

New Caney ISD
MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE GUIDE
2021 • 2022

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— PORTRAIT OF A —
GRADUATE



Vision

Preparing our learning community for the REALITY of tomorrow.

Mission

Graduate students who are prepared to thrive in the REALITY of their future.

Reality

Effective Communicators

Academically Prepared

Lifelong Learners

Interpersonal Collaborators

Thinking with Innovation

Yes Minded!

Middle School Course Selection Guide

Public Education in Texas

The direction for public education in Texas is set by the legislature and is delegated to the State Board of Education as the chief governing body of public schools in Texas.

The philosophy of the State Board of Education established the framework for the goals of public school education. Public education is responsible for providing each student with the opportunity for development of knowledge, skills, and competencies which every student should possess in order to be a self-supporting and contributing member of society. A primary purpose of the curriculum must also be to prepare thoughtful, active citizens who understand the importance of patriotism, can function productively in a free enterprise society, and appreciate the basic democratic values of our national heritage.

Curriculum Requirements

The Middle Schools of New Caney ISD provide instruction for all students based on state requirements. Course requirements mandated by the Texas Education Agency are reflected in the courses listed below. Electives are one semester (1/2 unit) or two semesters (1 unit). In grades six through eight, students are required to complete four semesters of physical education and one year of fine arts credit.

6th Grade

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Technology Applications
- Fine Arts Electives

7th Grade

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Electives

8th Grade

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Elective or *Reading
- Physical Education/Electives

*Exempt if the student is successful on the 7th grade STAAR Reading test.

Advanced Academics

Students in advanced classes will be expected to go above and beyond the regular class work. The subject will be studied in a more in depth manner, and students will be required to read at or above their grade level. Students enrolled in advanced classes may be expected to complete interdisciplinary major projects throughout the year to expand their knowledge and understanding of the basic curriculum. There will be both in class and outside projects requiring research, creativity, and independent thinking on the student's part. The academically advanced student may consider enrolling in the following classes:

6th Grade

- Honors English Language Arts
- Honors Mathematics 6
- Honors Science
- Honors Social Studies

7th Grade

- Honors English Language Arts
- Honors Mathematics 7
- Honors Science
- Honors Social Studies

8th Grade

- Honors English Language Arts
- Honors Mathematics 8/** Algebra I
- Honors Science
- Honors Social Studies

Please see page 24 for Honors course placement information.

A student in honors courses must pass each grading period to remain in the class. A student who fails one grading period may remain in the class on probation with parent approval, but must earn a passing grade the next grading period.

** Algebra 1 will count as an advanced course. Students will receive GPA credit on the high school 5-point scale. Students who do not take Algebra 1 in the 8th grade may take honors Algebra in the 9th grade in order to receive the 5-point GPA credit.

Courses Taken for High School Credit

Students taking high school courses (Algebra I and Spanish for Spanish Speakers I and II) while enrolled in the 7th or 8th grade earn credit required for high school graduation. **Grades earned in these classes will become part of the permanent high school transcript and shall be included, as appropriate, in the calculation of the weighted grade average for high school class rank.**

Credit by Exam without Prior Instruction (Grade Level Acceleration)

Students wanting information regarding credit by exam without prior instruction should contact the appropriate school counselor.

Eligibility Requirements for Extracurricular Activities

A student may participate in extracurricular activities by having a passing grade of 70 in all subjects and by meeting the other requirements set by local and state policy. Please see UIL policy for details.

Grading

The NCISD grading scale is the following:

90-100	A
80-89	B
75-79	C
70-74	D
69-Below	F

National Junior Honor Society Requirements

The National Junior Honor Society is a service organization for seventh and eighth graders. New members are accepted at specified periods each year. To qualify for membership in the NJHS, students must have a cumulative average of 90 in the core subjects of math, history, science, and English language arts. In addition to high grades, students must also display exemplary behavior in classrooms, the hallway, and in the community. As a member, students will be expected to uphold the qualities held in high esteem by the honor society: scholarship, character, citizenship, leadership, and service.

