

PAPILLION
JUNIOR HIGH
“A Reflection of Excellence”



8TH GRADE
COURSE REGISTRATION
HANDBOOK
2009 - 2010

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Students who qualify for Special Education services at Papillion Junior High School may have additional course opportunities that suit their needs. An addendum to this handbook lists Special Services courses, prerequisites, and course descriptions. IEP teams may make the decision to include students in one or more of these courses depending on student need. If you believe that your student may qualify for these courses you may contact your administrator, guidance counselor, IEP case manager, or the Special Education teacher.

MATHEMATICS

The math courses at the 8th grade level are divided into three groups: Pre-Algebra B, Algebra 1-A, and Algebra 1.

Course Title: **Pre-Algebra B**

Course Number: MA08

Duration: Year

Pre-requisite: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra A or teacher recommendation.

Pre-Algebra B – This course is designed as a continuation of Pre-Algebra A; it is the second section of a transition course that bridges the similarities of arithmetic and algebra. The emphasis is on prerequisite skills and concepts for algebra as well as problem solving strategies. This course will cover Pre-Algebra concepts at a pace that supports sound understanding. Coupled with 7th grade Pre-Algebra A, this course will cover the topics of Pre-Algebra over a 2 year period instead of a 2-semester period. Topics for this course include: square roots, expressions, equations, inequalities, and graphing.

Course Title: **Algebra 1-A**

Course Number: MA60

Duration: Year

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Algebra 1-A – This course is designed to meet the needs of the student who will benefit from extended time frame to master Algebra concepts. The emphasis is in on building a strong foundation of basic Algebra skills. Coupled with Algebra 1-B, this course will cover the topics of Algebra over a 2 year period instead of a 2-semester period. Students will study topics such as: expressions, equations, inequalities, linear patterns, properties, linear functions, formulas, and proportional reasoning.

Course Title: **Algebra 1**

Course Number: MA01

Duration: Year

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra and teacher recommendation.

Algebra 1 – This course provides the foundation for all subsequent math courses. Students in this course must be highly motivated, self-disciplined, and willing to spend time at home completing assignments and studying for assessments. Successful completion of this course ensures students have a firm understanding of Algebraic concepts. Students will study topics such as: expressions, equations, inequalities, linear patterns, properties, linear functions, formulas, proportional reasoning, factoring, and radicals.

ENGLISH

To communicate is to survive. The very basis of human understanding lies in one's ability to communicate. Therefore, emphasis is placed on reading, writing, and speaking; the essentials of communication. The English program at Papillion Junior High is designed to aid the student in developing and effectively using these skills.

Course Title: **English 8**

Course Number: 1800

Duration: Year

English 8 is intended to develop and strengthen communication skills. By integrating experiences in reading, writing, research, and speaking into language and literature study, students apply acquired knowledge and understanding to their own communications.

This year-long course includes a study of literature through novels and short works of fiction and incorporates writing in multiple modes using the writing process. Integrated into the curriculum are lessons in spelling, grammar, vocabulary, and public speaking.

General Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate writing skills and the writing process with a focus on expository and descriptive writing.
2. Students will present speeches demonstrating the qualities of a good speaker.
3. Students will be able to identify various literary concepts to improve reading comprehension.
4. Students will be able to write effective sentences, paragraphs, and essays using appropriate grammar, spelling, and vocabulary skills.
5. Students will use research skills to paraphrase, summarize, and cite credible sources.

SCIENCE

The Science programs in the Papillion La Vista Public Schools have been selected to give students exposure to a wide range of topics. At the junior high level, students will learn a variety of topics about Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth Science. The basic philosophy of our programs include:

- Students will understand science concepts and skills.
 - Students will learn and apply scientific inquiry to make informed and reasoned decisions.
 - Students will communicate their scientific understanding.
 - Students will make relevant connections using science concepts.
-

Course Title: **Science 8**

Course Number: 3800

Duration: Year

Science 8 exposes students to the physical and earth strands of science. Students will continue to pose solutions to scientific problems and real-life situations using the scientific method. The lab and activity centered approach allows students to experience science and not just observe it.

