**8TH GRADE**

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2016-2017**

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| **BUSINESS** |

**KEYBOARDING** **.5 Credit**

**\*Fee $10.00.** In this beginning semester keyboarding course, the student will master touch operation on a computer keyboard. Correct fingering by touch and good techniques will receive primary emphasis; speed and accuracy will be given secondary emphasis. The fourth row numbers and symbols and 10-key pad will also be taught. The student will use basic word processing functions on a variety of document types. **Keyboarding is generally a 7th grade course and cannot be repeated unless failed or you have never taken the course.**

**EXPLORING BUSINESS & MARKETING** **.5 Credit**

**\*Fee $10.00. Prerequisite: C or better in Keyboarding and must be able to type 30 words per minute**.Students will be exposed to the fundamental concepts of business and marketing. Skills include basic business concepts, organizational communication, human resources management, entrepreneurship, accounting, finance, and leadership. Exposure to business software will be an integral part of this class, including Internet browsers, search engines,Google forms, word processing, presentations, spreadsheets, and graphic design. Students will create business plans and compete in a Shark Tank competition. Students will learn personal finance concepts as well as compete in the Stock Market Game. Students experience real world concepts with hands on activities. This class helps prepare students for the required Financial Literacy class taken at high school as well as future business and marketing classes and careers.

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| **DRAMA** |

**DRAMA 1** **.5 Credit**

This is an introductory class to the Theatre Arts.  Student will explore the beginning elements of theater and performance.  Skills taught are basic acting technique, improvisation, movement and vocal techniques as well as collaboration and rehearsal technique.

**DRAMA 2 .5 Credit**

**Prerequisites: Drama 1 or Musical Theater.** This class is an advanced study of theater history, advanced performance skills, Shakespearean acting, children’s theater, resume and audition preparation, and performance in school productions.

**MUSICAL THEATER** **.5 Credit**

Become a Triple Threat! This course is designed to introduce students to the foundations of musical theatre. Students work individually, as well as in groups to develop acting, movement, staging, dance, vocal performance and auditioning techniques.

**MUSICAL THEATER PERFORMANCE**  **.5 Credit** **Prerequisites: Audition and application required.**This is a semester long class that focuses on developing performance skills in Musical Theatre in a hands-on, fun and creative way…..by producing and performing in the school musical.  Skills taught will include acting, movement, dance, staging, vocal performance, auditioning, rehearsal and performance technique.  Students are required to attend some after school rehearsals as well as perform in the school musical.

**STAGE CREW**  **.5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Application** **required/No F’s, N’s or U’s in previous semester.** Students will study theater lighting, sound, scenery, properties, stage-management, and technical design. Students will work in class on some technical aspects of school productions but will not be required to participate after school.

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| **ENGLISH** |

**ENGLISH 8** **1 Credit**

**\*Fee $10.00.** This course continues developing language skills including reading, writing, and oral work. The students will be taught the basic structures of our language, intertwining elements of grammar, spelling/vocabulary and literature, with the goal of making them better readers and writers.

**ENGLISH 8 (ALL) 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $10. Prerequisite: District testing to qualify.** This is the Gifted and Talented 8th grade English course.

**CREATIVE WRITING .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00.** This class is designed to provide experiences and activities which will enhance the communication of ideas through written expression. Emphasis is on fiction writing: characterizations, pacing, and show-don’t-tell. Students will demonstrate these through the writing of poetry, short stories, and dialogues.

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| **FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE** |

**FACS/CLOTHING 8 & INTERIOR DESIGN** .**5** **Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00.**  This course introduces the students to basic clothing construction techniques, clothing care and maintenance, textiles, and consumer skills. This course covers laundry, color, lines and design, textiles, care and use of the sewing machine and serger, and clothing construction. It also covers the basics of interior design. Students make reversible aprons, pajama pants, and a seasonal craft project. Students will learn how the embroidery machine works and monogram their apron if desired. FCCLA is integrated into this course.

