

**SAN LUIS COASTAL UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
LAGUNA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
COURSE OFFERINGS AND COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

## **ART DEPARTMENT**

### **ART/CRAFTS WHEEL**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One quarter

*Description:* An introduction to design, drawing, perspective, painting, color theory, crafts, and graphic art (lettering). For individual course projects beyond the curriculum objective, students may be charged a supply/materials fee.

### **ART/CRAFTS I & II**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* Art/Crafts I is a basic art class which introduces the students to the utilization of art skills for the development of visual ideas. They will participate in a limited number of appropriate studio practices using the elements and principles of design in the following areas of study: drawing, painting, graphics, crafts, and art history.

Art/Crafts II is an extension and further development of art skills and techniques which allow the students to explore visual ideas. Students will participate in more advanced studio practices in each of the following areas of study: ceramics, drawing, painting, graphics, fiber crafts, and sculpture. Appreciation of both creative and cultural expression and craftsmanship in art will be stressed.

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

### **ENGLISH 7**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* English 7 provides a literature-based program which promotes self-confidence in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Skill-building through the writing process, a focus on combining paragraphs into essays, and comprehension of literature are emphasized.

### **ENGLISH 7ACC**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* Teacher recommendation, writing sample, and/or identified GATE

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* English 7ACC is an accelerated class and provides a literature-based program which promotes self-confidence in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Emphasis is placed on higher-level cognitive skills in reading and writing, speaking, and listening. Skill-building through the writing process, a focus on combining paragraphs into essays, and interpretation of literature are stressed.

## **ENGLISH 8**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* English 7 or 7ACC

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* English 8 provides a literature-based program which continues to promote self-confidence in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Emphasis is placed on responding to literature with focus on values and themes and on writing with attention to the essay.

## **ENGLISH 8ACC**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* English 7 or 7ACC, teacher recommendation, writing sample, and/or identified GATE

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* English 8ACC is an accelerated course providing a literature-based program which continues to promote self-confidence in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Emphasis is placed on the interpretation of literature with focus on values and themes. Critical thinking and collaborative skills are emphasized.

## **ELECTIVES IN ENGLISH** **THESE COURSES WILL NOT TAKE THE PLACE** **OF THE REQUIRED ENGLISH COURSES**

### **THEATRE WHEEL**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One quarter

*Description:* This quarter class is an introduction to theatre. The students will develop sensory and emotional perception by experiencing dramatic elements, actions, and characterizations. Students will also learn how to evaluate performances.

### **READING/LITERACY PLUS**

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Prerequisite:* One or more years below grade level with comprehension difficulties; teacher, counselor, and/or parent recommendation

*Length:* One and/or two semesters, repeatable

*Description:* This is a reading course for students who have not yet become grade-level readers. This program focuses on improving students' phonemic awareness, reading comprehension skills, and spelling. Emphasis is placed on increasing students' reading strategies, application of flexible decoding strategies, reading vocabulary, and metacognitive strategies for reading both narrative and informational text with comprehension and fluency. This class takes the place of an elective class. Students enrolled in Reading/Literacy Plus are concurrently in a grade level an English.

# ENGLISH LEARNERS PROGRAM

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (ELD I, II, III, IV)

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Description:* Qualified students have the opportunity to take classes that meet their individual language needs. English Language Development instruction is based on the English Language Development Standards. Students learn to be proficient listeners, speakers, readers, and writers of the English language.

## ENGLISH LEARNER READING SKILLS (EL Reading Skills)

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Description:* This course is designed to supplement English Language Development classes. It helps students to improve their reading skills by addressing the critical areas of: listening, word recognition, vocabulary, and comprehension. This course also helps students to improve their study skills.

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

## SPANISH WHEEL

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One quarter

*Description:* Spanish Wheel is designed to introduce the student to the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. The curriculum will create a base for the student's working knowledge of the Spanish language. Students will be exposed to the rich and varied culture of the Spanish-speaking world. They will learn vocabulary and grammar by completing a variety of written, oral, physical, and listening activities. Students will gain an appreciation of Hispanic culture through readings, media, demonstrations, and geography. Formative skills in reading and writing will also be introduced. The predominant language of instructional delivery is English.

