



Avondale Middle School  
8th Grade Curriculum Guide (2020-2021)

**8th Grade Core Curriculum includes the following required courses:**

- English (English 8 or Advanced English 8)
- U.S. History 8
- Math (Math 8 & Algebra I)
- Science/STEM 8

**Full Year Exploratory Fine Arts (Select one only)**

7th Grade auditions are required for placement into the 8th Grade band and choir classes. 8th Grade students have the opportunity to select one of the following, if interested. These are full year elective courses.

- Wind Ensemble
- Choir 8
- Advanced Art (teacher recommendation required)

**Foreign Language (Select one only)**

Full year courses for high school credit:

- Spanish I
- French I
- German I

**Trimester Exploratory Classes**

Students have two hours of exploratory classes in their schedule that may contain the following

- Art 8
- AMS Publications
- Mustang Connections
- Physical Education
- Multimedia
- Leadership

**Avondale Middle School**

**8th Grade**

**Curriculum Guide**

**2020-2021**



**Maryanne Munroe, Principal**

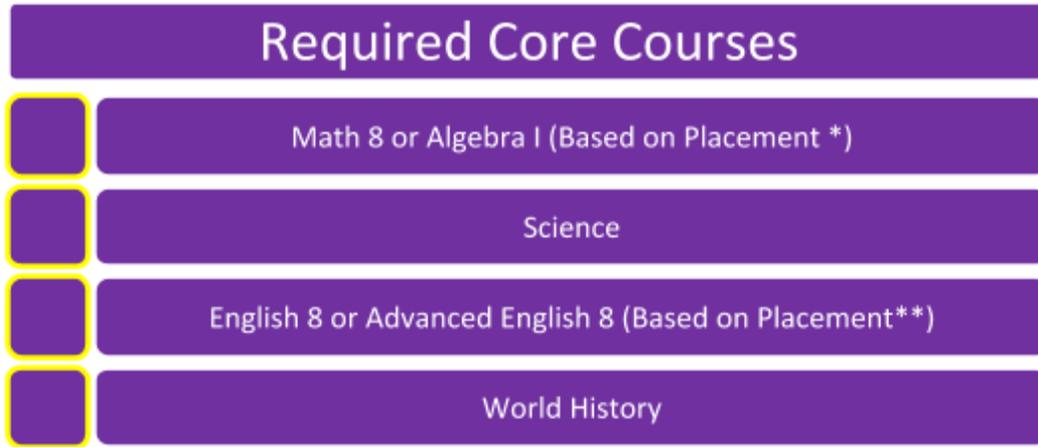
**Katie Gomez, Assistant Principal**

**Jill Amico, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor**

## Eighth Grade

An Avondale Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> grade schedule consists of 6 academic class periods in a year. The school year is comprised of three trimesters. All students are also assigned to a daily 32 minute advisory period.

Eighth grade students are required to take 4 periods of required core courses. Students also have 2 periods of exploratory courses. These exploratory courses consist of trimester grading periods. Based on whether the student is a music student determines exploratory offerings.



8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Exploratory Course Offerings	
Music Students	Non-Music Students
<p>Choose one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concert Band 8 (Experience Required)</li> <li>Choir 8 (Audition Required)</li> </ul> <p>Remaining exploratory offerings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Art – year long</li> <li>AMS Publications</li> <li>Art 8</li> <li>Leadership</li> <li>Multi-Media</li> <li>Mustang Connections</li> <li>Physical Education 8</li> <li>World Language (French, German, or Spanish) – year long</li> </ul>	<p>All students need to select one full year elective.</p> <p>Exploratory offerings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced Art – year long</li> <li>AMS Publications</li> <li>Art 8</li> <li>Leadership</li> <li>Multi-Media</li> <li>Mustang Connections</li> <li>Physical Education 8</li> <li>World Language (French, German, or Spanish) – year long</li> </ul>
<p>Remediation in reading and math may be recommended for students who would benefit from these classes based on standardized test scores and screeners in reading and math.</p>	

\*Algebra I placement will be finalized with successful completion of Advanced Math 7 in 7<sup>th</sup> grade or criteria met on Advanced Placement testing (by teacher recommendation). \*\*Advanced English 8 placement will be finalized with successful completion of Advanced English 7 or criteria met on Advanced Placement testing.

