

*Leander
Middle School*



*2015 - 2016
Course Catalogue*

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LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT
2015-2016

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Dear Students and Parents,

This handbook has been prepared to help you make meaningful decisions regarding course selections for the coming school year. The following information is included: promotion requirements, course offerings, prerequisites, and course descriptions. Please use the information provided in this catalogue to guide you in your course selection.

If you have additional questions, please contact your teachers or counselor. Changes in course selections must remain minimal, so that planning for the next school year can be accomplished efficiently.

We welcome you to Leander Independent School District and look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Sincerely,

*Christine Simpson
Principal*

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Academic Program Information

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)

The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) identify what Texas students should know and be able to do at every grade and in every course. The State Board of Education has adopted the TEKS as the minimum curriculum for all Texas schools.

College Preparatory Courses and Programs Overview

In addition to all Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, subject matter is extended both in breadth and depth and aligned with the expectations of college-readiness from both the Advanced Placement Program (AP) and the International Baccalaureate Program (IB). Courses are designated with “Pre-AP, QUEST, or PACE” in the course name at the middle school. In accordance with the philosophy espoused by the College Board and the International Baccalaureate program, enrollment in Pre-AP/IB and/or AP/IB courses at the high school level is open to all students who wish to undertake a rigorous course of study.

For students at the middle school level taking high school credit courses, criteria reviewed for a particular course may include the analysis of previous course grades, analysis of district assessment, and student desire. Please contact the campus counseling office for information about criteria for specific courses.

College Board Advanced Placement Program (AP)

Pre-AP courses are designed to challenge as well as prepare students for AP. It is recommended, but not required, that students wishing to take AP courses participate in Pre-AP courses in 9th and 10th grade. To be successful in advanced courses, students are expected to have:

- Ability to go above and beyond what is asked
- Good time management skills
- Strong reading and writing skills
- High interest in subject matter
- Willingness to accept critical feedback
- Ability to know when and how to ask for help

AP courses are equivalent to first-year college courses. Students enrolled in AP courses are encouraged to take the AP exam to potentially receive college credit. College Board AP courses are offered at all Leander ISD high school campuses for the highly motivated student who chooses to be challenged by college-level coursework in particular subject areas. AP Exam scores range from 1-5, with most colleges awarding credit hours for scores of three or better.

International Baccalaureate Program (IB)

The International Baccalaureate (IB) program is a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum designed to meet the challenge of college-bound and highly motivated students. Although the program does not begin until the junior year, Pre-IB advanced courses in the 9 and 10th grades are the best preparation for IB courses in 11th and 12th grades. Successful completion of course work and examinations at the junior/senior level may earn students credit at colleges and universities around the world.

The IB program is currently offered at Leander High School, yet is open to students from any of the district high schools. IB's broad range of subjects accommodates diverse student interests and intentions while adhering to the objectives of a cohesive liberal arts education. The program motivates students to develop their academic talents fully. Students are provided with a well-rounded, advanced academic course of study emphasizing the development of the total individual.

In order to obtain a full IB Diploma a student must minimally have four years of foreign language in high school and preferably had Algebra I in the 8th grade. In addition, the student must take the Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course, complete Creativity, Action, Service (CAS) hours, and complete an Extended Essay on a topic of their choice. For further information on the IB program, please contact the Leander High School IB Coordinator

QUEST—Gifted and Talented (GT)

“QUEST” is an acronym for Quality Utilization and Enrichment of Student Talents. Leander ISD's QUEST Program is designed to meet the needs of identified gifted students who have demonstrated above-average ability in the following two areas of giftedness as defined by the Texas State Plan for the Gifted: 1) high general-intellectual ability at the 95th percentile; and, 2) creative and productive thinking. QUEST is available to LISD students in the elementary through high school grades.

The QUEST program is developmental in scope, with the curriculum addressing core content areas through projects and units that cross multiple subject areas. QUEST students have the opportunity to investigate topics of interest to them in greater depth and complexity. Students expand their abilities to apply critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, and research skills through individual and group projects, studies and problem-solving units.