## PACHECO SPANISH WHEEL

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* Graduation from a dual language immersion elementary school or advanced fluency in Spanish and English

*Length:* One quarter

*Description:* The Pacheco Spanish Wheel is a review course of the Spanish language, and it furthers the student's understanding of Hispanic culture. Emphasis will be given to activities focusing on using essential language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) skills. The goal is to increase the student's fluency and comprehension of the Spanish language. The student will gain a deeper appreciation of Hispanic culture through readings, media, demonstrations, and geography. Formative skills in reading and writing will also be enhanced to reinforce material covered at the primary level while continuing acquisition of vocabulary and grammatical concepts. The predominant language of instructional delivery is Spanish, with clarification provided in English as necessary.

## **SPANISH I**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*College Entrance:* Meets UC/CSU (e) Language Other Than English requirement if subsequent level Spanish course completed in high school.

*Description:* Spanish I is a college preparatory, introductory course to the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. The emphasis will be given to activities focusing on essential language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). The goal is to develop fluency and comprehension of the Spanish language. The student will gain an appreciation of Hispanic cultures through readings, media, speakers, and geography. Formative skills in reading and writing will also be introduced.

# **HOME ECONOMICS CAREERS AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

## **HOME ECONOMICS WHEEL**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One quarter

*Description:* This course introduces students to basic survival skills for daily living. It includes home safety, consumer skills, foods and nutrition, textiles, and caregiver skills. Activity examples: preparing, serving, and evaluating foods; sewing small projects; and practicing child caregiver skills.

## **HOME ECONOMICS I & II**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* Home Economics I provides students with an opportunity to experience the areas of decision-making, self-awareness, foods and nutrition, resource management, clothing and textiles, interior design, and child development. Activity examples: preparing, serving, and evaluating foods; analyzing food and activity habits; making a budget; sewing small projects; completing interior design projects; and planning activities for young children.

Home Economics II builds on Home Economics I and introduces new concepts. Students will explore foods and nutrition, resource management, clothing/textiles, and relationships. Activity examples: preparing, serving, and evaluating foods; determining how to get a job; exploring textiles; sewing a clothing project; and participating in relationship activities.

## **DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS WHEEL**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One quarter

*Description:* This course will introduce students to the proper use of computers to develop computer applications skills, including word processing, spreadsheet, presentation and programming. This course will continue to develop keyboarding skills, introduce database management, and continue to develop the use of the Internet as a research tool.

## **INTRODUCTION TO VIDEO PRODUCTION WHEEL**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One quarter

*Description:* This course introduces students to the content creation for the Art, Media, and Entertainment Career Path. It develops traditional, digital, and audio-visual communication skills in the arts and sciences. Students will learn the art of self-discipline and teamwork while building self-confidence through the production of a finished product. Projects for the community could include public service announcements and the promotion of learning that will be broadcast on television and posted on the school web site. Students will utilize digital devices: computers, camcorders, cameras, and scanners to produce scripts, storyboards, animations, video programs, and special effects.

## **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY WHEEL**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One quarter

*Description:* This introductory course provides students the opportunity to develop skills associated with metal and wood working. Students will be introduced to the operations of tools, equipment, and related materials with an emphasis on projects and safety.

### **SHOP I & II**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This course will introduce students to basic concepts involved in drafting, working with woods and working with acrylic plastics. Safety rules will be explored, including the safe operation of selected hand and power tools, equipment, and materials. The course will emphasize measuring and use of related tools, as well as choosing, drafting the design of, and completion of self-selected projects using woods and plastics. Students will also develop an understanding of and appreciation for the industrial arts area and related career opportunities. For individual course projects beyond curriculum objectives, students may be charged a supply/materials fee.