## **Eighth Grade Course Descriptions**

### **Advisory - Year-Long**

Students at AMS begin their day with a 32 minute advisory period referred to as “Mustang Roundup”. Student advisory groups are made up of grade level students that are led by teacher mentors. The goal of Mustang Roundup is to provide a personalized connection to our learning environment where all students will be well known by at least one adult advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of this program will provide opportunities for character education, bullying prevention lessons, positive behavior support, independent reading, academic monitoring, organizational meetings, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY CURRICULUM FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS**

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS TAKING HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL COURSES:** According to state law, students who take courses in middle school with a curriculum that is identical to a course at the high school (such as Algebra I, Honors Algebra II, Geometry, French I, Spanish I, or German I) – as well as 8<sup>th</sup> graders who take high school courses – will receive credit on their high school transcripts. All students must still earn 23 credits in grades 9-12 to earn a diploma. The grades earned in middle school will therefore be included in the high school GPA. If a student has not been successful in one of these courses in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and repeats a course in high school, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade credit and grade will be removed from the transcript. ***Selection and enrollment in a high school course is a year-long commitment and may not be dropped.***

### **CORE COURSES**

#### **Advanced English 8 - Year-Long**

***Students are placed in this course through a set of placement criteria.*** Building on the mastery obtained in Advanced English 7, students continue building a critical foundation in reading and writing narrative, informational, and argument texts. Through analysis and production of texts in these three modes, students become more adept readers, thinkers, and writers. Across the year, students come to understand the distinctions between narrative, informational, and argument texts by studying fiction and nonfiction in a variety of formats and developing a more thorough understanding of audience and purpose when reading and writing. Students are encouraged to be independent, engaged, and empowered learners who value close reading, idea generation, drafting, and revision. Students explore a range of literary genres including the memoir, narrative poetry, realistic fiction, and informational text. A year-long Independent reading program focuses on reading stamina, close reading strategies, and oral communication skills. Students are expected to independently read a minimum of four books per trimester. Analytic and expository writing assignments provide the main vehicle for the development of composition skills, although expressive writing is also explored. The focus on understanding and using the elements of argument underpins the writing of argument paragraphs, an argument essay, and a literary essay, supporting students in becoming more competent producers of argument in both written and spoken form. Informational reading and informational essay writing immerse students in how to critically read nonfiction, as well as analyze and use text structures, central ideas, and supporting details to craft informational text. Students also write a 4-5 minute speech for the Optimist Speech Competition; oral communication skills are advanced through the delivery of this speech. Vocabulary study includes direct instruction as well as application of proper usage of words in all their variant forms and the utilization of context clues to convey and interpret meaning. Grammar instruction is also directly taught and students are consistently held accountable for use of proper writing conventions throughout the year.

### **Algebra I - Year-Long**

*Students are placed in this course through a set of placement criteria.* This algebra course covers the study of real numbers, solving equations, graphing of an equation on the coordinate plane, graphing parabolas, the study of exponents and radicals, solving systems of equations with two or more variables, and various operations within the study of quadratic equations. Students are placed in Algebra 1 upon successful completion of Advanced Math 7. Algebra I is a high school level course and meets the Algebra I graduation requirement; therefore, this course and the grade the student earns is included on the high school transcript and counts towards the student GPA.

### **English 8 - Year-Long**

Over the course of eighth grade, students will continue to study literature of various genres informational text, and further develop writing skills. This course follows a standard-based curriculum aligned to the Oakland County MAISA Units. Focused instruction deepens reading comprehension, analysis, and critical thinking skills. Writing to communicate ideas and information using conventional writing skills is woven throughout instruction in narrative, argument, and informational areas. Students will also express information orally and enhance understanding of presentation proficiency through strategic use of technology and speaking skills.