While students in grades K-12 may be nominated for QUEST at any time by teachers, counselors, administrators, parents, self, or peers, QUEST testing is done during specific testing windows. Currently identified QUEST students do not need to be retested but are automatically placed into QUEST classes. Students who do not wish to continue in QUEST need to have their parents submit to the counseling office, for review by the District QUEST Placement Committee, a written request to “furlough” from QUEST. Transfer students, previously enrolled in a GT program, should submit GT documentation and testing information to the school registrar for review by the District QUEST Coordinator to determine (a) full placement in the QUEST class, or (b) probationary placement in the QUEST class with further testing, or (c) no placement in QUEST class and need for retesting through LISD. Please check the Leander ISD website for additional information.

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an academic support program that prepares students for university eligibility and success. AVID places identified students in a rigorous curriculum and gives them the support to succeed therein. The curriculum of the AVID elective focuses on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading (WICOR), including specific strategies for note taking, test preparation and research, as well as tutorial support. The AVID elective class is also offered for all four years at the high school level.

PACE/Pre-AP Mathematics

LISD’s middle school PACE (Programs for Advancement, Challenge and Enrichment) and Pre-AP (Preparation for Advanced Placement) Mathematics Programs are designed to meet the needs of students who excel in mathematics. The purpose of the Leander ISD Middle School PACE/Pre-AP Mathematics program is to challenge students in the area of mathematics and to prepare them for success in upper level mathematics classes. For additional information, please go to the Leander ISD website.

Pre-AP (Advanced Placement) English/Language Arts

LISD's middle school Pre-AP (Preparation for Advanced Placement) English/Language Arts program is designed to meet the needs of students who excel in language arts. The purpose of the program is to challenge students in the area of language arts and to prepare them for success in high school advanced courses. Students in Pre-AP English/Language Arts receive instruction that provides a greater depth and complexity than the grade-level curriculum, meeting these students' need for academic challenge. Students are expected to have a higher commitment to the rigor of the enriched curriculum requirements.

Pre-AP (Advanced Placement) Social Studies

LISD's middle school Pre-AP (Preparation for Advanced Placement) Social Studies program is designed to meet the needs of students who excel in social studies. The purpose of the program is to challenge students in the area of social studies and to prepare them for success in high school advanced courses. Students in Pre-AP Social Studies receive instruction that provides a greater depth and complexity than the grade-level curriculum, meeting these students' need for academic challenge. Students are expected to have a higher commitment to the rigor of the enriched curriculum requirements.

High School Courses Taken in Middle School

LISD offers some courses designated for grades 9-12 that can be taken in middle. Students who take these courses must show satisfactory completion of the prerequisite class and Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills as well as state and district requirements for the high school course taken. Satisfactory completion of high school courses in middle school shall be reflected on the student's academic achievement record, and the student will be awarded state graduation credit, but the grade will not be averaged in the student's high school grade point average (GPA).

Students who satisfactorily complete math courses in middle school should plan to continue with higher-level mathematics courses in grades 9-12. Students who successfully complete Spanish I in middle school may use course to satisfy one credit of the foreign language requirement in grades 9-12.

In addition, students taking high school level courses will take the STAAR end-of-course (EOC) exams for the subject areas that affect high school graduation. Please see the district website for more information on high school graduation requirements.

Correspondence, Distance and Virtual Courses

Middle school students have the option to take correspondence, distance and virtual courses to earn high school credit toward graduation. Most courses are completed outside the school day and at the expense of the parent/student (with a few exceptions). Please see your school counselors if you would like additional information on this option.

Credit by Examination for Acceleration

Examination for Acceleration (EA) allows students who, without prior instruction, have already mastered content and skills in a particular course, to advance to the next level. Students take a designated criterion-referenced test which covers the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills and major learning for the course for which they wish credit.