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

### **MATH 7**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* A grade level course designed to provide students with a strong mathematical foundation to meet 7<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core math standards. Areas of focus include (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two-and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

## **MATH 7 ACC**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* Students must pass the district criteria.

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This is an accelerated course that includes all of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade content standards plus half of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade standards, resulting in a fast-paced curriculum. Student will have increased homework and study expectations. Students need to be willing to invest the extra time outside of school in order to keep up with the increased pace of the course. Students should be independent, self-motivated learners with a strong mathematical ability. Students will explore and solve mathematical problems, think critically, work cooperatively with others, and communicate their ideas clearly as they work through mathematical concepts. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for Math 8 ACC.

## **MATH 8**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* Math 7 or Math 7 ACC

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* A grade level course designed to provide to provide students with a strong mathematical foundation to meet the 8<sup>th</sup> grade common core standards. Areas of focus include (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping that concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (3) analyzing two- and three- dimensional space figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem and Transformational Geometry. Successful completion of this course will prepare students for a 9<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I course.

## **MATH 8 ACC**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* Students must pass the district criteria.

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* An accelerated course that completes the 8<sup>th</sup> grade common core content standards as well as the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Algebra I course, resulting in a fast-paced curriculum. Student will have increased homework and study expectations. Students need to be willing to invest the extra time outside of school in order to keep up with the increased pace of the course. Students should be independent, self-motivated learners with a strong mathematical ability. This course meets UC/CSU criteria for Algebra I. Successful completion will result in placement in Geometry.

## **MATH CONNECT**

*Grade Level:* 6, 7, 8

*Prerequisite:* Placement in this course will be determined by assessment scores.

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* A course designed as an intervention to provide support and remediation of math concepts and skills. This course is taken in place of an elective course. Students enrolled in math support are concurrently enrolled in a grade level math course.

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT

## **CONCERT BAND**

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* The major emphasis of this course is to continue to learn to play a band instrument, to develop skills necessary to play beginning-level music accurately with good tone quality, to read musical notation, and to provide performance opportunities. Participation in designated performances is required to satisfy basic objectives of this course.

## **ADVANCED BAND**

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Prerequisite:* Concert Band or permission of teacher

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* The major emphasis of this course is on developing musicianship through the study of band literature. Students will extend the physical skills necessary to play simple band music accurately and with good tone quality, will improve skills in reading musical notation, will increase understanding of the musical elements, and will study and play music of many styles, cultures, and historical periods. Participation in designated performances is required to satisfy basic objectives of this course.

## **CHOIR 7/8**

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* The major emphasis of this course is to develop musicianship and vocal music technique through the study of quality choral music. Students will develop aesthetic awareness through the study of the elements of music, and singing literature of various styles, cultures, and historical periods. Participation in designated performances and rehearsals is required to satisfy basic objectives of this course.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* All students are required to take year-long physical education classes designed to assist students in building their self-esteem, positive peer relationships, self-awareness, and overall personal fitness. Students are taught the basic techniques of individual and team sports, and recreational games. Learning activities are tied to the Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* All students are required to take year-long physical education classes designed to assist students in building their self-esteem, positive peer relationships, self-awareness, and overall personal fitness. Students are taught the basic techniques of individual and team sports, and recreational games. Learning activities are tied to the Physical Education Model Content Standards for California Public Schools.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### **SCIENCE 7**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This course provides opportunities for students to explore concepts in life, earth, and physical science with a focus on life science. Students will be actively engaged in the investigation of topics such as: scientific method, measurement and tools of science, cell structure and functions, genetics, evolution, earth and life history, structure and function in living systems, and physical principles in living systems. Through these investigations, students will gain a better understanding of the world in which we live.

### **SCIENCE 8**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* Science 7

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This course provides opportunities for students to explore concepts in life, earth and physical science with a focus on physical science. Students will be actively engaged in the investigation of topics such as: motion, forces, structure of matter, earth in the solar system, reactions, chemistry of living systems, periodic table, density and buoyancy, and family living. Through these investigations, students will be able to relate scientific principles to themselves and to the world around them. Students will also study health education and drug/alcohol /tobacco prevention concepts.

## **SOCIAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### **WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY: MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This course will focus on the study of the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas in the years 1200 BC – 1789 AD. A Career Education objective will be included in this course.



