

**8th Grade
Course Guide
2017-2018**



**Pleasant Grove Middle School
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2017-2018 PGMS Course Selection Guide 8th Grade

Purpose

Pleasant Grove Middle School is committed to the general purpose that education should provide appropriate learning experiences for every child in the school. Experiences provide each child to continually develop and improve - emotionally, physically, morally, socially, and intellectually. PGMS acknowledges that the student of today will live in a society demanding knowledge and skills related to the use of computers and other technologies. The school is committed to the development of the "whole" child.

The curriculum is in a state of continuous study and revision, readily adaptable to meet the changing needs of children and provide a foundation of knowledge. Methods of instruction reflect recognition of individual differences among students. Instruction equips students with real world work skills, human relations skills, respect for authority, appreciation of our American heritage and other world cultures. Students are exposed to knowledge of how and where to obtain needed information, and an understanding of computers and other technologies which will enable them to function in an ever changing global society.

Well-trained and highly competent staff members demonstrate pride in their professional commitment to the intellectual, social, and moral development of school children. Continuous staff development and professional growth experiences are encouraged. Discipline is considered vitally important to a vigorous educational program. Overall, the school's efforts are directed to help each student become a productive member of our global society, capable of making a definite and positive contribution to society and to himself or herself.

Mission Statement

The mission of Pleasant Grove Independent School District, in collaboration with the community, is to empower students through experiential learning to successfully navigate the opportunities of a competitive and complex world.

Vision

Our Students:

- Embody school pride and display character and citizenship
- Recognize their potential and value and are confident in their ability to compete in an ever-changing society
- Are empowered through learning that cultivates curiosity and individual interest
- Are creative problem solvers who are prepared to actively engage and excel in their community

Our Learning Environment:

- Is driven by teachers and staff who set high expectations and are passionate about education
- Fosters an active relationship between home and school
- Cultivates positive parental and community involvement
- Nurtures each student's physical, mental, emotional and social well-being
- Promotes engaging, interactive instruction that focuses on real-world application and problem solving
- Provides total immersion in technology

Our District Along with the Community:

- Recruits and retains quality teachers and staff who are well-compensated, highly-trained and skilled
- Provides a safe learning environment
- Is innovative and proactive to meet the changing and diverse needs of our students
- Invests resources to promote student success
- Builds and extends partnerships with local businesses, civic organizations, and educational entities
- Promotes awareness of school and student accomplishments

Shared Beliefs

1. What is it we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know if each student has learned it?
3. How will we respond when some students do not learn it?
4. How can we extend and enrich the learning for students who have demonstrated proficiency?

**8th Grade Pleasant Grove Middle School Course Requirements and Descriptions
2017-2018**

Course Requirements (by grade level) Three-Year Plan

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit
Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit
Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit
Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit
Reading	1 unit	Reading	1 unit	Technology Applications	1 unit
P.E./Pre-athletics	1 unit	P.E./Athletics	1 unit	Elective	1 unit
Fine Arts	1 unit	Elective	1 unit	Elective	1 unit
Technology Applications	1 unit	Elective	1 unit	Elective	1 unit

8th Grade Core and/or Required Courses and Numbers

8018 Technology Applications

1008 English Language Arts *ELA

1018 Pre-AP English Language Arts

2065 Reading Academy *Replaces one elective.

2008 Mathematics

2020 Pre-AP Mathematics

2018 Algebra 1 High School Credit *Prerequisite: Academic Readiness Assessment and meet criteria.

2060 Mathematics Academy *Replaces on elective.

4008 Science

4018 Pre-AP Science

3008 Social Studies

3018 Pre-AP Social Studies
8th Grade Electives and Numbers

Fine Arts

7010 Art 2 *Art 1 is a prerequisite.
7020 Art 3 *Art 2 is a prerequisite.

Middle School Band 1 *Select one of the following instruments:

- 0001 Percussion
- 0002 Trombone
- 0004 French horn
- 0005 Trumpet
- 0006 Baritone/Tuba
- 0007 Clarinet
- 0008 Flute
- 0009 Saxophone

0010 Middle School Band 2
0003 Middle School Band 3

- 0016 Guitar Class

Technology/Digital Learning Offerings

8039 Broadcast Journalism 8 PG TV/Announcements *Spring application required.
8028 Digital Newspaper
8020 Journalism Yearbook *Spring application required.