Students will investigate the following areas of scientific study:

1. Matter
2. Astronomy
3. Physics
4. Weather and Climate

SOCIAL STUDIES

The curriculum for Social Studies within the Papillion-LaVista School District has been constructed to support the belief that Social Studies should develop the knowledge and skills that will enable our students to make informed and reasoned decisions as citizens in a global world. In accordance with that belief, the district's Social Studies curriculum will provide instruction in the "Ten Themes of Social Studies":

1. Culture
2. Time, Continuity, and Change
3. People, Places, and Environments
4. Individual Development and Identity
5. Individuals, Groups, and Institutions
6. Power, Authority, and Governance
7. Production, Distribution, and Consumption
8. Science, Technology, and Society
9. Global Connections
10. Civic Ideals and Practices

Papillion Junior High School supports the district's Social Studies curriculum by providing the following 8th grade Social Studies class: 8th grade: Early U.S. History (1607 → 1890 to include the opening of the West)

Course Title: **Early United States History (1607 – 1890)**

Course Number: 4800

Duration: Year

The course is a chronological survey of American History from the beginning of Jamestown, Va. (1607) through the closing of the Frontier (1890). Events of the present are related to the roots in the past, and whenever possible, an attempt is made to provide the students with the knowledge and understanding that prepares them to make good decisions in an increasingly global world. An appreciation of the diversified peoples whose ideals and efforts contributed to our democratic way of life is also one of the aims of this course.

Objectives:

1. Students will examine the reasons for settling in America and how England benefited from establishing the thirteen colonies.

2. Students will understand that disagreements between English citizens and their government resulted in colonial revolution in North America culminating in a new central government.
3. Students will understand and analyze our living Constitution.
4. Students will make sense of our early efforts to establish a new nation, and how America grew and changed from the 1780's to the 1850's.
5. Students will understand how intense feelings aroused by the slavery questions and states' rights resulted in the Civil War, and the challenges of rebuilding the nation after the war.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The mission of the Papillion - La Vista Public Schools Physical Education Department is to provide students with opportunities, in a diverse environment, to gain knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes, and appreciation in physical activities, which contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

Course Title: **Physical Education (P.E.) 8**

Course Number: 5800

Duration: 24 weeks or 2 trimesters

Purpose: The purpose of our program is to *prepare* students with the knowledge and skills to *pursue an active, healthy lifestyle*. The main consideration of the program is fundamental skill development and the promotion of physical activity and fitness toward a healthy lifestyle.

Students will:

- Standard 1: Demonstrate competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.
- Standard 2: Demonstrate and apply concepts and principles of human movement to the development of motor skills and the learning of new skills.
- Standard 3: Participate regularly in physical activity.
- Standard 4: Achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical fitness.
- Standard 5: Exhibit responsible personal and social behavior that respects self and others in physical activity settings.
- Standard 6: Understand that physical activity provides the opportunity for enjoyment, challenge, self-expression and communication.

Course Title: **Health 8**

Course Number: 5810

Duration: 12 weeks or 1 trimester

Health is required of all eighth graders. Health is intended to help young people develop positive attitudes, values, goals, and behaviors—based on sound knowledge—with the underlying concept of abstinence.

Health is a course which meets the following objectives:

1. To provide individuals with adequate and accurate knowledge of family life in it's physical, psychological, social, and moral dimensions.

2. To help clarify and strengthen values and attitudes related to family and to sexuality.
3. To enhance feelings of self-worth and self-esteem.
4. To increase skills in decision-making and communication.

Health concepts:

1. Sexuality and abstinence (physical, psychological, social, and emotional)
W.A.I.T. Program is implemented (Why Am I Tempted?)
2. Weight management (nutrition and eating disorders)
3. Alcohol and substance abuse
4. Sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

8th GRADE ELECTIVES

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

General Information:

Students with no previous instrumental music training, but desiring to be in band, are required to take lessons first in order to give them the basic knowledge and skill to be in band.

During the year, students are scheduled for either lessons or sectionals in conjunction with their band rehearsal. Four weeks of summer band and sectionals are offered to all band students in June. More detailed information concerning the instrumental music department may be obtained from the Papillion Junior High Band Manual. A copy may be procured from the band director or PJH website.