EA registration forms are available through the campus counselor. The district provides four EA testing windows at no cost to students. Specific testing windows and registration deadlines for EA are posted on District and Campus websites. Parents and students may get additional information about EA from campus counselors or by emailing kathy.wood@leanderisd.org or sarah.hyde@leanderisd.org

Students must score 80% or higher on the Exam for Acceleration, although it is not used to determine grade point average (GPA). The campus will notify the parents and students upon receiving results of the tests. At the beginning of the semester after EA testing, students will be scheduled into appropriate classes based upon EA results, recommendations of District staff and written parental permission.

Review Sheets: for grades 1-12, UT provides review sheets in a free online printable format, available even before students are enrolled. Visit the UT Distance Education Center website at <http://www.utexas.edu/ce/k16/> or contact the UT offices at 1-888-232-4723 (E-mail: edservices@utk16.org).

OFF CAMPUS PE

Students in 7th and 8th grade can apply for Off Campus PE (OCPE) by obtaining an application documentation form from the guidance office. There is no off campus PE for 6th grade students. OCPE programs may be conducted off campus; however, they must be all-year programs, not seasonal league sports or activities. Qualification for students who may be applying for a Category I or Category II PE waiver will be determined by the LISD Coordinator of Health and PE. Applications for OCPE will not be accepted without using a vendor/instructor from the LISD district approved list. If a student wishes to apply using a vendor that is not on the list, they must contact the district office for an application for the vendor/instructor to be approved. It is the responsibility of the student and the vendor/instructor to become an approved provider of OCPE. The process will not be initiated through LISD. For the most up-to-date list, please visit the Leander ISD website. The deadline for a middle school student wishing to apply for OCPE is prior to the first day of school of the student's upcoming school year. Parents are encouraged to submit OCPE applications as soon as possible to decrease the potential of scheduling conflicts for their student. Students must reapply each year they are eligible for OCPE.

Different Types of OCPE

Category I: Olympic-level participation and/or competition includes a minimum of 15 hours per week of highly intensive, professional, supervised training. The training facility, instructors, and the activities involved in the program must be certified by the superintendent to be of exceptional quality. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from school one hour per day. Students dismissed may not miss any class other than physical education.

Category II: Private or commercially-sponsored physical activities include those certified by the superintendent to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Student participation of at least 5 hours per week must be required. Students certified to participate at this level may not be dismissed from any part of the regular school day.

STAAR (State or Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness)

All sixth, seventh and eighth grade students are required to take STAAR tests. Students in sixth grade will take the STAAR reading and mathematics tests. Students in seventh grade will take the STAAR reading, mathematics and writing tests. Students in eighth grade will take the STAAR reading, mathematics, science and social studies tests. In addition, students taking high school level course will take the STAAR end-of-course (EOC) exams for the subject areas that affect high school graduation. Current the EOC requirements are for English I, English II, Algebra I, Biology and U.S. History.

College Readiness Overview

PSAT 8/9

PSAT 8/9 is a test that provides practice for, and early exposure to, college entrance exams. PSAT 8/9 is part of the College Board family of assessments, which includes the PSAT/NMSQT and the SAT. This test will be given to all LISD 8th and 9th grade students during the school day, including students served in special education, in the fall. It is an opportunity for students to practice testing in a timed setting. The PSAT 8/9 has no impact on your student's grades, report card or permanent record. PSAT 8/9 provides LISD 8th and 9th grade students the opportunity to gain experience and identify areas for potential growth.

According to College Board standards, PSAT 8/9 measures the skills and knowledge students need in order to be on track to be college ready. The assessment is vertically aligned with the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT and measures the same strands through the same format and question types in three basic academic areas: Critical Reading, Writing Skills and Mathematics.

PSAT/NMSQT and SAT - Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

The SAT assesses verbal and mathematical reasoning skills students have developed over time and skills they need to be successful in college. Preparation for the SAT begins with the PSAT or Preliminary SAT. By taking the PSAT in 10th and 11th grades, students have two opportunities to practice for the SAT. Students may receive information from potential colleges through the Student Search Service. In addition, the 11th grade PSAT is used for qualification for the National Merit Scholarship Competition. Both the PSAT and the SAT measure verbal reasoning skills, critical reading skills, and math problem-solving skills. Students receive feedback on their PSAT results that can help them identify strengths and weaknesses in preparing for the SAT. Information about the PSAT and the SAT can be found on the College Board's website, www.collegeboard.com.