Promotion to the Next Grade Level

NCISD Policy EIE (Local): In grades one through eight, promotion to the next grade level shall be based upon an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based upon course level and grade level standards (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills) for all subject areas including a grade of 70 or above in English language arts and mathematics, and a grade of 70 or above in either science or social studies.

The grade advancement requirements of the Texas Student Success Initiative (SSI) require that eighth grade students meet the passing standard on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) in reading and mathematics before they can be promoted to ninth grade. Students placements to the ninth grade will be reviewed by the campus Grade Placement Committee for more information about SSI, contact the school counselor.

Schedule Changes

Schedule changes will be considered only under the following conditions:

Once student schedules are finalized by the deadline in the spring, students are permitted to make changes only when the changes fall within the established guidelines listed below.

A change due to an unresolved scheduling conflict.

A change related to health problems. A written statement from the student's physician is required.

A change made to correct a scheduling error made by the school staff.

Incorrect placement or teacher initiated request for level change.

School need: closing, adding, or balancing classes.

Exceptions to the schedule change policy for reasons other than those listed must be initiated within the first 10 days of the semester. After this time, the only schedule change that will be allowed is a change from advanced to an on-level class.

Special Education Program

Please contact the campus diagnostician for information.

State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR)

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) is the state testing program. Sixth grade students will be tested in math and reading. Seventh grade students will be tested in math, reading, and writing. Eighth grade students will be tested in math, reading, social studies, and science.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English Language Arts and Reading

English Language Arts 6 – Instruction in 6th grade ELAR TEKS will embody the interconnected nature 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.

English Language Arts 6 Honors – Advanced level instruction in 6th grade ELAR TEKS will embody the interconnected nature 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. For placement and maintenance criteria, see page 23.

STAAR ELA – Remediation course for students who need help mastering basic skills and developing higher order thinking skills. Participation in this class is determined by teacher recommendation and STAAR scores. This class will replace an elective.

English Language Arts 7 – Instruction in 7th grade ELAR TEKS will embody the interconnected nature 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

English Language Arts 7 Honors–Advanced level instruction in 7th grade ELAR TEKS will embody the interconnected nature 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. For placement and maintenance criteria, see page 23.

English Language Arts 8 – Instruction in 8th grade ELAR TEKS will embody the interconnected nature 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

English Language Arts 8 Honors– Advanced level instruction in 8th grade ELAR TEKS will embody the interconnected nature 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. For placement and maintenance criteria, see page 23.

Language Arts 6, 7, 8 – If determined appropriate by the ARD committee, instruction on IEP ELA goals may be provided in basic level courses in place of on-level English language arts courses.

Reading – If determined appropriate by the ARD committee, instruction on IEP reading goals may be provided in basic level courses in place of on-level English language arts courses.

ELLA (English Learners Language Arts)- English Learners Language Arts is a rigorous class that aims to develop students' English proficiency levels in all four domains of language (reading, writing, speaking, and listening). The course is designed to help support students in their other general education classes through the development of critical thinking skills and academic vocabulary. Each lesson is designed to teach students content and oral/written language skills. The ELLLA curriculum is derived from the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS). The social use of English language and exposure to American culture are also addressed. LPAC determines placement in this course, which is intended as an additional elective and support for newcomers.

Reading 8 – Remediation course for students in response to STAAR reading scores, teacher recommendations, and/or grades from 7th grade. This course is an additional elective.

Dyslexia 6, 7, 8 – This course supports students experiencing primary difficulties with phonemic awareness and manipulation, single-word reading, reading fluency, spelling, reading comprehension and/or written expression.

Math

Math 6 – The primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, inequalities, and relationships; measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe real life situations. By the end of the course, all students are expected to be fluent in all operations of whole numbers, positive fractions, positive decimals and integers, percent, area and volume.

Math 6 Honors – This class incorporates the same TEKS as Math 6, but at a deeper and more rigorous level and in half of the time. Students in this course will complete additional projects and have additional homework assignments. For placement and maintenance criteria, please see page 23.