8106 STEM: Mythbusters/Forensics
8072 STEM: Robotics
8086 STEM: Web Design/Graphics

Foreign Language

8049 Exploratory Foreign Language Spanish
8040 Spanish 1 (High School Credit)

Physical Education

9008 Athletics Boys'
9001 Athletic Girls'
9012 Cheerleading *Tryouts are held in the Spring.
9014 Dance
1228 Drill Team *Tryouts are held in the Spring.
9020 Physical Education *P.E.

Other Elective Options

5162 Dyslexia Therapy
0052 English as a Second Language
1005 Office/Library Aide *Selection Process
9037 Study Hall

Use the Course Requirements Three-Year Plan chart on page 2 as a guide for creating a schedule.

Core and/or Required Courses

Technology Applications Grade 8: Course number 8018

*Advanced Digital Learning Students will advance their technology skills as identified by the state of Texas which include: Creativity and Innovation; Communication and Collaboration; Research and Information Fluency; Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making; Digital Citizenship; Technology Operations and Concepts. Students will use Google Apps for Education and acquire other skills and resources that every student is expected to use in future grades. This course is for 8th grade students.

English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 8: Course number 1008

Students are expected to demonstrate critical thinking skills in reading and writing. Various genres of literature such as poetry, drama, short stories, nonfiction, and novels will be used for analyzing literature requiring open-ended responses. Literary elements will be used as springboards for writing a variety of paragraphs, compositions, and detailed compositions. Students will be exposed to a broad range of relevant and engaging topics of interest. Students will be introduced to new vocabulary and apply it when speaking, reading, and writing.

Pre-AP English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 8: Course number 1018

Students will follow the above course description *ELA with a focus on working independently. Students will use a flexible range of metacognitive reading skills in both assigned and independent reading to understand an author's message. Students will continue to apply earlier standards with greater depth in increasingly more complex texts as they become self-directive, critical speakers, readers, and writers. For admission into accelerated English, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level ELA class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Reading Academy: Course number 2065

Reading Academy provides support for students who score near or below the minimum expectations on the state reading assessment. This course is a supplement to the student's regular grade-level reading course and is taken in place of an elective.

Mathematics Grade 8: Course number 2008

The primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. The mathematics curriculum follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill adopted by the Texas Education Agency.

Pre-AP Mathematics Grade 8: Course number 2020

The Pre-AP math classes challenge motivated and responsible students to understand in-depth, rigorous content. The primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. Pre-AP math coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments in class and outside of class. For admission into accelerated mathematics, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level math class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Algebra 1: Course number 2018

Algebra 1 is a high school credit course designed for students who have displayed advanced mathematical ability. The criterion for student placement in Algebra 1 requires a score of 70% or above on an academic readiness assessment and must have met the minimum standard for grade 7 state assessment. The primary focal areas are functional relationships; properties and attributes of functions; linear functions; linear equations and inequalities; quadratic and other nonlinear functions. Students are responsible for taking the STAAR Algebra 1 End Of Course (EOC) exam.

Mathematics Academy: Course number 2060

Math Academy provides support for students who score near or below the minimum expectations on the state math assessment. This course is a supplement to the student's on grade-level math course and is taken in place of an elective.

Science Grade 8: Course number 4008

This course is designed to expose the student to different types of lab techniques and to a broad area of the scientific field. Students will start with learning basic principles of chemistry. This includes atomic structures and functions, learning to interpret the periodic table, and being introduced to chemical and physical reactions in the lab. Students will learn about force and motion and how that relates to movements of all types. Students will use graphs and calculations to determine acceleration, speed, and velocity. The next section involves earth and space science. Topics under these units include plate tectonics, weather and climate, stars, galaxies, and the people involved in the development of scientific theories. The students will finish the year by studying organisms and their environment.

