

North Cache 8/9 Center
8th Grade Course Descriptions
2015-2016

REQUIRED COURSES

English 8 (all year class - 1.5 credits)

English/Language Arts courses build upon the students' prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and mechanics of writing. It includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Various genres of literature and writing are introduced and defined.

U.S. History (all year class - 1.5 credits)

The United States history course is designed to emphasize historic events from the age of exploration to reconstruction and the western movement. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, the age of exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, national period, constitutional issues, Civil War, reconstruction, and the western movement. The emphasis of this course is on the 18th and 19th centuries. There will be a continued effort to review and develop content, process and thinking skills introduced in previous grades.

Math 8 or Math 8 Honors (all year class – 1.5 credits)

Mathematical concepts will be taught.

Integrated Science (all year class - 1.5 credits)

Eighth Grade Integrated Science focuses on the theme of "change." Earth, physical, and life sciences content are integrated in a curriculum with two primary goals: (1) students will value and use science as a process of obtaining knowledge based upon observable evidence, and (2) students will develop an understanding of change as an organizing science concept common to all content areas.

Healthy Lifestyles - PE (1 trimester - .5 credit)

This course is required for all 8th grade students. Emphasis will be placed on team sports and cardiovascular fitness. Included are the following sports: Flag Football, Softball, Soccer, Volleyball, Basketball, and Recreational games. These sports are geared to enhance students' overall fitness. This is a participation class so students are required to be in regular attendance. A combination of ten days of not dressing or not attending will result in a failing grade.

Keyboarding (1 trimester - .5 credit)

Students will improve their typing speed and accuracy by using the touch operation on the keyboard. They will learn spacing and editing rules for numbers, symbols and punctuation. The class also includes the typing of reports, memos, letters, tables and a 10-key unit. This class is required for all 8th grade students.

TECHNOLOGY COURSES

FACS Exploration (1 trimester - .5 credit)

Class fee - Cost of project materials

This Family and Consumer Science course is designed to provide students with essential skills that impact their present and future lives. The skills taught will focus on areas in Interior Design, Child Care with a pre-school, Clothing with a sewing project, and a Food Unit with basic food preparation techniques related to the Food Pyramid Groups.

Introduction to Technology/Engineering (1 trimester - .5 credit)

Class Fee- Cost of project materials

This class is an integrated Applied Technology Education curriculum relating to Industrial Technology, Agriculture, Business, Health Occupations/Technology, and Family and Consumer Science. Students will gain an understanding of the impacts of technology in their society. Modular and group lab activity provides an action-based learning environment for students to learn about the foundations of technology and gain skills which will help them become occupationally prepared, technologically literate, and set career and educational goals.

ELECTIVE COURSES

8th Grade Concert Band (all year class - 1.5 credits)

Prerequisite – One Year of Study, Instrument rental \$70.00

The 8th Grade Concert Band is a course for all students having finished their first year of study in wind band. This class continues to develop performance technique, counting skills, and an understanding of music theory on a higher level. Students also have the opportunity to explore improvisation. Music history is included as we prepare for performances every seven to eight weeks. Students in this group participate in concerts, solo and ensemble and large band festivals and are also encouraged to audition for and participate in the All Northern Utah Honor Band. We encourage students to participate in outside performing opportunities such as private study and Jazz Ensemble.

Orchestra (all year class - 1.5 credits)

Instrument rental \$70.00

Music selected will represent various periods of musical literature and will be selected to give students a wide range of styles and levels of difficulty. Students enrolled are expected to be working on improving their individual performance skills and musicianship. Students are prepared to perform in scheduled concerts through the year.

Chorus 8 (1 trimester - .5 credit)

Class fee \$10.00

This class emphasizes beginning vocal training for students. Students will learn to sing accurately by reading music notation, producing good tone, matching pitch, correct breathing, using proper diction and vowel sounds, and responding to interpretation of the music. Students will sing music of different styles, periods and cultures. Students will

explore percussion rhythms to accompany singing parts, learn about music history, and music from world cultures. Students will perform on a final concert.

Treble Choir (1-2 trimesters - 0.5-1.0 credit)

Class fee \$10.00

In this class, students will enjoy developing and blending treble voices (SSA). Beginning to advanced vocal technique and theory will be learned. Students develop the ability to sing in harmony, express emotion and style through music, and will experience music from world cultures, classical periods, and different styles (including folk, classical, jazz, Broadway, etc.) Students will explore percussion rhythms to accompany singing parts, learn about music history, and music from world cultures. Students will perform on a final concert.

Art 8 (1 trimester - .5 credit)

Class fee \$10.00

This class follows the required state and district curriculum for junior high art. It is a basic art class and covers the elements and principals of art, basic drawing techniques, proportions, composition, positive and negative shapes, a report on an old master's life and works and an art show. Color theory and value shading are stressed.

Reading 8 (1 trimester - .5 credit)

This class is for students who enjoy reading! There will be exciting classroom novels to read, activities to help you enjoy and understand literature. There will also be time for personal reading. This class also will include activities in creative writing, including writing short stories with suspenseful plots, creating characters, and writing dramatic scenes using those characters. There will be writing contests to reward good writers.

Speech 8 (1 trimester - .5 credit)

Speech is designed to give students an experience in public speaking, drama, and events for debate competition. The focus of this course may include the following types of speaking: informative, impromptu, storytelling, trial, persuasive, spar, poetry, interpretation, and debate.

Creative Speaking (1 trimester - .5 credit)

This class will be an introduction into creative speaking and drama. You will renew your imaginations, learn skills of pantomime, storytelling, and improvisation; study how to improve your voice and diction; be introduced to the art of acting including improvisation, characterization and body movement. We will perform famous character interviews and Readers Theater for each other in class.

Foreign Language Exploratory (1 trimester - .5 credit)

Class fee \$5.00

This course is fairly new and is designed to **introduce** students to both a little bit of French and German, along with a few cultural aspects of both France and Germany. Students will have a chance to hear and speak both French and German so that they can decide if they would like to continue studying either language in the 9th grade or at Sky View. Since we only have six weeks dedicated to each language, we will cover as much of the following as possible: greeting people, saying goodbye, asking how they are doing and answering in return, counting to 20, maybe higher, body parts, colors, classroom

vocabulary, simple sentences and a few other basic vocabulary items. Students should be able to communicate some basic ideas and concepts in both foreign languages. We will sample some food from each culture which is covered by a \$5 foreign language fee for this class and needs to be paid at the office. This course is a useful introduction to French 1A & 1B or German 1A & 1B offered in the 9th grade.

Spanish 1 (2 trimesters – 1.0 credit)

Class fee \$5.00 each trimester

This class is for students with no prior study of Spanish, or who studied Spanish in the 6th grade and/or in the 7th grade, but not as an 8th grader. **If you take both Spanish 1A and 1B as an 8th grader, you should register for Spanish 2 in 9th grade.** In this class, the emphasis will be on learning how to speak Spanish through the use of physical actions to learn needed vocabulary. We will learn how to use basic Spanish greetings, weather expressions, telling time, count to 100, days of the week, the months, and other useful basic vocabulary. Students will also learn to conjugate verbs in the present tense. We will study the culture of the Spanish speaking countries of the world and will learn about and celebrate some of their fiestas! There will be study of grammar, emphasis on vocabulary development and reading and writing skills. Students who successfully complete both Spanish 1A and Spanish 1B will be able to continue their studies of Spanish by enrolling in Spanish 2 as 9th graders or at Sky View.