General Music Objectives - Knowledge of:

1. Musical vocabulary and meanings
2. Basic musical patterns and usages
3. Fundamentals of music theory
4. Musical literature from different periods and styles
5. Music as an art form

Understanding of:

1. Problems in performing and learning to perform
2. The elements of good musical interpretation
3. The general methods by which music is constructed

Skill in:

1. Producing a rich tone with good intonation
2. Playing with reasonable facility and accuracy
3. Reading music of appropriate difficulty
4. Performing with others, independently, and having proper relation to total sound
5. Hearing and following the main elements of musical compositions

Attitudes of:

1. Intention to improve one's musicianship
2. Musical understanding and the quality of music
3. Respect for music as an art and a profession

Appreciation of:

1. Skilled and tasteful performance
2. Good music in any medium, style, or period

Habits of:

1. Frequent and efficient individual practice
2. Proper selection and care of instruments
3. Participating wholeheartedly in musical groups
4. Proper rehearsal attendance, conduct, and attention
5. Selecting good recordings, musically satisfying broadcasts on radio and TV, and attending worthwhile concerts
6. Good character, patience, leadership, and cooperation

Course Title: **Symphonic Band 8**

Course Number: 6810

Duration: Year

Fees: Band uniform of tan pants, dark shoes, and band shirt. The band shirt can be purchased for \$8.00 in the Band Office.

Prerequisite: Audition by band director, required concert scales, chromatic scale, sight reading, and basic knowledge of musical terms.

Symphonic Band is for students having the necessary experience and skills to pass basic requirements. The band performs concerts throughout the school year including a Winter Concert, Spring Concert, tours to the elementary schools, and other special performances. Other groups and activities include: jazz band, solos, small ensembles, and sectionals. Students are scheduled for a lesson once a week.

Many students prepare solos and small ensembles for in contests and clinics each year and for civic and community organizations.

VOCAL MUSIC

Chorus 8 is open to all students who enjoy singing. No audition is required. Chorus will strengthen the voice and assist the student in learning to read and follow music for possible participation in the high school choirs.

Vocal music concerts include a fall, winter, and spring. Concert students also have an opportunity to be selected for Show Choir participation after a successful audition in the fall. Students may also audition for several Honor Choirs, including UNO and Singing Youth of Nebraska.

General Objectives - The Student will:

1. Improve and strengthen his/her voice.
2. Expand the ability to read and follow music.
3. Sing 3 and 4 part music.
4. Develop a social outlet for relaxation and fun.
5. Experience success via a group effort.
6. Build continued interest in vocal music.
7. Increase self-discipline.

8. Build interest and awareness of different styles of music literature.
 9. Experience choreography.
 10. Learn about what is involved in being a quality performer.
 11. Experience being a soloist if he/she desires.
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Course Title: **Chorus 8**

Course Number: 6811

Duration: Year

Fees: The students pay for their own show choir costume if they are selected for Show Choir participation which meets 2 days per week before school.

COMPUTER EDUCATION

With the emergence of computer use in today's world, it is becoming increasingly important to make our students aware of the impact of computers in our society and to help them become computer literate.

Course Title: **Computer Input 8-1**

Course Number: 6833

Duration: 9 weeks

Student will *master* touch operation of the keyboard and demonstrate correct technique, keystroking, and care of equipment. For those students who did not take computer input as a 7th grader.

Course Title: **Computer Input 8-2** (*prerequisite of Keyboarding 7*)

Course Number: 6834

Duration: 9 weeks

Students will *review* touch techniques and proper key stroking while continuing to develop composition and proofreading skills as well as speed and accuracy. Numbers, symbols and the numeric keypad will be introduced along with commands in the application program Microsoft word.

LITERATURE

Course Title: **Literacy Enrichment**

Course Number: 6880

Duration: 9 weeks

Hello, PJH world travelers!! How would you like to take a trip around the whole world? To prepare for your journey your first stop will be a 3-week visit to the Titan Learning Lounge to read the novel and watch the movie, *Around the World in 80 Days*.

Your next stop is the Phileas Fogg Travel Agency. Here is where you begin your journey. With your laptop in hand, you will spend 3 weeks planning your own trip around the world in 80 days. ***Bon Voyage!!***

As a well-read world traveler, you come back to PJH ready to share some of the culture, costumes, and artifacts (props) gathered on your trip. For 3 weeks students will rehearse dramatic reader's theater presentations related to the novel, to be presented in the "Titan Theater" at the ESP Diner.

ART

Course Title: **Drawing & Painting 8**

Course Number: 6800

Duration: 9 weeks

Supplies: Provided by parent/guardian, a 9"x12"-50 sheet spiral sketch book, 1 each 2B-4B-6B drawing pencils, and white eraser.

