

Medina Valley

Middle School

6th, 7th, & 8th Grades

Course Catalog Guide

2009-2010

(Revised 07-02-09)

MEDINA VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

REQUIRED ELECTIVES:

Reading Academy: (selected students)

The primary goal of the Reading Academy is to accelerate reading instruction for students that are two years or more below reading level. The Reading Academy is designed to improve students' reading levels. The Reading Academy serves general education as well as special education students through a diagnostic and prescriptive program. A certified reading teacher will use various instructional methods along with the computer software to increase reading skills and reading comprehension. This elective is a required elective for students meeting any of the following criteria:

- ✓ Failed reading section on TAKS Test
- ✓ Identified to participate in dyslexia program
- ✓ Receives special education services in reading
- ✓ Recommendation from Response to Intervention Committee

Math Academy: (selected students)

The primary goal of the Math Academy is to accelerate math instruction for students that are lacking in math skills. The Math Academy is designed to improve students' math ability levels and problem solving skills. The Math Academy serves general education as well as special education students through a diagnostic and prescriptive program. A certified math teacher will use various instructional methods along with the computer software to increase math skills and problem solving skills. This elective is a required elective for students meeting any of the following criteria:

- ✓ Failed math section of TAKS Test
- ✓ Receives special education services in math
- ✓ Recommendation from Response to Intervention Committee

Science Academy: (selected 8th grade students)

The primary goal of the Science Academy is to accelerate science instruction for students that are lacking in science skills. The Science Academy is designed to improve students' ability levels and skills by building an understanding of science concepts from sixth through eighth grade. The Science Academy serves general education as well as special education students through a diagnostic and prescriptive program. A certified science teacher will use various instructional methods along with the computer software to increase skills. This elective is a required elective for students meeting any of the following criteria:

- ✓ Failed science benchmarks in grades 6 and/or 7
- ✓ Receives special education services in science
- ✓ Recommendation from Response to Intervention Committee

ELECTIVES:

Agriculture:

This course offers students an introduction to agriculture with an emphasis in horticulture and animal science. Various topics within the field of agriculture will be introduced.

Athletics (Grades 7 and 8 only): *(Prerequisite – approval from coach/sport)*

Students in grades 7th and 8th may participate in the Middle School Athletic Program at Medina Valley Middle School. The athletic program is governed by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and sports include football, cross-country, basketball, volleyball, and track. A satisfactory physical exam must be on file with the coach before a student will be allowed to participate. Participation in the athletic program in both 7th and 8th grades will take place before and/or after school. Students participating in the athletic program will be enrolled in/withdrawn from an “Athletics” course based on the recommendations of the coaching staff and Director of Athletics. This course will include strenuous weight lifting and strength and conditioning activities.

Art:

Art at the middle school level emphasizes the essential vocabulary of art, the art elements, and principles. Using art history as a guide and self-discovery as a motivational tool, students will produce art that is reflective and challenging. Students will be introduced to several mediums and modes of expression during the course of the school year. This class also serves as fine preparation for art at the high school level.

Band:

The sixth, seventh, and eighth grade band is an instrumental music program designed to give the student an opportunity to acquire musical and technical proficiency through group performance. Each student will be challenged with individual and group goals, which work to develop industry, persistence, and self-motivation. There will be several public performances.

Choir:

The creation and performance of music, alone and with others, is fundamental to the understanding of music. Through these endeavors students acquire and use technical skills of music, learn and apply the expressive qualities of music, make music their own, engage their imaginations, explore and evaluate multiple solutions in problem solving, acquire flexible ways of thinking, develop disciplined effort and self-confidence, and attain a means of expression beyond oral and written communication.

Future Problem Solving (FPS):

The Future Problem Solving class is a year-long curriculum project and a program that encompasses state and international competition. FPS students work in teams and apply the creative problem solving process to current topics. The FPS class is designed to motivate students to:

1. develop creative thinking,
2. increase awareness of and an interest in the future,
3. improve oral and written communication,
4. learn and utilize problem solving strategies,

5. develop and improve research techniques,
6. develop critical and analytical thinking skills,
7. develop team work skills.