STAAR Math – This course is an additional course for students who need help mastering basic skills and developing higher order thinking skills. Participation in this course is determined by teacher recommendation and STAAR scores. This course takes the place of an elective.

Math 7 – Students are expected to develop a fluent understanding of how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions, decimals, whole numbers and integers. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations, including solving two-step equations. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations.

Math 7 Honors – This class incorporates the same TEKS as Math 7, but at a deeper and more rigorous level and in half of the time. Students in this course will complete additional projects and have additional homework assignments. For placement and maintenance criteria, please see page 23.

Math 8 – Students are expected to enter Math 8 with a complete understanding of all operations with all rational numbers. Math 8 includes proportional reasoning, application of geometric ideas, linear algebra concepts, and personal finance. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Math 8 Honors – This class incorporates the same TEKS as Math 8, but at a deeper and more rigorous level and in half of the time. Students in this course will complete additional projects and have additional homework assignments. For placement and maintenance criteria, please see page 23.

Math 8 Honors Accelerated/Middle School Algebra I (High school level, 03100500) – Students will receive instruction in 8th grade mathematics TEKS in the fall semester and in Algebra I TEKS in the spring semester. This combination of courses will meet every day all year and will therefore take the place of an elective. For placement and maintenance criteria, please see page 23. Students completing Algebra I will take the STAAR Algebra I EOC test. If they successfully complete the second semester, they will receive weighted grades and HS credit for Algebra I Honors on their HS transcript. Students must maintain a grade of 70 or higher to remain in the course.

Math 6, 7, 8 – If determined appropriate by the ARD committee, instruction on IEP Math goals may be provided in basic level courses in place of on-level Math courses.

Math 6, 7 8 – If determined appropriate by the ARD committee, instruction on IEP math goals may be provided in applied level courses in place of on-level or basic math courses.

Science

Science 6 – This general science course incorporates life science, earth science, and physical science and will introduce, develop, and maintain key concepts from these three areas.

Science 6 Honors – This general science course incorporates life science, earth science, and physical science and will introduce, develop, and maintain key concepts from these three areas. Students in this class are expected to perform at a rigorous academic level. For placement and maintenance criteria, please see page 23.

Science 7 – The major themes of science instruction are reviewed and expanded upon in the seventh grade curriculum. These include the following: the nature of science, interactions in the physical world, the diversity of life, interactions among organisms, human body systems, ecology, and the changing surface of the earth. Included within these broad themes is generalized instruction relating to the scientific method, matter and chemistry, forces, energy, simple machines, motion, conservation of resources, erosion and weathering, the solar system, and living organisms from bacteria to animals. The basic systems of the human body are identified as to both structure and function.

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Science 8 – This course focuses on a myriad of topics, including chemical interactions, physical interactions, earth's interior, change over time, interactions in earth's systems, the student and the environment, and the universe. It is designed to meet science objectives and further develop the student's interest in the different branches of science.

Science 8 Honors – This course focuses on a myriad of topics, including chemical interactions, physical interactions, earth's interior, change over time, interactions in earth's systems, the student and the environment, and the universe. It is designed to meet science objectives and further develop the student's interest in the different branches of science. Students in this class are expected to perform at a rigorous academic level. Please see page 23 for placement and maintenance criteria.

Science 6, 7 8 – If determined appropriate by the ARD committee, instruction on IEP science goals may be provided in applied level courses in place of on-level science courses.

Social Studies

Social Studies 6 – This course will study people and places of the contemporary world. Students will identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental system by comparing institutions common to all societies such as government, education and religious institutions.

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Social Studies 7 – This course will examine the full scope of Texas history from the physical and human geography of Texas to the contemporary era. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. The development of Texas government is studied along with qualities of good citizenship.

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Social Studies 8 – This course will study the history of the United States from early Colonial Period through Reconstruction. The historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious and social events, and issues of each era. The democratic ideas that have helped form the American government area also emphasized. The application of geography, social studies skills, and citizenship will also be reinforced.