### **Math 8 - Year-Long**

Math 8 is a pre-algebra course designed for eighth-grade students. The course develops a deep conceptual and procedural understanding of mathematics in a moderately paced learning environment. The critical areas for Math 8 include: solving multi-step equations, exploration of transformations in the coordinate plane, triangles and other polygons, angle relationships given two parallel lines, graphing linear equations, solving systems of linear equations, functions, Pythagorean's theorem, the real number system, surface area and volume of solids, and exponents.

### **Science/STEM 8 - Year-Long**

The eighth grade curriculum is built with resources from MiStar and Project Lead the Way (STEM). Eighth-grade students will engage in scientific investigations that infuse engineering, math and technology throughout the year. Students will build a deep understanding of scientific concepts through collaboration, innovation, experimentation, and reasoning based on evidence. Eighth graders will be challenged to design solution based reasoning and model solutions to real world problems in the areas of environmental systems, climate change and sustainability, properties of waves, and natural hazards. Students will show their scientific understanding through investigation and dynamic scientific modeling. Emphasis will be placed on addressing real world phenomena, collaborative teams with students sharing their ideas, and defending their scientific arguments with evidence.

### **US History 8 - Year-Long**

The purpose of this course is to develop the student's understanding of the heritage that shaped the United States as a democratic nation. United States history is surveyed from the founding of the United States to 1877 by looking at the political, economic, and social changes of our nation. The American Revolution, the formation of our national government, beginnings of the country, westward movement, the Industrial Revolution, and the Civil War and Reconstruction will be studied in detail. The course will periodically include the study of current events and U.S. foreign affairs. The study of American history will prepare students to become responsible citizens.

## **EXPLORATORY CLASSES** 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE EXPLORATORY PROGRAM\*

Every eighth-grade student will have 2 exploratory hours/classes in their schedule. \*Students may choose Wind Ensemble or Choir 8 as a full year exploratory course OR if they are not interested in the music option, they will be scheduled into trimester exploratory courses listed below. All students must select at least one year-long exploratory class. Students may only take Band OR Choir, not both.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE TRIMESTER EXPLORATORY COURSES

### **Art 8 - Trimester-Long**

This comprehensive, trimester-long, 2 and 3-dimensional art program will develop students' skills in production, evaluation, judgment and art appreciation. We will look at examples in history to help us learn about creating art realistically, with expressive distortion and in abstraction. The materials we use may include: pencils, inks, pastels, various papers, clay, paper Mache, plaster, fibers, found objects, recycled materials and various glazes, stains and paints. In order to help cover some of the costs of the art materials, a lab fee/donation is requested. Students will own their work. We will apply the Elements and Principles of Design using a wide variety of techniques. Students' self-evaluation, quizzes, some homework, group critiques, displays and a final exam are included in the experience. 7<sup>th</sup> grade Art is NOT a prerequisite; however this is a more "advanced" class. Expect to fully participate in daily WORK; some homework is also required.

### **AMS Publications – pending Board of Education approval - Trimester-Long**

This trimester course will cover the basics of yearbook including copywriting, photography, and page design. Other topics to be covered include theme development, content and coverage. In this course, students supervise picture taking, design the lay-out of each page, and write copy. Members of this class work to publish the Avondale Middle School Yearbook and additional publications. Members of this class are responsible for providing the student body with an accurate representation of the year's events. In order to take this course, students must have above-average writing skills and be able to work in collaborative groups. Interested candidates must have earned a B- or above in their 7<sup>th</sup> grade English class.

### **Leadership - Trimester-Long**

This course is for students who desire to make a positive impact at AMS and beyond. Students will learn how to be a leader by leading collaborative projects and learning the foundational skills of leadership. This class is a project-based class where students collaborate on initiatives to implement Mustang MANIA and create a positive impact on the school or community. Students will learn individual and team-based leadership skills. Examples of steps in the collaborate process include writing a proposal, advertising, budgeting, research, and creating a timeline. Students MUST have the ability to work independently, and have a will to be of service to others. A maximum number of seats are available. If requests exceed the available seats a selection process will be used for placement into this class.