Golf (7th and 8th grades only):

Golf is a physical activity course. Students will learn the basics of golf, including rules and technique. Instruction will take place in the classroom as well as on the high school golf course. Students may enter the course with varying levels of experience, from complete beginners to those more advanced. Coach's approval is required to participate.

Health/Leadership (8th grade only):

Health is a one semester class leading to ½ credit towards a high school diploma. This course is designed to make students aware of their physical and mental well-being. The major areas of study are: emotional, mental and physical health; the ill effects of alcohol, narcotics, and tobacco on the body and environment; first aid; the prevention and care of accidents; and diseases. Students will also receive training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) leading to certification in Basic CPR by the American Heart Association.

Leadership is a one semester class that uses the "Teen Leadership" curriculum developed by F. Flippen and Associates, Capturing Kids Hearts organization. The Leadership class will focus on the attainment of the following goals:

- ✓ Shaping Visions and Goals
- ✓ Helping groups make decisions
- ✓ Resolving conflicts
- ✓ Motivating members
- ✓ Getting recognition for the group in its community
- ✓ Getting respect for the group, and
- ✓ Cooperating with other groups to accomplish shared goals.

The class will be taught in a combination of lab and traditional settings. The focus of the class will be to teach students ways in which to channel their leadership potential in both school and business settings. Community service projects are undertaken in an effort to involve the students in community wide affairs.

Office Aide/Library Aide (7th and 8th grades only):

Students will be chosen to assist the office or librarian with various responsibilities. These responsibilities may include copying materials, taking messages and mail to staff members, using the computer to check books out to students, re-shelving returned books, and assisting students with research needs by locating books as well as with Internet services for research purposes. Students will also assist with Accelerated Reader needs such as finding books and taking tests. Students will be selected for this class by completing an application and securing teacher recommendations.

Physical Education and Health:

The Physical Education Department follows closely the President's Council on Youth Fitness recommendations. Tests are administered twice yearly to determine a student's physical fitness. Any student scoring 85 or better on each test will qualify for the Presidential Award for Fitness as issued by the office of the President of the United

States, and a certificate will be awarded at the end of the school year. All sixth grade students are required to take Physical Education all year. All seventh grade students are required to take Physical Education for one semester and Health for the other semester. Student athletes in 7th grade will also take one semester of Health.

Spanish (7th and 8th grades only):

Spanish for 7th and 8th grade introduces vocabulary development, grammatical structures, phonics, and reading in Spanish. Emphasis is placed on speaking, listening, reading, and writing proficiencies of a second language as well as the skills necessary for second language acquisition for the purpose of developing marketable language skills. Students will learn to recognize cultural diversity, art, and some basic Spanish history. The instructor teaches the course in Spanish for students to recognize the language in spoken and written form. Students completing both years of Spanish can challenge an end of course exam that may earn them high school credit for Spanish I.

Technology Application:

In this course students will be given the opportunity to learn the proper keyboarding technique to input data when using the computer keyboard as well as building keyboarding speed and accuracy. Students will also learn basic word processing skills and basic computer operations. They will learn computer terminology, computer history, computer applications, and how to access, analyze, and evaluate the information found on the Internet. Students will have hands on experience in using the Microsoft Office applications. This will include, but not limited to word-processing, database, spreadsheet, graphics, and PowerPoint.

Theatre Arts (7th and 8th grades only):

At the Middle School, this serves as an introduction to many levels of theatre. While the basics of acting are learned through theatre games and improvisational activities, the finer aspects of play production are practiced first hand with several plays put on annually for school audiences.