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Social Studies 6, 7, 8 – If determined appropriate by the ARD committee, instruction on IEP social studies goals may be provided in applied level courses in place of on-level social studies courses.

English as a Second Language and Sheltered Classes

Sheltered English Language Arts 6- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. This course will embody the interconnected nature of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking through the seven integrated strands of developing and sustaining foundational language skills, comprehension, response, multiple genre, author's purpose and craft, composition, and inquired and research. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Sheltered English Language Arts 7- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. This course will embody the interconnected nature 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. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Sheltered English Language Arts 8- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. This course will embody the interconnected nature 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. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Sheltered Math 6- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. This course will focus on numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, inequalities, and relationships; measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe real life situations. By the end of the course, all students are expected to be fluent in all operations of whole numbers, positive fractions, positive decimals and integers, percent, area and volume. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Sheltered Math 7- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. The course expects students to develop a fluent understanding of how to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions, decimals, whole numbers and integers. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations, including solving two-step equations. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Sheltered Math 8- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. This course expects students to enter Math 8 with a complete understanding of all operations with all rational numbers. Math 8 includes proportional reasoning, application of geometric ideas, linear algebra concepts, and personal finance. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology. There will also be

daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Sheltered Science 6- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. This general science course incorporates life science, earth science, and physical science and will introduce, develop, and maintain key concepts from these three areas. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Sheltered Science 7- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. The major themes of science instruction are reviewed and expanded upon in the seventh grade curriculum. These include the following: the nature of science, interactions in the physical world, the diversity of life, interactions among organisms, human body systems, ecology, and the changing surface of the earth. Included within these broad themes is generalized instruction relating to the scientific method, matter and chemistry, forces, energy, simple machines, motion, conservation of resources, erosion and weathering, the solar system, and living organisms from bacteria to animals. The basic systems of the human body are identified as to both structure and function. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

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Sheltered Social Studies 6- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. This course will study people and places of the contemporary world. Students will identify different ways of organizing the economic and governmental system by comparing institutions common to all societies such as government, education and religious institutions. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Sheltered Social Studies 7- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. This course will examine the full scope of Texas history from the physical and human geography of Texas to the contemporary era. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact. The development of the Texas government is studied along with qualities of good citizenship. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Sheltered Social Studies 8- This course is for EL students who have a composite score of beginning/intermediate in TELPAS or are recent arrivals. This course will study the history of the United States from the early Colonial Period through Reconstruction. The historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious and social events, and issues of each era. The democratic ideas that have helped form the American government area also emphasized. The application of geography, social studies skills, and citizenship will also be reinforced. There will also be daily emphasis on the English Language Proficiency Standards (ELPS).

Languages Other Than English – Dual Language

The following courses are designed for students who participated in the New Caney ISD dual language program throughout elementary school. Any other students interested in enrolling in these courses must demonstrate an advanced level of academic Spanish by taking a language and content placement test in Spanish.

Discovering Languages and Cultures – Dual Language

Prerequisite: Previous participation in New Caney ISD dual language program through 5th grade.

In this course, dual language students will explore a variety of aspects of the Spanish language to further develop language learning and communication skills. Additionally, dual language students will study the Hispanic culture, including its values, products, and practices. This course will be conducted entirely in Spanish.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers I – Dual Language

Prerequisite: Successfully completing Discovering Languages and Cultures – Dual Language 6th grade with an average of 80% or higher.

This course will enable dual language students to enhance their reading, writing, and speaking abilities in the Spanish language. Additionally, dual language students will expand the tools and develop the context needed to connect with other subject areas, such as social studies. Coursework is done entirely in Spanish at an accelerated pace covering one level of advanced Spanish in one year. **Students need to maintain a 70 or higher average to stay in this class.** Students who successfully complete this class will receive weighted grades and high school credit for Spanish I on their high school transcript.

