanding of the course topic. Pre-AP courses teach the skills necessary for success in Pre-AP and AP courses in the high school, and students should expect extensive reading and writing assignments. Enrolling in a Pre-AP course is highly recommended for students who wish to take Advanced Placement courses in the future.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Course descriptions are provided to enable students and parents to gain a fuller understanding of the courses that are offered at Palestine Junior High School so that the best possible selection of courses may be made for each student. It is essential that students think seriously about a particular subject before scheduling and be aware that some courses have special requirements or expenses. Additional information about these courses is available from the instructor or a counselor. The courses offered each year are based upon student demand and available facilities; therefore, it is possible that a course listed may not be offered if there are not enough students who have requested the course.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS

ELA/Reading

Grade: 7

7th grade ELAR emphasizes concepts and skills of reading, writing, research, listening, speaking and oral and written conventions.

ELA/Reading PRE-AP

Grade: 7

7th grade ELAR Pre-AP stresses a wide variety of writing skills and literary concepts including numerous experiences utilizing higher-order thinking skills through analysis of selected poetry, prose, and novels. Students are required to produce writing that displays sophistication, fluency, and control. 7th grade also introduces students to critical and analytical essays.

ELA/Reading

Grade: 8

8th grade ELAR emphasizes *Reading*, where students read and understand a wide variety of literary and informational texts; *Writing*, where students compose a variety of written texts with a clear controlling idea, coherent organization, and sufficient detail; *Research*, where students are expected to know how to locate a range of relevant sources and evaluate, synthesize, and present ideas and information.

ELA/Reading PRE-AP

Grade: 8

8th grade ELAR extends and builds on the foundation for the Advanced Placement program. Builds on and extends the TEKS for 8th grade ELAR. Offers academically motivated students opportunities to write extensively using a wide variety of composition skills and literary concepts. 8th grade Pre-AP ELAR emphasizes higher-order thinking skills in reading and critical writing in response to literature.

Reading Lab

Grades: 7 & 8

This course is offered to students in both 7th and 8th grades needing re-enforcement in Reading skills. Methods used in this course include hands-on activities with manipulatives, cooperative groups, and Study Island...A comprehensive computer based Reading program. TEKS are taught in a "Pre-Teach" format to help introduce upcoming TEKS and/or "Re-Teach" format to re-enforce Readiness and Supporting TEKS as required by the PISD ELA Curriculum. Placement in the Reading Lab is based on student need and determined by previous STAAR scores and class performance.

MATHEMATICS

Math

Grade: 7

7th grade Math provides instruction in concepts and skills associated with numbers, operations with fractions, rational numbers, exponents, problem solving, measurement, geometry, algebra, probability, statistics, and graphing. Instruction focuses on the use of manipulatives, problem-solving strategies, and technology.

Math PRE-AP

Grade: 7

7th grade Pre-AP Math establishes the foundation for success in the Advanced Placement Mathematics curriculum in the high school. This includes all of the Grade 7 mathematics objectives with both independent and guided extensions in the area of variable expressions, solving equations and inequalities, ration/proportions in problem-solving situations, exploring binomial operations, fractions, and square roots. Instruction focuses on applying methods to examine and solve a variety of real-world problems as preparation for success in algebra. Problem-solving technology and hands-on activities are emphasized.

MATH

Grade: 8

8th grade math primarily focuses on 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 increasingly complex situations. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other.

Math Pre-AP

Grade: 8

8th grade Pre-AP Math establishes the foundation for success in the Advanced Placement Mathematics curriculum in the high school. This includes all of the Grade 8 mathematics objectives with both independent and guided extensions in evaluating expressions, solving one-step equations and inequalities, solving multi-step equations and inequalities, study of functions and graphing, study of ratio, proportional reasoning, and percent, study of probability and statistics, study of geometry and measurement, applying algebra to geometric concepts, and study of monomials and polynomials. Instruction focuses on applying methods to examine and solve a variety of real-world problems as preparation for success in algebra. Problem solving, technology, and hands-on activities are emphasized.