TENTATIVE ELECTIVES (if available only):

Journalism--Yearbook/Newspaper (7th and 8th grades only):

The yearbook class is responsible for publishing *Banter Stolz*, the Middle School yearbook. Responsibilities of students in this class include designing layouts, writing articles, interviewing and taking photographs for yearbook pages. Students will be expected to use cameras and computers on a daily basis to produce the yearbook. Students will also be trained in PageMaker, Photoshop Microsoft Word and Microsoft Office. Students in yearbook must be highly motivated, independent workers. Students will work as a team to produce **Panther Prints**, a multi-page publication that covers school events with news stories, features, photographs, and interviews. Students will use computers and cameras to create each issue and must be responsible and highly motivated.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS:

Pre-AP Classes:

Placement in the Pre-AP program is done by taking parent and teacher recommendations. The purpose of the College Board Advanced Placement Program is to prepare students for college and/or for AP exams that give them the opportunity to obtain college credit. Pre-AP classes prepare students for AP courses, which are different from regular high school courses in that they are taught with college curricula and college-level materials. Other characteristics of Pre-AP and AP courses include content immersion, a fast pace, and performance assessed at the analysis and synthesis levels. **Typically successful Pre-AP and AP students are task-oriented, proficient readers, writers, and thinkers who are able to prioritize their time.** Parent support also plays a key role in the success of these students. Pre-AP classes will be offered in the core academic areas of Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. Students failing to maintain a grade of 70 or higher after the first six weeks progress report grade will be exited from the PreAP class and will be scheduled into a regular class. A grade of 70 or higher must be maintained throughout the school year or the student will be exited from the program. Late work in any Pre-AP class will not be accepted. A contract will be signed by the student and the parent agreeing that this level of performance will be maintained throughout the school year.

**Medina Valley Middle School
Course Selections 2009-2010**

Grade 6

Required Courses:

Language Arts (English/Reading)
Math
Social Studies
Science
Physical Education
One (1) Elective

Elective Courses:

Reading Academy	Math Academy
Art	Beginning Band
Choir	Future Problem Solvers
Technology Applications (if available)	

Grade 7

Required Courses:

Language Arts (English/Reading)
Math
Texas History
Science
Physical Education/Health *or* Athletics/Health
One (1) Elective

Elective Courses:

Reading Academy	Math Academy
Agriculture	Art
Band (Beginning, Concert, Symphonic)	Choir
Future Problem Solving	Golf
Journalism (if available)	Office/Library Aide
Spanish	Technology Applications (if available)
Theatre Arts (Drama)	

Grade 8

Required Courses:

Language Arts (English/Reading)	
Math <i>or</i> Pre-AP Math 8	<i>or both Pre-AP Math & Algebra I</i>
American History	
Science	
Technology Applications	
One (1) Elective	

Elective Courses:

Reading Academy	Math Academy
Science Academy	
Agriculture	Art
Athletics	Band (Beginning, Concert, Symphonic)
Choir	Future Problem Solving
Golf	Health (for high school credit)/ Leadership
Journalism (if available)	Office/Library Aide
Spanish	Technology Applications
Theatre Arts (Drama)	

Medina Valley Middle School

Pre-registration Grade 6-----School Year 2009-2010

Student name: _____ Parent Name _____
Last First MI

Student ID: _____ Phone _____

Rank all electives in order with 1 being first choice:

Required Sixth Grade Program:

- Language Arts
- Math
- Social Studies
- Science
- Physical Education
- One (1) Elective

Full Year Electives:

- Reading Academy (required elective based on criteria)
- Math Academy (required elective based on criteria)
- _____ Art
- _____ Beginning Band
- _____ Choir
- _____ Future Problem Solvers
- _____ Technology Application (if available)

If student wishes to participate in Athletics in 7th and 8th grade, please indicate interests:

Athletics:

- _____ football _____ track
- _____ volleyball _____ cross country
- _____ basketball

NOTE: Selection of electives does not guarantee placement.

Pre-AP (Accelerated learning)

Check each subject applicable if you would like your child in PreAP classes.
 (Please note requirements in this course catalog.)