**FACS/FOODS 8 & CAREER PREPARATION B .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00.** This course provides students the opportunity to develop essential skills in the various career pathways related to Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS). Students will explore and cultivate skills in food and nutrition sciences, childcare, consumerism, entrepreneurship, family relationships, personal responsibility, and career and job-related tasks. This course will strengthen comprehension of concepts and standards outlined in Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. Student leadership (FCCLA) is an integral part of the course.

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| **FINE ART** |

**DRAWING 1/ART 2D .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $6.00. Prerequisite: C or better in Art Foundation 1, or teacher approval.** This course is designed to provide an enhanced experience with the artistic issues of Foundation 1 through 2-Dimensional art media. There is a continuing emphasis on studio production as the application of the elements and principles of art are used to assist the student in expressing him/herself through the creation of artwork. This course might include drawing, painting, and/or printmaking. These will be determined by availability and the ability of the school to equip those activities**.**

**SCULPTURE 1/ART 3D .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $6.00. Prerequisite: C or better in Art Foundation 1, or teacher approval.** This course is designed to provide an enhanced experience with the artistic issues of Foundation 1 through 3-Dimensional art media. This course might include: traditional ceramics clay and glazes, traditional sculptural materials, and art work. Opportunities to explore the various types of 3-D art media are determined by availability.

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| **FOREIGN LANGUAGE** |

**FRENCH 1 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00.** Students will acquire accurate pronunciation and habits of correct usage of the fundamental patterns of French. They will learn to read and write what they can say. Cultural lessons introduce French lifestyle, history, cooking, and art. Students practice the skills by means of dialogues, structure drills, reading selections, and exercises.

**FRENCH 2 1 Credit \*Fee $5.00. Prerequisite: French 1 or a teacher recommendation.**

Emphasis is placed upon expansion of vocabulary while stressing reinforcement and amplification of accurate and fluent use of the structural elements of French. Narratives and dialogues are used to learn structure and vocabulary. Students gain an insight into the French culture and appreciation of French attitudes and interests.

**GERMAN 1 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00.** This class will concentrate on basic greetings and courtesy requirements. Beginning grammar and a strong vocabulary will be stressed. The history and geography of the German speaking countries will also be discussed with an emphasis on German speaking culture.

**GERMAN 2 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00. Prerequisite: German 1 or teacher recommendation.**

This class continues the development of speaking, writing, listening, and reading skills in German and the study of the German culture. Emphasis is on expansion of vocabulary and knowledge of basic grammatical structures. Materials are based upon the everyday activities and way of life of German-speaking people.

**SPANISH 1** **1 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00.** This beginning Spanish class stresses the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.  Emphasis will be on listening comprehension and on speaking with goodpronunciation. Students practice these skills by listening to a lot of Spanish spoken by native speakers, singing Spanish songs, practicing simple conversation skills and memorizing basic phrases and sentences used in daily communication.

**SPANISH 2 1 Credit \*Fee $5.00.  Prerequisite: Pass Spanish 1 with no D or F grades, or teacher recommendation.** This continuation of beginning Spanish focuses on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in Spanish. There will be a review of all the speaking skills from Spanish 1.  Emphasis is on expansion of listening comprehension and speaking skills. Students will still memorize phrases and sentences, but should also start creating some simple sentences on their own. As in Spanish 1, students will listen to a lot of Spanish spoken by native speakers, and will sing Spanish songs.

**HEALTH**

**HEALTH .5 Credit**

This one-semester course is designed to provide an opportunity for 8th grade students to learn important information about how they can develop good health habits. They will be given instructions and directions about developing skills to help them cope with problems and make wise decisions, leading to a quality lifestyle.

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| **MATH** |

**INTERMEDIATE MATH 2 1 Credit**

Students will focus on three critical areas: (1) Formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with linear equation, solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) Grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) Analyzing two and three dimensional space, figures using distance, angle, similarity, congruence and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

**INTERMEDIATE MATH 2-SKILLS 1 Credit**

**Teacher Recommendation Only. It will be used to further the understanding of concepts within the corresponding math class.**

**INT. MATH 2/ SEC. MATH 1 AC 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Placement Testing Required.**

**Includes Intermediate Math 2 and Secondary Math 1 curriculum.** Students will focus on 6 critical areas: (1) Numbers and quantity; (2) Algebra; (3) Functions; (4) Modeling; (5) Geometry; (6) Statistics and Probability. As part of the honors track, the Pre-Calculus information will be included to allow the student to take AP Calculus as a senior in high school.