Honors Spanish for Spanish Speakers II – Dual Language

Prerequisite: Successfully completing Spanish for Spanish Speakers I – Dual Language 7th grade with an average of 80% or higher.

In this course, dual language students will expand Spanish language skills learned in Spanish for Spanish Speakers I. Dual language students will also continue enhancing the language tools necessary to connect successfully with other subject areas, such as social studies. Coursework is done entirely in Spanish at an accelerated pace covering one level of advanced Spanish in one year. **Students need to maintain a 70 or higher average to stay in this class.** Students who successfully complete this class, will receive weighted grades and high school credit for Spanish II Honors on their high school transcript.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Minimum Class Size for Elective Courses

Elective courses listed in the Course Selection Guide will be scheduled provided a sufficient number of students in pre-registration exceed the student minimum (15 students). If that number drops below the minimum prior to final scheduling, the course will be dropped unless the Director of Secondary Instruction approves the exception to the class size minimum rule.

Alternative Selections – Electives

Students must make alternative selections at pre-registration in order to ensure a complete schedule. Every attempt will be made to honor a student's choices, but due to schedule limitations, maximum class sizes may need to be imposed.

Classes of Limited Enrollment

In certain classes, enrollment must be limited because of facilities and/or equipment. Students will be scheduled into their alternate choices if space is not available in their first choice class.

Fine Arts

Beginning Art

Fee: Consumable supplies (\$20.00) must be furnished by the student

Through a variety of two and three-dimensional mediums, students build a strong foundation in the elements and principals of art and design. The curriculum allows each student to develop a foundational experience in art and prepare for more advanced levels of art.

Intermediate Art

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning Art

Fee: Consumable supplies (\$20.00) must be furnished by the student

Students expand on concepts and activities of Beginning Art. Emphasis is on drawing, design, and color techniques using a variety of art media.

Advanced Art

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intermediate Art.

Fee: Consumable supplies (\$30.00) must be furnished by the student

Students further expand on concepts and activities of Intermediate Art. Emphasis is on drawing, design, and color techniques using a variety of art media. Eighth grade students who have the interest and aptitude in art may pursue the opportunity to take Art II as an initial course in high school.

Advanced Art: Ceramics

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intermediate Art.

Fee: Consumable supplies (\$30.00) must be furnished by the student

Students further expand on concepts and activities of Intermediate Art. Emphasis is on use of clay and other three dimensional art. Eighth grade students who have the interest and aptitude in art may pursue the opportunity to take Art II as an initial course in high school.

Cadet Band I & II

Additional supplies are required. This is a sub-non-varsity ensemble instrumental music class that develops the values of music through performance skills and theory comprehension. Selection of instruments is made upon the recommendation of the band director. Students will be required to purchase various instrument supplies and rent/purchase their chosen instrument. Students who choose band as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Concert Band I & II

Prerequisite: Audition; teacher approval

Additional supplies are required. This is the non-varsity Ensemble. Students develop musical ability through participation in large and small ensembles and solo performances. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Following a competitive audition, students are placed in the appropriate band classes commensurate with their skill levels. Students who choose band as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Symphonic Band I & II

Prerequisite: Audition; teacher approval

Additional supplies are required. This is the varsity ensemble. Students develop musical ability through participation in large and small ensembles and solo performances. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Following a competitive audition, students are placed in the appropriate band classes commensurate with their skill levels. Students who choose band as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Beginning Band

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

Additional supplies are required. This class is for new instrumental musicians. Selection of instruments is made upon the recommendation of the band director. Instruments include: percussion, clarinet, trombone, flute, tuba/euphonium, saxophone, & trumpet/French horn. Students will be required to purchase various instrument supplies and rent/purchase their chosen instrument. Students who choose band as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Jazz Band

Prerequisite: Audition; teacher approval

This course is designed to teach fundamental styles and performance techniques in jazz music.

The jazz band is a performance based organization and participation at out-of-school performances and rehearsals is required. Students must participate in one of the parent instrumental organizations (band, orchestra) in order to enroll in this class.