The ACT

In addition to the College Board's SAT, the ACT also, assesses high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The multiple-choice tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science. Writing is not a component of the general ACT Exam. There is an optional writing test that measures skill in planning and writing a short essay. More information about ACT can be found at their website, www.act.org.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Requirements for Promotion

To meet the minimum requirements for promotion, a student must receive a yearly average of 70% or greater in three of the four required classes: language arts, math, science, and social studies. A student who receives a yearly average of 69% or less in two or more of these classes may be retained. Each middle school student must take a full load of courses, which generally are composed of:

- language arts, math, science, and social studies,
- one physical activity (required at grades 6 and 7), and
- one elective course (one full-year or two half-year course(s))

Teaming

In LISD, we subscribe to the philosophy of academic teaming which gives your child a sense of family and belonging. All students on an academic team will have the same core teachers. The benefits of academic teaming are: a strong sense of community, consistency of team requirements and procedures, and balanced class size. This approach also enables parents to communicate with one small group of teachers.

Schedule Change Policy

Schedule changes are the exception in LISD. They occur only if there are compelling reasons. Students with scheduling concerns should make an appointment with his/her grade level counselor. If necessary, a parent/teacher/student/counselor conference will be scheduled. A schedule change may result in a student being moved to another academic team. **Class availability may impact elective choices. Every attempt will be made to honor the student's elective choice.**



ACADEMICS

LANGUAGE ARTS

1601 Language Arts Grade 6

Sixth grade students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex situations. Students read a variety of classic and contemporary selections (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama). Students deepen reading comprehension through literary and informational analysis, vocabulary study, and class discussions. Students select appropriate forms of writing to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students revise and edit writing for clarity and correct use of conventions to produce final, error-free pieces on a regular basis.

1611 QUEST Pre-AP English—Grade 6

Prerequisite: *Students must be identified as gifted and talented through the LISD criteria.*

The QUEST Pre-AP English curriculum provides a challenging learning opportunities for identified QUEST students who receive advanced English language arts instruction through an interdisciplinary gifted curriculum that incorporates Pre-AP teaching strategies. QUEST students investigate topics of interest to them in greater depth and complexity. They expand their abilities to apply critical and creative thinking, communication, and research skills through individual and group studies.

1621 Pre-AP English/Language Arts Grade 6

Sixth grade Pre-AP ELA is an open enrollment course with no prerequisites required. Pre-AP English/Language Arts students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex situations in preparation for the rigor of middle school and high school Pre-AP/AP courses. Students read a variety of classic and contemporary selections (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama) inside and outside of class. Students deepen reading comprehension through literary and informational analysis, vocabulary study, and class discussions. Students select appropriate forms of writing to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students revise and edit writing for clarity and correct use of conventions to produce final, error-free pieces on a regular basis.

1701 Language Arts Grade 7

Seventh grade students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex situations. Students read a variety of classic and contemporary selections (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama).

Students deepen reading comprehension through literary and informational analysis, vocabulary study, and class discussions. Students select appropriate forms of writing to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students revise and edit writing for clarity and correct use of conventions to produce final, error-free pieces on a regular basis.

1711 QUEST Pre-AP English—Grade 7

Prerequisite: *Students must be identified as gifted and talented through the LISD criteria.*

The QUEST Pre-AP English curriculum provides a challenging learning opportunities for identified QUEST students who receive advanced English language arts instruction through an interdisciplinary gifted curriculum that incorporates Pre-AP teaching strategies. QUEST students investigate topics of interest to them in greater depth and complexity. They expand their abilities to apply critical and creative thinking, communication, and research skills through individual and group studies.

