

**MARK TWAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**CURRICULUM GUIDE**

**2015 - 2016**



## **MARK TWAIN VISION STATEMENT**

Mark Twain School strives to meet the needs of seventh and eighth grade students in this transitional phase of their development. Within a safe and supportive environment, the staff provides investigative, creative, and successful goal-based learning experiences for students. We are committed to meeting the physical, emotional, and academic needs of all students.

Our goal is to help students grow to become positive, knowledgeable, productive citizens with a sense of responsibility to themselves and to their society.

# MARK TWAIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Course Requirements

Subject	Grade 7	Grade 8	Total
Language Arts/Literature	2	1	3
Integrated Science	.5	1	1.5
World History	1		1
U. S. History		1	1
Math	1	1	2
PE/Health	1	1	2
Elective/Intervention/Extension	1.5	2	4
Totals	7	7	14

**NOTE:** One unit equals a year-long course which meets one period every school day.

# **COURSE LISTING - REQUIRED COURSES**

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE 1**

Students will take an integrated course for two periods in their schedule that combines both language arts and literature. The two period class will concentrate on the foundation skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking and researching. The students will have opportunities to apply these skills in relating literature to personal and social issues.

## **ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE 1**

Advanced Seventh Grade Block is for those students who are performing above the seventh grade level in the area of English. One of the major criteria for this class is earning a 239 or better on the 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading standardized test. Another determining factor is scores of 4's, 5's, and 6's on writing samples (*6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will be consulted on determining whether Advanced Block is a logical placement*). Students in this class advance through materials at a faster pace than their peers in the regular seventh grade block. By being self-directed learners, completing assignments, and showing a strong work ethic, students will find this class challenging and rewarding.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE 2**

One period of Language Arts and Literature class will concentrate on the foundation skills of reading, writing, speaking, listening, thinking and researching. The students will have opportunities to apply these skills in relating literature to personal and social issues. Units studied will cover short stories, novels, drama, and poetry.

## **ADVANCED LANGUAGE ARTS/LITERATURE 2**

Advanced Language Arts/Literature is designed to equal that of a freshman class with expectations and timelines. As with the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Block, students in this program work above their grade level. The first criterion for the class is their 7<sup>th</sup> grade standardized reading assessment which must exceed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level. English for 8<sup>th</sup> graders is a one-period class, therefore students will be expected to complete tasks in and outside of the classroom. Time management, self-directed learner, emotionally able to handle mature stories and novels, and a desire to be challenged are prerequisites to this class. Entry into this class is by teacher placement.

## **MATH 1**

This general math class reinforces basic skills and introduces student to new concepts. Problem-solving and application of math concepts to real-world experiences is stressed. Probability, measurement, percent, ratio and proportion, geometry and pre-algebra are covered in this class. Students who take this class their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year will take Math 2 in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year.

## **ADVANCED MATH 1**

This advanced class is for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who exceed state standards. Placement into pre-algebra is determined by the student's 6<sup>th</sup> grade state math score and teacher recommendations. Successful completion of this course will prepare them to take Algebra in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year. The curriculum will cover measurements, geometry statistics and probability with an added emphasis on Algebra. This course assumes that participating students already possess strong computational skills. Students should expect at least a half-hour of homework on a daily basis.

## **MATH 2**

Students will take this class after successful completion of Math 1 during their 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. The curriculum will continue with a focus on measurement, geometry and statistics with added emphasis on Algebra. After successfully completing this course in their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, students will advance to Algebra 1 in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.

## **ADVANCED MATH 2**

*\*\*Following this path may require students to pass Pre-calculus to gain the 3 math credits required to graduate from high school\*\**

In this course, students will be learning fundamental principles of Algebra 1 along with geometry, statistics, and probability. The pace of the course is rapid and students are expected to have good computational skills. Daily homework is expected. After successfully completing this course during their 8<sup>th</sup> grade year, students may advance to Geometry in their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year.

## **INTEGRATED SCIENCE (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Students will understand structures and properties of matter, and changes that occur in the physical world. Students will also understand structures, functions, and interactions of living organisms and the environment.

## **INTEGRATED SCIENCE (Semester - 7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Students will understand the physical properties of the earth, how those properties change, and the Earth's relationship to other celestial bodies.

## **WORLD HISTORY (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

Students in this class will study World History from ancient civilizations through the middle Ages Colonization as described in the State Common Curriculum Goals. The class will discuss the political, economic, and social characteristics and the impact of early civilizations and eras on world development. Students will learn about ancient civilizations in Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, and China. Students will also study Greece, Rome, Vikings, and the middle Ages.