Mariachi I

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for those interested in learning and playing the folk music of Mexico. Students will study mariachi music through instrumental performance in an ensemble setting. Students must participate in one of the parent instrumental organizations (band, or orchestra), with the exception of guitar, in order to enroll in this class. The mariachi band is a performance-based organization and participation at out of school performances and rehearsals is required.

Beginning Choir

Fee: Uniform and supplies are required.

Students participate through group and solo activities that allow them to develop vocal and choral techniques that include reading, listening, and appreciation. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Following a competitive audition, students are placed appropriate band classes commensurate with their skill levels. Students who choose choir as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Chamber Choir I & II

Prerequisite: Audition; teacher approval

Fee: Uniform and supplies are required.

This is the varsity ensemble for treble students who participate through group and solo activities that allow them to develop vocal and choral techniques that include reading, listening, and appreciation. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Following a competitive audition, students are placed in the appropriate choir classes commensurate with their skill levels. Students who choose choir as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Treble Choir I & II

Prerequisite: Audition; teacher approval

Fee: Uniform and supplies are required.

This is the non-varsity ensemble for the soprano and alto voices. Students participate through group and solo activities that allow them to develop vocal and choral techniques that include reading, listening, and appreciation. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Following a competitive audition, students are placed in the appropriate choir classes commensurate with their skill levels. Students who choose choir as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Advanced Tenor-Bass Choir I & II

Prerequisite: Audition; teacher approval

Fee: Uniform and supplies are required.

This is the varsity ensemble for tenor-bass students who participate through group and solo activities that allow them to develop vocal and choral techniques that include reading, listening, and appreciation. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Following a competitive audition, students are placed in the appropriate choir classes commensurate with their skill levels. Students who choose choir as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Tenor-Bass Choir I & II

Prerequisite: Audition; teacher approval

Fee: Uniform and supplies are required.

This is the non-varsity ensemble for the tenor and bass voices. Students participate through group and solo activities that allow them to develop vocal and choral techniques that include reading, listening, and appreciation. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Following a competitive audition, students are placed in the appropriate choir classes commensurate with their skill levels. Students who choose choir as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Class Piano I

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed for students who wish to develop basic piano playing skills, or expand on their existing skills. This class will develop the value of music through performance skills and theory comprehension. Time in class will be spent both on and off the keyboards. Students will develop their musical ability through participating in small ensembles as well as solo performances. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside of the regular school day.

Beginning Orchestra

Prerequisite: teacher approval and placement on instrument

Fee: A maintenance fee of \$75 for students using district instruments. Additional supplies are required.

This class is for new instrumental musicians with string instruments. Selection of instruments is made upon the recommendation of the director. Students will be required to purchase various instrument supplies and rent/purchase their chosen instrument. Students who choose orchestra as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Philharmonic Orchestra I & II

Prerequisite: Audition; teacher approval

Fee: A maintenance fee of \$75 for students using district instruments. Additional supplies are required.

This is the non-varsity orchestra ensemble. Students continue to develop their appreciation and understanding as musicians through performance in large and small groups and solos. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Following a competitive audition, students are placed in the appropriate orchestra classes commensurate with their skill levels. Students who choose orchestra as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Chamber Orchestra I & II

Prerequisite: Audition; teacher approval

Fee: A maintenance fee of \$75 for students using district instruments. Additional supplies are required. This is the varsity ensemble. Students develop musical ability through participation in large and small ensembles and solo performances. Students will be expected to attend various rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Following a competitive audition, students are placed in the appropriate orchestra classes commensurate with their skill levels. Students who choose orchestra as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Beginning Theatre Arts

Students will learn expressive techniques, acting concepts, theater production concepts, and appreciation of theatrical events. They will learn mime, improvisation, and character development. In class, students will explore script writing and will participate in story-telling, puppetry, Reader's Theater, and play production.

Intermediate Theatre Arts

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning Theatre Arts.