1721 Pre-AP English/Language Arts Grade 7

Seventh grade Pre-AP ELA is an open enrollment course with no prerequisites required. Pre-AP English/Language Arts students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex situations in preparation for the rigor of middle school and high school Pre-AP/AP courses. Students read a variety of classic and contemporary selections (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama) inside and outside of class. Students deepen reading comprehension through literary and informational analysis, vocabulary study, and class discussions. Students select appropriate forms of writing to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students revise and edit writing for clarity and correct use of conventions to produce final, error-free pieces on a regular basis.

1801 Language Arts Grade 8

Eighth grade students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex situations. Students read a variety of classic and contemporary selections (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama). Students deepen reading comprehension through literary and informational analysis, vocabulary study, and class discussions. Students select appropriate forms of writing to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students revise and edit writing for clarity and correct use of conventions to produce final, error-free pieces on a regular basis.

1811 QUEST Pre-AP English—Grade 8

Prerequisite: *Students must be identified as gifted and talented through the LISD criteria.*

The QUEST Pre-AP English curriculum provides a challenging learning opportunities for identified QUEST students who receive advanced English language arts instruction through an interdisciplinary gifted curriculum that incorporates Pre-AP teaching strategies. QUEST students investigate topics of interest to them in greater depth and complexity. They expand their abilities to apply critical and creative thinking, communication, and research skills through individual and group studies. Students read a variety of classic and contemporary selections (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama) inside and outside of class, *including a required reading assignment to be completed before the first day of school.* QUEST Pre-AP English is **NOT** a high school credit course.

1821 Pre-AP English/Language Arts Grade 8

Eighth grade Pre-AP ELA is an open enrollment course with no prerequisites required. Pre-AP English/Language Arts students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex situations in preparation for the rigor of high school Pre-AP/AP courses. Students read a variety of classic and contemporary selections (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama) inside and outside of class, *including a required reading assignment to be completed before the first day of school.* Students deepen reading comprehension through literary and informational analysis, vocabulary study, and class discussions. Students select appropriate forms of writing to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students revise and edit writing for clarity and correct use of conventions to produce final, error-free pieces on a regular basis.

MATHEMATICS

2601 Math Grade 6

The primary focal points of sixth grade math are all mathematical operations with integers, fractions, and decimals; rational number conversions; algebraic relationships and solving equations; proportional relationships in problem situations; constructing geometric formulas; statistics and graphical representations; and personal financial literacy. Students explore and apply these concepts through the use of problem solving models, tools and technology, multiple representation, communication and justification of ideas.

2611 Math PACE Pre-AP Grade 6

Pre-requisite: All students successfully completing PACE grade 5 or qualifying with the PACE Screener Test will be enrolled in this course.

The PACE/Pre-AP experience in grades 6 and 7 prepares students for Pre-AP Algebra I in grade 8. The curriculum for the sixth grade PACE math classes combines the content from both the 6th and 7th grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills). Success in PACE/Pre-AP classes requires a high level of commitment and responsibility. The increased rigor of these courses provides challenge and deep understanding for students who have shown a need for enrichment in the area of mathematics. All students successfully completing fifth grade PACE Math or meeting qualifying criteria will be enrolled in this course.

2701 Math Grade 7

The primary focal points of seventh grade math are all mathematical operations with positive and negative rational numbers; solving multi-step equations and inequalities; bridging two- and three-dimensional geometry; representation and application of proportionality; probability; statistical analysis; and personal financial literacy. Students explore and apply these concepts through the use of problem solving models, tools and technology, multiple representation, communication and justification of ideas.

2711 Math PACE Pre-AP Grade 7

Pre-requisite: All students successfully completing PACE grade 6 or qualifying with the PACE Screener Test will be enrolled in this course.

The curriculum for the seventh grade PACE math classes combines content from both the 7th and 8th grade TEKS (Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills), in preparation to take Pre-AP Algebra I in grade 8. Success in PACE/Pre-AP classes requires a high level of commitment and responsibility. The increased rigor of these courses provides challenge and deep understanding for students who have shown a need for enrichment in the area of mathematics. All students successfully completing sixth grade PACE Math or meeting qualifying criteria will be enrolled in this course.