MATH Lab

Grades: 7 & 8

This course is offered to students in both 7th and 8th grades needing re-enforcement in Math skills. Methods used in this course include hands-on activities with manipulatives, cooperative groups, and Think Through Math...A comprehensive computer based math program. TEKS are taught in a "Pre-Teach" format to help introduce upcoming TEKS and/or "Re-Teach" format to re-enforce Readiness and Supporting TEKS as required by the PISD Math Curriculum. Placement in Math Lab is based on student need and determined by previous STAAR scores and class performance.

SCIENCE

Science Grade: 7

7th grade Science establishes the foundation for success in high school science by providing exposure to science and the natural world through scientific inquiry, writing scientific explanations using claim, evidence and reasoning from a curriculum based on a minimum of 40% instructional time for conducting laboratory and field investigations. The grade 7 science course is interdisciplinary with a content focus on organisms and the environment. Topics include safe practices, science process skills, matter, energy, force, motion, energy, Earth, space, organisms, and environments.

Science PRE-AP Grade: 7

7th grade Pre-AP Science establishes the foundations for success in the Advanced Placement Science Curriculum at the high school. It includes all TEKS for grades 6, 7, and 8 in reporting categories 1 and 4. Students will focus on thematic units from Life Science as well as Matter and Energy Science. Students will conduct laboratory and field investigations for a minimum of 40% of the instructional time.

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Science PRE-AP Grade: 8

Students taking this Pre-AP course will be given additional opportunities to extend their knowledge in these areas of physical, chemical, life, earth and space science. Students will develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world. Students will become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, and ways of formulating explanations based on evidence derived from their work.

STEM Program

Science – Technology – Engineering – Mathematics

To qualify for the STEM Program, a student must (1) be identified as a GT student and/or (2) have scored in the top quintile (25%) of the previous year's STAAR Math Assessment.

STEM Lab

Grade: 7

Energy & the Environment--Students investigate the importance of energy in our lives and the impact that using energy has on the environment. They design and model alternative energy sources and participate in energy fairs to demonstrate energy concepts and innovative ideas. Students evaluate ways to reduce energy consumption through energy efficiency and waste management techniques.

Science of Technology--Students trace how science has affected technology throughout history and learn about applied physics, chemical engineering and nanotechnology through exploratory activities and projects.

STEM Lab

Grade: 8

Design & Modeling--This unit uses solid modeling software (a sophisticated mathematical technique for representing solid objects) as part of the design process. Utilizing this design approach, students understand how design influences their lives. Students also learn sketching techniques and use descriptive geometry as a component of design, measurement and computer modeling. Students brainstorm, research, develop ideas, create models, test and evaluate design ideas, and communicate solutions.

Magic of Electrons--Through hands-on projects, students explore the science of electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, circuit design and sensing devices. Students acquire knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and explore the impact of electricity on our lives.

Automation & Robotics--Students trace the history, development and influence of automation and robotics. They learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork collaboration and innovation.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Texas History

Grade: 7

This course is a study of the history of Texas from early times to the present. It focuses on the full scope of Texas history including the cultures of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration and colonization. Major themes of revolution, independence, republic, and statehood are emphasized. The impact of individuals, events, and issues from each of these periods is examined and evaluated.

Texas History PRE-AP

Grade: 7

This course is a study of the history of Texas from early times to the present. It focuses on the full scope of Texas history including the cultures of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration and colonization. Major themes of revolution, independence, republic, and statehood are emphasized. The impact of individuals, events, and issues from each of these periods is examined and evaluated. This course establishes the foundation for success in the Advanced Placement Social Studies curriculum through increased requirements including independent study, authentic assessments, the History Fair, and outside readings. It requires highly motivated students who desire a more in-depth study of history.

American HISTORY

Grade: 8

The emphasis of this course is the historical development of the United States from the early colonial period throughout Reconstruction. The course content focuses on the political, economic, and social events and issues related to the origins and development of the United States, its principles, beliefs, and institutions as reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents.

American History PRE-AP

Grade: 8

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS

Physical Education (P.E.)