Students extend and continue activities and objectives of Beginning Theatre Arts. They will increase their experiences in expressive techniques, acting concepts, theater production concepts, and appreciation of theatrical events. Students will participate in a variety of activities including Reader's Theatre, single and ensemble acting, improvisation, script writing, and all aspects of play production. Students who choose Intermediate Theatre Arts as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Advanced Theatre Production

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Intermediate Theatre Arts or teacher approval

Students will develop and experience a working knowledge of play production through various performance opportunities. Students will be expected to attend rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. Students who choose Advanced Theatre Production as an elective are making a commitment to remain in the program for the entire year.

Beginning Dance 7/8

Fees: Dance apparel and shoes required.

This is an introductory course into dance, balancing the areas of terminology, technique, and movement. Students will learn and perform dance through a broad presentation of skills, technical terminology, historical perspectives, and cultural and artistic diversity.

Advanced Dance 7th/8th

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Beginning Dance or teacher approval

Fees: Dance apparel and shoes required.

This is a second-year course that builds on the experiences of Beginning Dance. Students will learn and perform dance through a broad presentation of skills, technical terminology, historical perspectives, and cultural and artistic diversity.

Communication

Creative Writing 6/7/8 – This is a one semester course focusing on the various ways in which ideas can be expressed through writing. Students will explore their creativity through poetry, fiction, advertisement/persuasion, biography, parody, and comics. Students will create a final project of choice to demonstrate their ability to express themselves in a unique way.

Journalism Newspaper – This course exposes students to the world of communication with emphasis on press ethics; news analysis; and news, feature, and editorial writing. This course includes instruction in headline writing and page design while emphasizing writing skills. Students make application of news writing and design skills by periodically creating the school newspaper.

Journalism Yearbook – This course teaches students yearbook design and composition. Direct application is achieved by creating the school yearbook. Students are instructed in basic photography skills, and student photography is featured in the yearbook.

Photojournalism 8 – This course provides students with the opportunity to learn effective visual communications and to plan, prepare, and produce photographs through conventional and digital sources.

Technology Courses

Technology Applications 6 – Students learn not only the touch method of keyboarding, but also how to write business letters and use proofreading marks.

Technology Applications 7 – Through the study of technology applications foundations, including technology related terms, concepts, and data input strategies; students learn to make informed decisions about technologies and their applications. The purpose of Technology Applications is to ensure students acquire the appropriate 21st century skills, preparing them for college and careers.

Career and Technology Education Courses

Investigating Careers –A.M.T. 7/8 – Students will investigate careers in the following CTE Clusters: Agriculture, Manufacturing, and Transportation. Students are exposed to challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge to further their education and succeed in current and emerging professions as they explore the fields of agriculture science, manufacture welding, and small engines. Students should enjoy working with their hands and be prepared to complete engaging skills laboratories.

Investigating Careers – Business & Education 7/8 – Students will investigate careers in the following CTE Clusters: Business, Marketing, Finance, and Education & Training. Learning laboratories integrated throughout this course provide students hands-on opportunities to learn various job skills, education necessary, and job outlook related to careers.

Investigating Careers- Public Service 7/8 – Students will investigate careers in the following CTE Clusters: Hospitality and Tourism (culinary), Human Services (cosmetology), and Public Safety (law enforcement and EMT). Students will research the professional skills needed for college and career success as well as labor market information related to the careers within this course.

Investigating Careers –STEM Expeditions 7/8 – Students will investigate careers in the following CTE Clusters: Health Science, Architecture, Construction, Audio/Visual Production, and Information Technology. Throughout this course, students will utilize the PITSCO learning laboratory to incorporate technology while collaborating, solving real-world challenges, and experimenting with a variety of career paths.

College and Career Readiness – 7/8 – 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.