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| **MUSIC** |

**CHORUS – WOMEN 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00 Prerequisite: Teacher Approval.** **Uniform optional at an additional fee.**. Students receive experience in ensemble rehearsal and performance of varied music on an intermediate level for Soprano, 2nd Soprano and Alto voices. They further develop skills in areas including vocal tone, performance, rehearsal habits, music-reading, composition and improvisation, as well as analyzing and evaluating musical examples in their own and other’s performances. The course also helps prepare students for advanced choirs. Curriculum includes 6-8 performances per year.

**CHORUS – MEN 1 Credit**

\***Fee $5.00 Prerequisite: Teacher Approval**. **No uniform required.** Students receive experience in ensemble rehearsal and performance of varied music on an intermediate level for all ranges of male voices. Students continue to develop skills in areas including vocal tone, performance, rehearsal habits, music-reading, composition, and improvisation, as well as further analyzing and evaluation musical examples in their own and other’s performances. The course also helps to prepare students for advanced choirs. Curriculum includes 6-8 performances per year.

**CHORUS CONCERT - WOMEN 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $35.00. Additional uniform fee is required if not already purchased. Prerequisite: Teacher Approval**. Students receive experience in ensemble rehearsal and performance of varied music on an advanced level for Soprano, 2nd Soprano and Alto voices. Students utilize refined and advanced techniques and skills in a broader scope of performance experiences, characteristic of a top performing group. Curriculum includes 10-12 performances per year.

***The school owns a limited number of Tubas, Trombones, French Horns, Bass Clarinets, Baritone Sax, Baritone Flutes, Clarinets and Trumpets that may be rented for $70.00 per year. Parents should contact Mr. Mott about renting an instrument from the school.***

**BAND BEG/BRASS** **1 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00 Prerequisite: Instrument required.** Students will learn to play in an ensemble. On Brass instrument rhythm will be stressed along with good tone quality and correct intonation. Students will be directed toward building music performance skills in preparation for the Concert Band. Curriculum includes 3-4 performances per year.

**BAND BEG/WOODWINDS** **1 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00 Prerequisite: Instrument required.** Students will learn to play in an ensemble. On Woodwind instrument rhythm will be stressed along with good tone quality and correct intonation. Students will be directed toward building music performance skills in preparation for the Concert Band. Curriculum includes 3-4 performances per yr.

**CONCERT BAND** **1 Credit**

**\*Fee $10.00. Prerequisite: One year of Beginning Band.** A greater degree of musical awareness will facilitate the playing of more demanding music. Much more will be expected of students to independently play their parts. Students will be directed toward building music performance skills in preparation for the Symphonic Band. Curriculum includes 4-6 performances per year.

**SYMPHONIC BAND** **1 Credit**

**\*Fee $35.00. Prerequisite: Audition and pass a playing proficiency test**. This is an advanced instrumental ensemble directed toward performing the finest in contemporary, traditional, and classic band literature. Curriculum includes 6 to 8 performances per year**.**

**JAZZ BAND** **1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Audition and pass a playing proficiency test. Concurrent enrollment in either Concert or Symphonic band is required.** This is an advanced instrumental ensemble directed toward learning and performing big band, jazz, swing, rock, and Latin styles of music. *.* **This is an early morning class** **with 6-8 performances a year.**

**PERCUSSION/BEGINNING 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $70.00. Prerequisite: Two years experience in piano or other instrument.** This class teaches the fundamentals of playing percussion instruments including basic rudiments, reading rhythms, note reading, and ensemble performing. Percussion students will participate in the Beginning Band for performances. Curriculum includes 3-4 performances per year.

**PERCUSSION/ADVANCED** **1 Credit**

**\*Fee $70.00. Prerequisite: Percussion/Beginning or teacher approval.** This class teaches the fundamentals of playing percussion instruments including basic rudiments, reading rhythms, note reading and ensemble performance. Percussion students will participate in the Steel Drum Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble and Concert Band for performances. Curriculum includes 6-8 performances per year.