Pre-AP Science Grade 8: Course number 4018

The Pre-AP science class requires mastery of the same TEKS as the on grade-level class, but will require more higher-order thinking and independent study. There will be at least one project per marking period to be completed outside of class. Also, students will work at an accelerated pace and cover the material more in-depth. For admission into accelerated science, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level science class or an 85+ in an accelerated

class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Social Studies Grade 8: Course number 3008

(U.S. History) Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material.

Pre-AP Social Studies Grade 8: Course number 3018

(U.S. History) Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will be responsible for independent thinking and projects to demonstrate learning by using technology and higher order thinking skills. Students will research topics to be debated and discussed in class. Tests will include short essay questions and map analyzing. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material. A student shall have (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level social studies class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

8th Grade Electives

Fine Arts

Art 2: *Art 1 is a prerequisite. Course number 7010

Students will implement techniques with perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage and critical evaluation.

Art 3: *Art 1 and 2 are prerequisites. Course number 7020

Students will implement techniques with In-depth study of art through the four basic strands of perception. Third-year Art students will be creative with expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage and critical evaluation.

Middle School Band 1: Course numbers - 0001 for Percussion, 0002 for Trombone, 0004 for French horn, 0005 for Trumpet, 0006 for Baritone/Tuba, 0007 for Clarinet, 0008 for Flute, 0009 for Saxophone

Instrument specific, basic musicianship and performance techniques are learned on individual woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Beginning band emphasizes proper performance technique, breath control, tone, quality, range, and proper posture. Students are assigned a musical instrument based upon a student assessment. Performance opportunities are included.

Middle School Band 2: Course number 0010

Performance techniques and fundamentals are reinforced, adding new material to repertoire by learning new music and mastering additional technical exercises and advanced musical expression; built upon previous knowledge and skills, continue to advance musical abilities. Performance opportunities are included.

Middle School Band 3: Course number 0003

Performance techniques and fundamentals are reinforced; adding new material to repertoire by learning new music and mastering additional technical exercises and advanced musical expression; built upon previous knowledge and skills, and continue to advance musical abilities. Performance opportunities are included.

Guitar Class: Course number 0016

All students provide their own guitars. The class is designed to be a beginning guitar class for students with little or no previous instruction. Students will learn basic guitar skills and how to continue playing and improving after the class is completed. Curriculum includes chords and strumming patterns, finger placement, reading music, chord symbols, and tablature, introduction to a wide variety of styles including rock, pop, country, blues, etc. and basic guitar maintenance for acoustics and electrics.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Athletics: Course number 9008 for boys' athletics; Course number 9001 for girls' athletics Athletics requires rigorous physical training, daily participation, and regular UIL competition in up to three sports; after-school practice will be required. Boys may participate in football, basketball, and track and field events. Girls may participate in volleyball, basketball, and track and field events.

Cheerleading: Course number 9012

The focus of cheerleading is to create school spirit and promote a sense of pride and dignity in PGMS. While experiencing teamwork, we will strive to develop a sense of fair play and learn

the importance of doing one's best. Cheerleaders will cheer at pep rallies, PGMS sporting events, and other special events and competitions as required. Tryouts are held during the spring (second) semester for the following school year.

Dance: Course number 9014

Students will learn the fundamentals of various types of dance, including ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance.

Drill Team: Course number 1228

Drill Team is a physical conditioning and performance-oriented course. Drill Team includes various areas of performance preparation for athletic events, parades, pep rallies, and other school and community related functions. Such preparation shall include the following areas of concentration: warm-up and stretching techniques, dancing techniques, and marching techniques. Tryouts are held during the spring (second) semester for the following school year.

Physical Education *P.E.: Course number 9020

Students acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and access to a physically-active lifestyle. The student exhibits a physically-active lifestyle and understands the relationship between physical activity and health throughout the lifespan. Students understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. Students learn to use technology such as heart rate monitors to assist in measuring and monitoring their own performance. Identifying the types of activities that provide them with enjoyment and challenge and that will encourage them to be physically active throughout life is reinforced during instruction in these grades.