## UNITED STATES HISTORY(8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

In U. S. History four themes are investigated: 1) Exploration, Migration and Settlement by different cultures, 2) Our Government and the rights and Responsibilities of Citizens, 3) Westward Movement, Antebellum America and the Civil War, and 4) Reconstruction and Immigration and Industrial Revolution in America.

## FITNESS EDUCATION/HEALTH

Physical Education and Health is an integrated wellness curriculum which focuses on specific skills. Goal areas include physical skill development, fitness education, nutrition, drug education, stress management, growth and development, safety and infectious diseases.

## Electives Options

### Art

Students will focus on the basic skills in art: drawing, painting, and both two and three dimensional design. Everyone has the ability to create art, instruction will build slowly - moving from basic technique and media to more complex concepts such as creative expression and art criticism. Students who have already taken one semester of art at Mark Twain need to sign up for advanced art. \$10.00 art supply fee

### Advanced Art

An emphasis will be placed on the development of the artist as individuals. Advanced art techniques and mediums will be explored through both class and independent projects. Participation in art shows, contests and exhibition opportunities will be strongly encouraged. \$10.00 art supply fee

### Computer Skills

Students will be instructed in basic computing skills to include Word Processing, Excel, Power Point, and keyboarding.

### Intro to Theater

The Introduction to Theater class provides students with the opportunity to experience acting and develop theater appreciation.

### Drama

The Drama class provides opportunities for development of acting skills. This includes self confidence, voice projections, characterization and stage presence. Class enrollment is limited to 8<sup>th</sup> graders during first semester and is open to all students during second semester. One drama production will be presented each semester.

## **H.O.S.T.S\* (Help One Student to Succeed)**

The H.O.S.T.S program allows Mark Twain students the opportunity to directly assist teachers and students at Eugene Field School in a variety of ways. Mark Twain students are assigned to Eugene Field teachers and carry out a variety of assistant and instructional tasks each day.

\*Prerequisite: Robert Frost or Mark Twain teacher recommendation.

## **Teacher/Office/Media Aide\***

This elective is for those students who primarily perform tasks that assist the teacher, office or library. Examples would be grading papers, organizing files, changing bulletin boards, creating stencils, coloring, cutting, stapling papers, etc. Contact with other students, curriculum, or confidential issues is minimal.

\*It is advised that students have their registration form signed by the teacher they wish to work with. In the case of an incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grader, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers will recommend students based on current work ethic. The child will then be placed with teachers who desire assistance in this area.

## **Band**

Band is the instrumental performance class for students who have played their instrument for at least one year. We teach music fundamentals, performance skills, and basic instrumental technique while preparing three or four concert performances per year. Both seventh and eighth grade students may participate in this class. Concert Band and Advanced Band will be offered only if numbers warrant.

## **Choir**

Choir is the vocal performance class. Students will experience a wide variety of music and learn the basics of proper vocal technique and musical literacy. Students will participate in four to five concerts throughout the year.

## **R.A.D**

**RAD – Real World/Asking/Driving Questions.**

First semester RAD is Civics, the study of our society and how to be a good citizen. We study real issues facing our society of Silverton, United States and Earth. Each of the units has a project that students develop themselves. Second semester RAD is science. We have a unit on environmental science, marine science and space science. Again, the class is project-based, with students developing their own topics to explore and research.

## **Video production technology class**

Step into the world of cinematography, video editing, green screen technology and other basic video taking skills. This class is designed to get students in front of the camera and create movies to share with friends and family. Students will also participate in the weekly video school campus update Viking News.

## **Spanish(year long, open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders only)**

Do you want to travel the world? Do you want to grow your intelligence? Do you want to meet new people? Learning another language can be fun and open up many opportunities for you. To be in Mark Twain's year-long immersion elective Spanish, you must be an 8<sup>th</sup> grader willing to sing, speak, read, dance, act, and do other activities completely in Spanish. Most days only Spanish is spoken in class.

Si habla espanol y quiere ayudar al maestro Jamsa en la clase de espanol en el ano que viene, por favor habla con Maestro Jamsa en cuarto 16. Puedo usar su ayuda!

## **Independent Fitness**

The Primary goal of this course is to introduce students to a variety of individual fitness activities and fitness testing that promotes life-long health practices in a safe setting. All activities are designed to foster positive health habits and include workouts that can be accomplished on differing individual levels.

## **Math Peer Tutor**

Peer tutoring is an instructional strategy that consists of pairing students together to learn or practice an academic task. The pairs of students can be of the same or differing ability and/or age range. Only students that have shown and interest in being a peer tutor will be considered for this class.