**STEEL DRUMS .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $10.00. Prerequisite: Prerequisite: 2 years or more of music instruction and currently enrolled in either Choir, Band or Orchestra.  Auditions are required.** This course is an introduction to performing Caribbean music with a focus on learning musical styles: Socca, Calypso, Reggae, Salsa and Rock.  Historical perspectives about the cultural foundations of these styles will also be discussed.  There will be approximately 4-6 performances during the semester.

***The school owns a limited number of Violas, Cellos, and Basses that can be rented for $70.00-$105 per year. Parents should contact Mr. Beck about renting an instrument from the school. Violins need to be rented or purchased from a reputable dealer.***

**ORCHESTRA/BEGINNING 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $10.00**  **Prerequisite: Instrument required.** This course provides meaningful experiences in music by teaching students to play orchestral string instruments. Emphasis will be placed on playing position, basic tone production, rhythmic precision, interpretation of music symbols, bowing techniques, and care of the instrument. The course is geared to students without previous experience. They will perform in concert with the Intermediate and Advanced Orchestras. Daily practice of at least 25 min. is considered necessary for success. A session of Summer Strings is strongly encouraged.

**ORCHESTRA/INTERMEDIATE 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $12.00 Prerequisite: One year experience and teacher approval.** This performance course provides continued instruction for students who have mastered beginning skills. They perform as an ensemble in evening concerts. Private lessons are encouraged on this level and daily practice of at least ½ hour is necessary for success. A summer Chamber Orchestra is offered for intermediate and advanced level students during the Summer Strings program.

**ORCHESTRA/ADVANCED 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $16.00 Prerequisite: Two years experience and teacher recommendation or audition.** Students will perform classical and contemporary music. Students must be competent in their ability to read music, to tune, and to perform on their instrument. Familiarity with third and fifth position is necessary for violins and violas, and fourth position is necessary for cellists. This ensemble provides an accelerated musical experience for the disciplined student. The Advanced Orchestra performs in quarterly evening concerts, school assemblies, and tours. Private lessons are highly recommended and daily practice of ½ hour is necessary for this level. A summer Chamber Orchestra is offered during the Summer Strings program.

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| **PHYSICAL EDUCATION** |

**PE/FITNESS .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $3.00.** This course is a sequence of experiences in activities which challenge all ability levels. It focuses on social interaction and cognitive learning as well as skill development. **This is a required class.**

**PE/CROSS TRAINING .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $3.00**. This course will include strength training and flexibility techniques, aerobic conditioning and anaerobic conditioning. This class also introduces students to lifetime fitness activities including yoga, stability ball, “Pilates,” “Hip Hop Abs,” “Tae Bo,” Etc.

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| **SOCIAL STUDIES** |

**UNITED STATES HISTORY** **1 Credit**

This United States History course is designed to emphasize historic events from the age of exploration to reconstruction and the western movements. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, the age of exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, national period, Constitution and Citizenship, Civil War, reconstruction, and the western movement. The emphasis of this is on the 18th and 19th centuries. There will be a continued effort to review and develop content, process, and thinking skills introduced in previous grades.

**UNITED STATES HISTORY (ALL) 1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: District testing to qualify.** Ccontent will be the same as regular US History with the addition of deeper level content, thinks skills and activities.

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| **SCIENCE** |

**INTEGRATED SCIENCE** **1 Credit**

**\*Fee $10.00.** Eighth grade Integrated Science focuses on the theme of "change." Topics from physical, earth, and life science are integrated to illustrate the concept of change in nature. Students will study chemical and physical changes; changes in force, motion, and energy; and changes in the earth's crust and climate. Hands-on, inquiry-based instruction is used to help students value science as a process for obtaining knowledge based on observable evidence

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| **TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION** |

**INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL DESIGN .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $6.00.** This course is designed as course for middle school/junior high students to explore what it means to be living in a digital world. They will learn how to create and use a variety of tools and skills that can be used to create digital projects. They will learn out to create digital art, both through Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. They will learn how to incorporate that art into a web page. Students will have the opportunity to create an app that will run on an Android device and an App that will run on iOS device. Students will also explore how to create 3D designs and models that then can be used in other digital applications or printed on a 3D printer.