Physical Education/Health

GIRLS PE 6 / GIRLS PE 7/8

BOYS PE 6 / BOYS PE 7/8

Four (4) semesters of physical education are required in grades six through eight. Athletics may be substituted for physical education in the seventh and eighth grades. Students will be provided opportunities to participate safely and efficiently in movement skills included in sports and other physical activities. The student shall be provided opportunities to participate in varied physical fitness activities that should be continued throughout life.

OFF-CAMPUS PE

Off-Campus Physical Education Equivalent Program provides an opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to receive credit for participation in an off-campus physical education program. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) authorizes school districts to award physical education credit for students participating in appropriate privately or commercially sponsored physical activity programs if certain guidelines are met. The purpose of the program is to accommodate students who wish to participate in special and/or accelerated physical education activities which go above and beyond those normally scheduled in the school district. For more information, please visit the district secondary instruction website, <https://www.newcaneyisd.org/domain/789>, and follow up with the student's school counselor

Athletics 7 and 8

- Students must be enrolled in a total of 1 unit of physical education or athletics during their seventh grade year.
- Students participating in athletics must enroll for a full year of athletics to receive a physical education credit of 1 unit.
- Students are required to have a current physical exam and must purchase practice uniforms. (Contact coaches for more information.)
- Students may not be enrolled in more than one period of athletics or PE per year.
- Sports include: football, volleyball, basketball, and track.
- Students must meet all UIL grade and attendance requirements in order to participate.

Cheerleading 7/8 – This course is designed for students selected to perform on seventh and eighth grade squads. This class meets during the day and consists of conditioning activities, skill development in several cheerleading techniques, and specific preparation for games. Students gain membership through try-out procedures held during the spring of the previous school year.

Other Electives

Introduction to Spanish 8 – Introductory Spanish is a semester course designed to create a solid foundation for students who are interested in learning the Spanish language. This course will emphasize vocabulary and beginning grammar. After successful completion of Introductory Spanish, students will be prepared for the Spanish I course.

Student Aide – Students must have good attendance, good behavior, and have mastered all objectives on the seventh grade STAAR Reading to be an aide. **This is an eighth grade elective only.** Types of aides are office, library, and counselor.

Study Skills – Success for Students is a curriculum developed for a semester length course covering over twenty key subject areas with lessons designed to build student skills in time management, goal setting, and study strategies. Sample topics include the following: How to Study, Keeping Track of Schoolwork, Note Taking, Memory Skills, Prioritizing and Decision Making, Critical and Creative Thinking, Test Taking, and much more.

Teen Leadership 6/7 /8 – Through the Teen Leadership curriculum, students will a) Develop a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and a sense of personal responsibility; b) Understand emotional intelligence and the skill it measures, including self-awareness, self-motivation, and social skills; c) Build skill in public speaking and communication as well as an understanding of personal image; d) Recognize and resist peer pressure; and e) Learn to become better family members and citizens. The course builds personal responsibility and leadership skills through role plays, group activities, speeches, and projects.

Texas Performance Standard Project – This class focuses on the Texas Performance Standards Project for GT students. TPSP is a statewide standards and assessment system used to capture the high levels of achievement of gifted/talented students. The goal of the TPSP is for students to create work that reflects the professional quality that the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students requires. Student projects are TEKS-based and focus on the core content areas. For more information, visit www.texaspsp.org.

Honors Course Placement

Honors Course Placement Criteria for Grades 6-8:

- Pass previous grade STAAR test on the first administration.
- Read at or above grade level.
- A/B semester average in previous year's ELA course.
- Middle School Honors Course Agreement must be signed by the student and a parent before a student will be placed in an Advanced course.
- Recommend an 80% average for course placement.
- Maintain an average of 70% or higher to remain in the course.

Campus Contact Information

Keefer Crossing Middle School

20350 FM 1485

New Caney, Texas 77357

281-577-8840

New Caney Middle School

22784 US Highway 59 South

Porter, Texas 77365

281-577-8860

White Oak Middle School

24161 Briar Berry Lane

Porter, Texas 77365

281-577-8800

Woodridge Forest Middle School

4540 Woodridge Parkway

Porter, Texas 77365

281-577-8880