### **Multi-Media - Trimester-Long**

This class will explore the world of film and video editing. Students will learn about filming techniques and the most effective way to tell a story in film. They will also receive comprehensive training in Adobe Premier video editing software and Soundbooth sound editing software. They will then use what they have learned to create how-to videos and a video commercial. These videos can be submitted for viewing on our weekly Mustang announcements. Students will also be able to learn about multiple ways to communicate and develop messages. There are a variety of written expression assignments required. Students must be focused and responsible as they contribute to individual and team-based projects.

### **Mustang Connections - Trimester-Long**

Mustang Connections coordinates our bi-weekly live announcements here at the middle school. Student directed video projects include service announcements, sports updates, appreciation days and character education videos. Students may also create displays and backdrops and archive photos and videos. Students must have a strong background in computers with an interest in writing, art, and video editing. Students must be able to work independently, stay organized, manage their own time, and meet deadlines. This class has limited enrollment and usually requires students to spend additional time outside of school at extra-curricular and sporting events. A limited number of seats are available. If requests exceed the available seats a selection process is used for placement into this class.

### **Physical Education 8 - Trimester-Long**

Boys and girls participating in eighth-grade physical education will be challenged with a variety of fitness conditioning activities that will increase their muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. Students will develop skills to be used to play a variety of team sports along with a basic understanding of team sport rules. Indoor and outdoor activities include; basketball, volleyball, soccer, speedball, floor hockey, softball and group games. Students will participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership are emphasized.

### **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE FULL YEAR EXPLORATORY COURSES \***

**\*Year-long classes may not be dropped – this is a year-long commitment.**

**All students must select at least one year-long exploratory class.**

**Students may only take Band OR Choir, not both.**

### **Advanced Art - Year-Long**

Prerequisites: You must commit to the time and WORK of design and Art, demonstrated success in 6th and/or 7<sup>th</sup> grade Art, or **receive recommendation** from instructor based on interview and review of artwork. Rigorous Visual Arts Curriculum including experiences in 2D and 3D Media, new skills, development of existing skills and responsibility for all aspects of planning and presenting a school-wide Art Show in the spring. Concentration of application of Design Elements and Principles and solve for various Design and Visual problems as related to real life art, design and career experiences. Independent development of personal theme for body of work in addition to required assignments will also require some design and work time outside of class. Space is limited and available first to grade 8.

### **Choir 8 - Year-Long**

Placement in choir is by audition only. Participation in all performances is mandatory. This course is designed for students who have advanced musical skills in singing and music theory. Students must have experience in reading music and performing. Students will learn specific skills in the art of singing, proper posture, breath support and vowel placement. Choir members will be required to perform at the winter concert, spring concert, district, and state, pre-festival and festival performances. Concert Choir will travel at least once a year. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in Solo & Ensemble.

### **Concert Band 8 - Year-Long**

Concert Band 8 is a performing ensemble designed for eighth graders that will focus on advanced-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the Avondale High School Concert and Marching Bands. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of 7th Grade (Varsity) Band. Additional placements are determined by audition. This class will include at least four performances, including MSBOA District XVI Solo & Ensemble Festival. Participation at all performances is required.

### **World Language (French I, Spanish I, German I) - Year-Long**

World Language 8th grade courses are full year. This is a high school level course that will earn graduation credit and be part of the student's high school GPA. Students will work toward proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. The goal is to prepare students to interact independently in French, Spanish or German speaking countries. Students will also be introduced to the daily living and institutional cultures of their respective countries. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. A limited number of students may take German I at Avondale High School. The number of seats available will be based on high school enrollment in this class.

*You may contact the Avondale Middle School Counseling Department if you have any questions:*

- Jill Amico, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor, 248-537-6313 or [jill.amico@avondaleschools.org](mailto:jill.amico@avondaleschools.org)