**INTRO TO TECH ED-GIRLS ONLY .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $6.00.** This course is an Exploring Technology course that has projects designed more for interests of female students. The course will cover agriculture technologies, information technologies, manufacturing technologies, and Engineering activities. This course will incorporate STEM principles and projects, including hydroponics, GPS technologies, digital image creation, and architectural modelling.

**EXPLORING TECHNOLOGY & WOODS** **.5 Credit**

**\*Fee $6.00.** In this intermediate level Engineering and Technology Class, students will be introduced to the technological system of aerospace, communications, construction, energy, power, transportation, manufacturing and biotechnology. The course emphasis is on exploration activities using computers, technology equipment, and manufacturing tools. Your student will learn about measurement systems, career exploration, problem solving and engineering skills by building a straw tower, a paper container and a water rocket. Wood working projects include: A golf ball device, super clip, pen set, a wooden BIC pen, plastic key chain, using an injection molding machine, a wooden candy machine, a wooden pinball game and a rubber band powered car.

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| **OTHER ELECTIVES** |

**BALLROOM DANCE 1 .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $3.00** This coed dance class teaches various forms of American style social dancing. All of the social dances taught are designed to  
give students dance experience that they can share and enjoy  
on any social dance occasion. Emphasis is placed in the foxtrot,  
cha-cha, waltz, and triple swing.

**BALLROOM DANCE 2 .5 Credit**

**\*Fee $3.00 Prerequisite: Ballroom 1.** This coed dance class teaches various forms of American style social dancing. All of the social dances taught are designed togive students dance experience that they can share and enjoyon any social dance occasion. Emphasis is placed in the foxtrot,cha-cha, waltz, and triple swing.

**GUIDED STUDY .5/1 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Must be approved by Counselor or Administrator.** This is an intensive course that provides students with skills necessary to increase success in other classes. Subjects covered include efficient use of textbooks, reading strategies, organization strategies, and homework tips. At least half of the class is dedicated to providing students with the necessary skills to function in all of their classes. The other half of the class is dedicated to homework completion.

**PEER TUTOR** **.5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Application required. No “F” grades in the previous semester. Students may enroll in this course for only one semester per year.** Students will be involved in peer tutoring students in special education classes in math, English, reading, life skills, and other academic areas.

**PEER LEADER .5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Application required. 3.3 or higher GPA.** This course provides the opportunity to have students help mentor, guide and tutor fellow students in Guided Studies that need help in English, History, Math and Science. Students will work one on one with mentored students to help them understand concepts, complete homework and help prepare them for tests and quizzes. **Students who complete this course will be provided a service letter from Pleasant Grove Junior High that can be used for college portfolio or applications.**

**READING 8 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $5.00. Admission and requirements will based upon district testing.** This class is designed to help students become better readers in content areas and on the internet.

**TEACHER AIDE** .**5 Credit**

**Prerequisite: Application required. No “F” grades in the previous semester. Students may enroll in this course for only one semester per year.** Students assist teachers in a variety of courses. This course gives elective credit and does not qualify for graded credit. Students will receive a “P” (pass) or “F” (fail) grade, and this grade will not be reflected in the student’s GPA.

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| **RESOURCE CLASSES** |

**INTERMEDIATE MATH 2 1 Credit**

Admission and requirements for this class will be based upon **IEP**.

**INTERMEDIATE MATH 2-SKILLS 1 Credit**

Admission and requirements for this class will be based upon **IEP.**

**ENGLISH SKILLS 8 1 Credit**

**\*Fee $10.00.** Admission and requirements for this class will be based upon **IEP**.

**\*Parents/Students:** Please be aware that the master schedule is created after the collection of student requests made during registration. Inevitably, there will be conflicts of classes that are only taught once. We carefully analyze the conflicts and build the master schedule to impact the fewest number of students. Based on past experience, these types of conflicts most often impact students who have multiple singleton classes such as ALL, Honors, Yearbook and Music classes. We will make students aware of these conflicts as soon as possible.