The goal of Drawing & Painting is to provide students with a sense of the arts of civilization, of creativity in artistic process, of the vocabularies of artistic communication, and the critical elements necessary to make choices about the products of the arts. Experiences will include pencil, charcoal, ink, pastel, tempera, water color, collage, mixed media, perspective, printmaking, and graphic design.

General Objectives-The Student will:

1. Learn about various artists, their work, and styles.
2. Use correct terminology when discussing and writing about art.
3. Develop skill with media, techniques, and styles.
4. Relate the visual arts to history and cultures.

Course Title: **Pottery & Sculpture 8**

Course Number: 6801

Duration: 9 weeks

The goal of Pottery & Sculpture is to explore methods, styles, and techniques using clay, wire, paper, mask making, relief carving, plaster, and mixed media.

General Objectives - The Student will:

1. Generate ideas for artistic expression.
2. Explore the expressive potential of art forms, media, and techniques.
3. Interpret meanings in art forms.
4. Evaluate progress and accomplishments.
5. Appreciate and gain knowledge from the working process.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE (FCS)

Family & Consumer Science, also known as FCS, provides opportunities for students to acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills essential to participate and prepare for society and family roles.

Course Title: **Foods and Nutrition 8**

Course Number: 6820

Duration: 9 weeks

Foods and Nutrition is a course that focuses on exploring fundamentals, encourages critical thinking and promotes active involvement in experiences to encourage responsible decision-making for successful life choices. The curriculum includes consumer issues and careers in the following areas of foods and nutrition:

I. Nutrition

- A. Making healthy food choices
 - 1. Food guide pyramid
 - 2. Dietary guidelines
 - 3. Nutrients
- B. Avoiding health risks

II. Food Preparation

- A. Meal planning
- B. Food selection
- C. Safety and sanitation in the kitchen
- D. Tools and equipment
- E. Measuring basics
- F. Preparation techniques

III. Meal Service

- A. Table setting
- B. Manners and Etiquette
 - 1. Meals at home
 - 2. Dining out

IV. Careers in Food and Nutrition

Course Title: **Family & Consumer Science (FCS) 8**

Course Number: 6821

Duration: 9 weeks

Fee: Cost of individual sewing project which students will keep.

FCS is a course, that focuses on encouraging critical thinking and promoting active involvement in experiences to encourage responsible decision-making for successful daily life choices. Typical student projects include pants, shorts, polar fleece hats, and tote bags. Careers in the area of textiles, clothing, and interior design will be explored. In addition, the following topics will be discussed:

I. Self Discovery

- a. Decision making
- b. Moving toward maturity
- c. Making the most of yourself

II. Living in Families

- a. Understanding families
- b. Improving relationships skills
- c. Peer relationships
- d. Effective communication skills
- e. Resolving conflicts with others

III. Textiles

- a. Fibers
- b. Fabrics

IV. Clothing Construction and Care

- a. Sewing terms and equipment
- b. Pattern guides and symbols
- c. Pattern layout and cutting
- d. Machine parts, use, and safety
- e. Use of the serger

V. Careers Related to FCS

- a. Textiles, clothing, and environmental management
- b. Looking great at work

Course Title: **Computer Applications 8**

Course Number: 6835

Duration: 9 weeks

This course is designed to give students basic skills in the area of word processing, and presentations. Students will then be provided opportunities to put together documents and projects related to these areas of focus in the class.

Course Title: **Exploring Industrial Technology Ed. 8-1 & 8-2 (I.T.E)**

Course Number: 6860, 6861

Duration: 9 weeks

(One or two quarters may be taken to allow students to study more areas.)

Fees: \$10 to cover the cost of projects the students will keep.

Exploring Industrial Technology 8 is “shop class with computers”. We will use our knowledge and resources to meet needs and solve problems. In other words, we will be building clocks, bridges, houses, circuit boards, rockets, airplanes, race vehicles and much more. We will study and work with high tech equipment like lasers, CNC milling machines, GPS units, robots, digital cameras, Auto CAD, and many other things too numerous to name. We will do much of the testing with computer simulation software.

The program will:

1. Promote student responsibility for his/her own learning process.
2. Be activity oriented, with an emphasis on “hands-on”.
3. Maximize the opportunities of all students in as many areas as possible.
4. Facilitate group and individual problem solving situations, critical and analytical thinking, and opportunities for interpersonal relationship development.
5. Career exploration and a focus on career paths will also be a priority of the industrial technology education program.

