

**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 art & design, drawing, painting, ceramics, and graphic art.

**ART/CRAFTS I**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One semester

*Description:* Art/Crafts I focuses on using the elements of art and principles of design to develop creative works of art. Students become familiar with art studio practices, and gain experience in a variety of artistic processes including: drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, digital art, and art history.

**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 7 Advanced**

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* Assessment scores

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* English 7 Advanced is a course and providing 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:* 7<sup>th</sup> grade English

*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 8 Advanced**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* Assessment scores

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* English 8 Advanced is a 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.

#### **BEGINNING JOURNALISM/YEARBOOK**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* Beginning Journalism is an introductory course that allows students to use the skills involved in writing, designing, and producing news articles. Students enrolled in this course will plan, sell, and distribute the school yearbook. Students will practice project planning, writing, design, layout, sales, advertising, and business management skills related to the production of the yearbook.

### **ENGLISH LEARNERS PROGRAM**

#### **ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT**

*Grade Level:* 7, 8

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

*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

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

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

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

### **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.

## **FAMILY and CONSUMER SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

### **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES 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.

### **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES I**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One semester

*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.

## INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

### **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. Students will utilize digital devices: computers, camcorders, cameras, and scanners to produce scripts, storyboards, animations, video programs, and special effects.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY WHEEL (Shop)**

*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.

### **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY I (Shop)**

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One semester

*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:* 7 8

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

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

*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:* Laguna's seventh grade science classes will be aligned with the current NGSS curriculum. We will focus on learning the processes and tools that scientists use to better understand the workings of our world. We will focus on chemistry, geology, natural resources, ecosystems and human impacts on the environment.

### SCIENCE 8

*Grade Level:* 8

*Prerequisite:* Science 7

*Length:* Two semesters

*Description:* Laguna's eighth grade science classes will be aligned with the current NGSS curriculum. We will focus on science and engineering practices, sound, light, energy and waves, astronomy, Earth through time, energy, forces and collisions and human impacts on the environment.

### 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE HEALTH CLASS WHEEL

*Grade Level:* 7

*Prerequisite:* None

*Length:* One quarter

*Description:* Laguna's seventh grade health classes will focus on general health and wellness (including personal hygiene), facts about hazardous substances, mental health, building and maintaining healthy relationships, and human trafficking.

## 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.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT -Continued**

*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, 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:* This class is mainly for students that would be the first in their family to graduate from a university. 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 strategies, and by participating in tutorials conducted by peer tutors. The course includes: WICOR (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization and Reading) 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.

### **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.

### **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.