Technology/Digital Learning Offerings

Broadcast Journalism (PG TV/Announcements): Course number 8039

Students will learn the concept of communication through digital media while producing and broadcasting a daily news video shown campus-wide. Using the live news concept, they will be involved with script writing, filming and editing while highlighting and announcing MS activities and events. To be eligible for this class, students must have an 85+ average for the first semester in English Language Arts courses, submit a writing sample, and get teacher recommendations. Limited space. Spring application required.

Digital Newspaper: Course number 8028

Students will create the web-based school newspaper while learning the fundamental skills of journalism and publication production, including writing, technical writing, research, editing, interviewing, layout and design, teamwork, and collaboration. To be eligible for this class, students must have an 85+ average for the first semester in English Language Arts courses, submit a writing sample, and get teacher recommendations.

Journalism Yearbook: Course number 8020

Students will demonstrate creativity, responsibility, and cooperation in producing the school yearbook. While learning desktop publishing, they will have the opportunity to plan theme concepts, design and photography coverage as well as writing and editing copy. To be eligible for this class, students must have an 85+ average for the first semester in English Language

Arts courses, submit a writing sample, and get teacher recommendations. Limited space. Spring application required.

STEM: Mythbusters/Forensics: Course number 8106

MythBusters - (1st semester)

Discovery Education and solving “Myths” using science and technology. Separating truth from fiction can be tough. This elective allows students to endeavor and find the truth as myths are put to the test in the classroom! Students will problem-solve, collaborate, and make new discoveries. This class is inspired by the hit TV show “Mythbusters.” Myth Busting activities follow the STEM initiatives.

Forensics - (2nd semester)

Students will be introduced to the field of forensic science as they explore different areas of Crime Scene Investigation, including DNA analysis, forensic biology, ballistics, fingerprinting, serology, and physical evidence. This course will use web-based and hands-on activities to create authentic, interactive learning experiences.

STEM: Robotics: Course number 8072

Students will apply knowledge and skills related to engineering, math, science and technology to build and program robots using LEGO Mindstorm EV3 kits to accomplish specific tasks. This course utilizes hands-on, collaborative learning experiences to introduce students to robotics, programming, and engineering concepts.

STEM: Web Design/Graphics: Course number 8086

Students will learn the foundational knowledge and skills to create their own websites; these include design principles, planning, structure, color theory, content, and development. Students will also be introduced to programming languages, coding, animation and digital graphics.

Foreign Language

Exploratory Foreign Language Spanish: Course 0052

The purpose of the course is to provide opportunities for improvement in student self-development through the study of Spanish language and culture. The content includes, but is not limited to exploration of basic principles of Spanish language, cultural concepts related to the Spanish-speaking world, and comparisons between the students' own language and culture and that of Spanish-speaking countries. Exploratory Spanish introduces students to the target language and its culture. Student will learn beginning skills of listening and speaking and be introduced to basic skills in reading and writing in Spanish. Also, culture and comparisons are included in this course.

Spanish 1: (High School Credit) Course number 8040

Spanish 1 is a high school credit course designed for students who have displayed accelerated English Language Arts and reading abilities at the middle school level. Students will gain knowledge of the Spanish language and culture through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Spanish 1 is a rigorous high school level course that will require study time outside of the classroom and regular homework assignments. Spanish I may also be taken at Pleasant Grove High School. For admission into Spanish 1 at the middle school level, the following performance standards shall be recommended. In English and Reading a student shall have: (1)

earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian. Reading and English will be averaged together.

Other Elective Options

Dyslexia Therapy: Course number 5162

This Course is designed to assist students with dyslexia or dyslexia characteristics. Student must be in the Dyslexia Program.

English as a Second Language: Course number 0050

Students must develop the ability to comprehend and process material from a wide range of texts using the guidelines established by the Texas Education Agency.

Office/Library Aide: Course number 1005

Office Aide: Assist in the everyday procedures in office; student/parent/teacher confidentiality is an absolute necessity. Library Aide: Assist in the everyday procedures in the library. Space is limited. This course is for 8th grade students only.

Study Hall: Course number 9037

Designed to provide an environment conducive to studying, preparing for exams, completing assignments and projects, and completing missed assignments due to absences. Students must come prepared daily with specific course assignments. Reinforcement programs for state assessments are also included.