## **Leadership**

Leadership- Students will work with our leadership advisor on projects such as dances, assemblies, and community service opportunities to improve school climate and increasing school spirit.

## **Introduction to Speech and Debate (Open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders only)**

This introductory course exposes students to a variety and range of public speaking skills so that they are ready to give a presentation on a novel that they just read or defend their position on a variety of issues. Students will be expected to participate in class activities as well as prepare and present tasks . Some of the class activities include the following: mock trials, debates, impromptu "in front of the class" games, research, interviews, reading aloud, etc. All of these activities have techniques to assist in speech anxiety, improve physical and vocal delivery skills, and the art of structuring and organizing information so that future presentations are stress free!

## **CTE(Open to 8<sup>th</sup> graders only)**

Students travel to the high school for this introduction to the Career and Technical Education building. Areas of instruction could include welding, plant and animal science, basic electricity, and wood working.



## **SPECIAL PROGRAMS**

### **Language Arts/ Social Studies**

Language Arts/ Social Studies, also known as LASS, focuses on developing the reading and writing skills students need for high school. This class is designed to help students who have not experienced success in language arts classes because they are behind in their skills. It is an accelerated approach to compact two years of practice into one. Students are invited to join this class based on their test scores, performance, attendance and ability. Students spend every day reading both literature and history. The class size is small so that students can get one-on-one assistance.

### **Read 180**

READ 180 is a comprehensive system of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development proven to raise reading achievement for students that need added support. READ 180 leverages adaptive technology to individualize instruction for students and provide powerful data for differentiation to teachers.

### **Writing/Math Lab**

Students will be provided with additional support in the areas of math and/or writing outside of their regular classes. Emphasis will be put on individual skill building and reinforcement of skills as aligned with the Common Core Standards.

### **Learning Resource Center**

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) is available to students who are on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and typically receive specially designed instruction in the area of reading, written language, and /or math. Specially designed instruction could be a combination of Resource Services and/or regular classroom services. Some students may be provided consultative services to the regular classroom teacher. Students may also receive Speech Group, and or Social skills/Behavior Group Services. The students can receive assistance through modifications/accommodations in the classroom, individual assistance, LRC language arts class, and study hall assistance. Placement and services are determined by students IEP.

## **Structured Learning Program**

The Structured Learning Program (SLP) serves district wide special education students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Students who are served in the SLP program often have special education eligibilities in the areas of Emotional Disturbance, Other Health Impairment, Autism, and/or Traumatic Brain Injury. All SLP students are academically and/or socially delayed due to behavioral issues. The SLP curriculum focuses on academic skill development as well as social skill development. There is a strong emphasis in empowering students to assume responsibility for their own choices in the learning process. SLP students are mainstreamed into general education classes for social and/or academic activities as their behaviors become more appropriate. Students in the SLP benefit from a more structured classroom environment and individualized attention. Placement in the SLP is determined by a students' special education team and reflected in their Individualized Education Program.

## **Basic Skills Class**

The Basic Skills Class (BSC) for K-8th grade serves special education students district wide at Eugene Field, Robert Frost, and Mark Twain Schools. Students served in the Basic Skills District (BSD) program most often have special education eligibilities in the areas of Mental Retardation, Autism, Other Health Impairment, and/or Traumatic Brain Injury. Students often have more than one area of special education eligibility. All BSC students are academically and socially delayed by two or more grade levels due to cognitive difficulties. The BSD curriculum focuses on functional academics as well as the basic skills associated with the following areas: socialization, communication, personal safety, and hygiene. Instruction is individualized to meet each student's educational needs. The students may be mainstreamed into general education classes for academics and/or social activities. Each student's program and placement is determined by the IEP team. Students in the BSC program benefit from a structured learning environment and increased adult attention. Once the student enters the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, independent living skills are introduced. The BSC program incorporates practical living and social skill support which are necessary to ensure the student's academic success.

## **English Language Development**

ELD (English Language Development) is a class which serves students who qualify for targeted instruction in four language areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing in a supportive environment. Students learn and practice all aspects of English, including correct grammar. The purpose of this class is to build both academic and social language skills.

**ELD (el Desarrollo de Idioma Inglés) es una clase que le sirve estudiantes que califique para instrucción dirigida a sectores específicos en cuatro areas de lenguaje: Al hablar, escuchando, leyendo y escribiendo en un ambiente solidario. Los estudiantes aprenden y practican todos los aspectos de ingles, incluyendo gramática correcta. El propósito de esta clase es construir ambas habilidades académicas y sociales de lenguaje.**