The Modular Learning System (MLS) is the focus of technology education and implements a unique student management system that places the responsibility for learning, discipline, and behavior directly on the student. Every ScanTEK module has been designed to integrate the basic academic ‘core skills’ of Math, Science, English, and Computer Literacy into a meaningful technology learning experience.

To reinforce these skills and to focus the students on the applications of technology students are introduced to problem solving activities in each module. The objective is to build the student’s underpinning skills in design and problem solving, enabling them to undertake their own open-ended group problem solving and design tasks.

Areas that have been implemented consist of, but are not limited to, the following modules:
(The student is able to choose 3-4 modules per quarter.)

Alternative Energies
Tech. Operations Assistant (T.O.A.)
Applied Physics
Television Production 1
Architectural Design
Transportation

Basic Electricity
Wood Tech.
C.N.C. Milling (Computer Numerical Control)
Computer Aided Design
Construction
Digital Photography
Digital Sound Technology

Engineering
Flight
Graphics and Animation
Health Management
Introduction to Computers Based Learning
Lasers & Fiber Optics
Materials & Processes

Mechanisms
Navigation and GPS
Research & Design
Robotics and Automation
Small Engines
Space Tech.
Student Workstation Tutorial

Course Title: **Robotics 8**

Course Number: 6881

Duration: 9 weeks

From the invention of the wheel to telephones to space travel, humans have created new inventions to solve problems and make life easier. In this course students will explore the history of invention, learn brainstorming strategies, and design, build, and market an invention of their own while learning some of the basic principles of science and engineering. Students will then apply what they have learned by constructing and programming Lego Robots using Mindstorms Educational materials.

Course Title: **Writing for Publication 8**

Course Number : 6882

Duration: 9 weeks:

This course is intended for students who have an interest in desktop publishing and want to learn the basics of yearbook and newspaper production. Students will be exposed to the planning, productions, and marketing of the PJH Yearbook and will create their own personal spread, complete with a theme, photographs, captions, and copy. Students will also be exposed to newspaper production and be introduced to different types of articles, from feature articles to editorials, advertisements, and general interest. They will also practice some of the tactics that newspaper writers use to limit the length of articles. Students will write a minimum of two newspaper articles and learn some basic photography techniques as they take the photos, which will appear with their articles. The class will prepare an actual “newspaper” which will be shared with class members.

Course Title: **Fitness Awareness 8**

Course Number: 6883

Duration: 9 weeks

This course is designed to inform students about the basic fitness concepts (aerobic endurance, muscular endurance/strength, and flexibility) and the impact they have on their overall health. This course will examine various types of exercise through lectures, article reviews, teacher lead activities as well as guest fitness experts. In keeping consistent with our goal at PJH to improve reading and writing skills, the class will include several reading and writing opportunities.

Course Title: **Introduction to Weight Training 8**

Course Number: 6885

Duration: 9 weeks

Introduction to weight training will teach the principals to weight training, nutrition and fitness training.

Course Title: **School Service 8** (*application only*)
Course Number: 6884
Duration: 9 weeks

School Service is a class in which the students are assigned as an office or teacher aide.

Course Title: **TITANS XLT** (*recommendation only*)
Course Number: 6886
Duration: 9 weeks

T.I.T.A.N.S. XLT stands for **T**eacher **I**nstructing, **T**utoring, **A**ssisting, & **N**urturing **S**tudents: through **X**-tended **L**earning **T**ime

This elective will improve students' homework completion rates and address students' skill deficiencies. With homework completion being a very important part of student learning, this **teacher recommended** elective addresses the need to support students' learning within the school day. Students' learning will be supported by a structured time for homework completion and assistance on homework. Study skills, organization, and any other areas identified to support individual student learning may also be addressed.

Course Title: **Gifted and Talented Independent Exploration**
Course Number: 6822
Duration: 9 weeks

Gifted and Talented Independent Exploration - This class is designed for the high ability learner or self-motivated, independent learner. Students will engage in an independent exploration of a topic of interest. These may include but are not limited to curricular areas. This course is intended to allow students to continue in-depth research related to their Gifted Education Plan or an area of interest. Skills emphasized include: critical, logical, and creative thinking, as well as research skills. Seventh and eighth grade High Ability Learners may enroll. Non-identified eighth grade students may enroll with teacher recommendation and facilitator permission.