Language Arts _____ Math _____ Science _____ Social Studies _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Forms must be returned to Middle School Counselor's Office by **April 3, 2009**

Office Use Only

TAKS: Reading _____ Math _____ Science _____

Pre-AP/Accelerated: Language Arts _____ Math _____ Science _____ Social Studies _____

Special Education: LD _____ ED _____ OHI _____ Speech _____ MR _____
 Mainstream _____ Inclusion Lang. Arts _____ Inclusion Math _____ Behavior _____ ALE _____

ESL Program: _____ **Section 504:** _____

Gifted & Talented: Language Arts _____ Math _____ Science _____ Social Studies _____

Medina Valley Middle School

Pre-registration Grade 7-----School Year 2009-2010

Student name: _____ Parent Name _____
Last First MI

Student ID: _____ Phone (____) _____
(including area code)

Required Seventh Grade Program:

- Language Arts
- Math
- Texas History
- Science
- ____ Physical Education/Health **OR**
- ____ Athletics/Health
- One (1) Elective

Rank all electives in order with 1 being first choice:
Full Year Electives:

- ____ Reading Academy (required elective based on criteria)
- ____ Math Academy (required elective based on criteria)
- ____ Agriculture
- ____ Art
- ____ Band (Beginning, Concert, Symphonic)
- ____ Choir
- ____ Future Problem Solving (FPS)
- ____ Golf (coach's approval required)
- ____ Journalism (if available)
- ____ Office/Library Aide (by application)
- ____ Spanish (I____ or II____)
- ____ Technology Application
- ____ Theatre Arts

Indicate sports student will participate in for Athletics:

____ football ____ track

____ volleyball ____ cross country

____ basketball

NOTE: Selection of electives does not guarantee placement.

Pre-AP (Accelerated learning)

Check each subject applicable if you would like your child in PreAP classes.
 (Please note requirements in this course catalog.)

Language Arts _____ Math _____ Science _____ Social Studies _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Forms must be returned to Middle School Counselor's Office by **April 3, 2009**

Office Use Only

TAKS : **Reading** _____ **Math** _____

Pre-AP/Accelerated: Language Arts _____ Math _____ Science _____ Social Studies _____

Special Education: LD _____ ED _____ OHI _____ Speech _____ MR _____

Mainstream _____ Inclusion Lang. Arts _____ Inclusion Math _____ Behavior _____ ALE _____

ESL Program: _____ **Section 504:** _____

Gifted & Talented: Language Arts _____ Math _____ Science _____ Social Studies _____

Medina Valley Middle School

Pre-registration Grade 8-----School Year 2009-2010

Student name: _____ Parent Name _____
Last First MI

Student ID: _____ Phone (____) _____
(including area code)

Required Eighth Grade Program:

Language Arts

Math: (circle one)

Math 8

Math 8 Pre-AP

Math 8 Pre-AP & Algebra I

American History

Science

Technology applications

One (1) Elective

Indicate sports student will participate in for Athletics:

___ football

___ track

___ volleyball

___ cross country

___ basketball

Rank all electives in order with 1 being first choice:

Full Year Electives:

Reading Academy (required elective based on criteria)

Math Academy (required elective based on criteria)

Science Academy (required elective based on criteria)

___ Agriculture

___ Art

___ Athletics

___ Band (Beginning, Concert, Symphonic)

___ Choir

___ Future Problem Solving (FPS)

___ Golf (coach's approval required)

___ Health/ Leadership

___ Office/Library Aide (by application)

___ Spanish

___ Technology Application

___ Theatre Arts (Drama)

NOTE: Selection of electives does not guarantee placement.

Pre-AP (Accelerated learning)--Check each subject applicable if you would like your child in PreAP classes.

(Please note requirements in this course catalog.)

Language Arts _____

Math _____

Science _____ Social Studies _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date _____

Forms must be returned to Middle School Counselor's Office by **April 3, 2009**

Office Use Only

TAKS : Reading _____ Math _____

Pre-AP/Accelerated: Language Arts _____ Math _____ Science _____ Social Studies _____

Special Education: LD _____ ED _____ OHI _____ Speech _____ MR _____

Mainstream _____ Inclusion Lang. Arts _____ Inclusion Math _____ Behavior _____ ALE _____

ESL Program: _____ **Section 504:** _____

Gifted & Talented: Language Arts _____ Math _____ Science _____ Social Studies _____