## **WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY: MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN TIMES (Spanish)**

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Prerequisite:* Students must be bilingual and biliterate in English and Spanish, and be recommended by their 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This course will focus on the study of the social, cultural, and technological changes that occurred in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas in the years 1200 BC – 1789 AD. A Career Education objective will be included in this course.

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This course will focus on the study of the ideas, issues, and events from the founding of the nation through the Industrial Revolution. Career Education objectives will be included in this course.

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY (Spanish)**

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Prerequisite:* Students must be bilingual and biliterate in English and Spanish.

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This course will focus on the study of the ideas, issues, and events from the founding of the nation through the Industrial Revolution. Career Education objectives will be included in this course.

# **SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

## **(COURSE TITLE) - Intervention, Modified, Alternative**

“Intervention” courses are resource classes in which the students receive the same curriculum as the general education course.

“Modified” courses are courses in which the general education curriculum is significantly modified for students with lower capabilities.

“Alternative” courses are courses which designate that the student is receiving an alternative curriculum. These classes are for students with significant impairments to learning, who cannot access the regular curriculum.

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Description:* Courses provide services in an integrated resource program including general education and special education program options in accordance with the school site plan. Instructional content to address the student’s IEP goals is under the direction of the special education teacher. Instruction may be provided by general education staff, including but not limited to: Migrant Education staff and/or special education staff. Instruction is delivered in an integrated program that may include regular and special education students.

Courses in the following subject areas may be offered: English, reading, mathematics, science, history/social science, life skills, computers skills, study skills, and career/vocational awareness.

## NON-DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIVE COURSES

### **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)**

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Prerequisite:* Teacher recommendation

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* The goal of the elective AVID class is to help each student obtain higher grades in academically challenging courses by learning comprehensive study skills, writing, inquiry, collaboration and reading (WICR) strategies, and by participating in bi-weekly tutorials conducted by college/peer tutors. The course includes: WICR strategies, organizational strategies, study skills, career and college exploration, test-taking skills, and motivational activities.

### **LEADERSHIP**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* Students will gain leadership skills and practical experience through the study of qualities of great leaders, personal relations, *Roberts' Rules of Order*, and public speaking. Students will be required to spend time after school conducting activities they have planned. The class is a service group for the school and community.

### **STUDY SKILLS**

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One semester, repeatable

*Description:* This class focuses on skill building in these areas: following classroom routines, completing assignments, organizing study time and materials, and study skills. Assuming personal responsibility for actions, decisions, and goal setting are major areas of emphasis. In addition, there are three other unique components to the Study Skills class: (1) close monitoring of students' progress; (2) tutoring during class time by volunteers, high school and Cal Poly students; and (3) parent contacts to encourage academic supervision after school hours.

### **STUDENT AIDES**

#### **CAMPUS WORK AIDES**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* Students will have the opportunity to learn good work habits while performing basic custodial tasks on campus.

#### **CLASS AIDES**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This course offers an opportunity to work for a specific teacher in a particular subject area. Students will help prepare materials and do other assigned chores for class activities.

**OFFICE AIDES**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* This course provides an opportunity to learn basic office practices and skills. The students will be answering phones and doing a variety of clerical tasks.

**STUDENT ASSISTANTS****LIBRARY ASSISTANTS**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* Recommendation of counselor and/or teacher

*Length:* One semester

*Description:* Students assist with library operations. Typical duties include shelving books, using computers to check materials in and out, setting up computers for use by classes, processing materials, running errands, answering phones, straightening up, and assisting students in finding materials and using computers.

**OFFICE ASSISTANTS**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* Recommendation of counselor and/or teacher

*Length:* One semester

*Description:* Students assist in the Student Services and Main Offices. Students learn the skills of greeting the public, proper telephone techniques, and assist with clerical tasks.

**TEACHER ASSISTANTS**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* Recommendation of counselor and/or teacher

*Length:* One semester

*Description:* Students assist teachers with lab set-up and clerical tasks, and model skills for other students in demonstrations. Teacher assistants encourage classmates in the learning process.