Grade: 7 (Required) Grade: 8 (Elective)

Physical Education is designed to continually assist students in attaining and maintaining a high level of physical fitness knowledge and skills. The basic purpose of this course is to motivate students to strive for lifetime personal fitness with an emphasis on the health-related components of physical fitness. The knowledge and skills taught in this course include teaching students about the process of becoming fit as well as achieving some degree of fitness within the class.

(Physical Education)

Grade: 7-8 Elective (Fulfills the Physical Education Requirement)

Physical Education provides students the opportunity to 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.

TEAM SPORTS (P.E.)

Grade: 7-8 Elective (Fulfills the Physical Education Requirement)

The Team Sports class is designed to complement the regular physical education course through continuation of a health-related fitness programs. Students will develop an application for teamwork and fair play. In addition, participants will demonstrate an understanding of strategies and rules of structured physical activities as well as developing motor skills necessary for team activities and competition.

Dance (P.E.)

Grade: 7-8 Elective (Fulfills the Physical Education Requirement or Fine Arts Requirement)

Provides opportunities in the four basic areas of dance...perception, creative expression, historical and cultural relevance, and critical evaluation and response. Students will develop movement principals and technical skills and explore choreographic and performance qualities.

Foundations of Personal Fitness (P.E.)

Grade: 7-8 Elective (Fulfills the Physical Education Requirement)

Foundations of Personal Fitness represents a new approach in physical education and the concept of personal fitness. The purpose of this course is to motivate students to strive for lifetime personal fitness with an emphasis on the health-related components of physical fitness

Adventure/Outdoor Education (P.E.)

Grade: 7-8 Elective (Fulfills the Physical Education Requirement)

Adventure and Outdoor Education students will develop competency in outdoor education activities that provide opportunities for enjoyment and challenge. Emphasis is placed upon student selection activities that also promote a respect for the environment and that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

ELECTIVES

ART/ART II

Grade: 7-8 fulfills the fine arts requirement

Students rely on their perceptions of the environment, developed through increasing visual awareness and sensitivity to surroundings, memory, imagination, and life experiences, as a source for creating artworks. They express their thoughts and ideas creatively, while challenging their imagination, fostering reflective thinking, and developing disciplined effort and problem-solving skills. By analyzing artistic styles and historical periods students develop respect for the traditions and contributions of diverse cultures. Students respond to and analyze artworks, thus contributing to the development of lifelong skills of making informed judgments and evaluations.

BAND/ADVANCED BAND

Grade: 7-8 fulfills the fine arts requirement

Band provides instruction for sub non-varsity band students to develop characteristic tone quality, instrumental skills and techniques at the appropriate level. Performances will be given during the semester (concerts, festivals, and contests). ***Attendance at all performances is required.***
Placement based on audition.

CHOIR

Grade: 7-8 fulfills the fine art requirement

Choir provides instruction in vocal and choral techniques, music theory, sight singing, choral singing styles, eras, and composers through music studied. Students perform at concerts and contest activities. ***Attendance at all performances is required.***

THEATER ARTS

Grade: 7-8 fulfills the fine arts requirement

Theater Arts provides an avenue to artistic expression through theatre. It provides for a greater understanding of theatre and its use for entertainment, edification, and social commentary; increases understanding of heritage of self and others; develops concepts about self, human relationships and the environment, using elements of drama and conventions of theatre. Instruction identifies how specific dramatic texts, theatre traditions, and conventions reflect theatre heritage and emphasizes visual, aural, and kinetic components in art, dance, music, and theatre. Compares career and vocational opportunities in theatre.

CAREER INVESTIGATIONS

Grade: 8

Through the Career Investigations/Computers class, students will use decision-making and problem solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities.

COMPUTERS

Grade: 8

Through the Computers class, we are teaching our students to become better Digital Citizens...Students will be taught variety of computer programs including Microsoft Office software, Edmodo, Google Apps for Schools, and I-Movie. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about computer based careers in college.

INTRO TO SPANISH

Grade: 8

INTRO TO SPANISH is an introduction to the Spanish world, its language and its people. The main emphasis is on oral skills while developing reading and writing skills. The student will recognize the interrelationships of languages and will develop a cultural appreciation.