2801 Math Grade 8

The primary focal points of eighth grade math are rational and irrational numbers; equations and inequalities with variables on both sides; applications of surface area and volume; attributes of linear relationships; transformational geometry; statistical procedures to describe data; and personal financial literacy. Students explore and apply these concepts through the use of problem solving models, tools and technology, multiple representation, communication and justification of ideas.

2811 Pre-AP Algebra I*

Prerequisite: *All students successfully completing Math PACE/Pre-AP Grade 7 or earning a 80% or greater on the Examination for Acceleration for Math Grade 8 will be enrolled in this course.*

In Pre-AP (Advanced Placement) Algebra I, students use symbols in a variety of ways to study relationships among quantities. Students use functions to represent and model problem situations and to analyze and interpret relationships. Equations arise as a way of asking and answering questions involving functional relationships. Students work in many situations to set up equations and use a variety of methods to solve these equations. Techniques for working with functions and equations are essential in understanding underlying relationships. Students use a variety of representations (concrete, numerical, algorithmic, graphical), tools, and technology (including but not limited to handheld calculators with graphing capabilities), and model mathematical situations to solve meaningful problems. Curriculum also includes beginning strategies to prepare students to be successful in high school advanced placement classes. The increased rigor of these courses provides challenge and deep understanding for students who have shown a need for enrichment in the area of mathematics.

Note: *Due to required IB math course sequencing, students wishing to enroll in the IB Diploma Program are strongly recommended to complete Algebra I in the 8th grade.*

2821 Pre-AP Geometry*

Prerequisite: *All students successfully completing Pre-AP Algebra I or earning a 80% or greater on the Examinations for Acceleration for both Algebra IA and IB will be enrolled in this course.*

Pre-AP Geometry consists of the study of shapes and figures and their attributes and properties, spatial reasoning, structure of mathematical systems, logical reasoning, congruence, similarity, and the use of geometric properties to solve problems.

Note: *This course may not be offered on your campus. Transportation to a campus where the course is offered is not guaranteed and may need to be provided by parents.*

**Students successfully completing Pre-AP Algebra I and Pre-AP Geometry will receive one high school mathematics credit for each course, but the grade for Algebra I and Geometry will not be averaged into the student's high school grade point average (GPA). Students taking Pre-AP Algebra I and Pre-AP Geometry as an eighth grader should plan to enroll in AP Statistics and/or AP Calculus during their junior or senior year. Students will take the available STAAR EoC (End of Course) Exam for any high school credit for which they are enrolled, to meet high school graduation requirements.*

SCIENCE

Each grade level in science has its own content focus; yet, each is interdisciplinary in nature. Within each content are the following concepts: matter and energy, force and motion, organisms and the environment, and earth and space science. Additionally, recurring themes are pervasive in science, including change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale. To develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world, students will become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, ways of formulating questions, ways of proposing explanations, and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world and propose explanations based on evidence derived from their work.

3601 Science Grade 6

Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on physical science. This content includes the following:

- differences between elements and compounds
- matter has physical properties that can be used for classification
- the relationship between force, motion, and energy
- some of Earth's energy resources are available on a nearly perpetual basis, while others can be renewed over a relatively short period of time; some energy resources, once depleted, are essentially nonrenewable
- force and motion are related to potential and kinetic energy
- the Law of Conservation of Energy states that energy can neither be created nor destroyed, it just changes form
- structure of Earth, the rock cycle, and plate tectonics
- the organization of our solar system and the relationships among the various bodies that comprise it



3701 Science Grade 7

Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. This content includes the following:

- interactions occur between matter and energy
- the relationship among force, motion, and energy as applied to living systems
- all organisms are classified into domains and kingdoms; organisms within these taxonomic groups share similar characteristics which allow them to interact with the living and nonliving parts of their ecosystem
- the relationship between organisms and the environment
- populations and species demonstrate variation and inherit many of their unique traits through gradual processes over many generations
- living systems at all levels of organization demonstrate the complementary nature of structure and function
- a living organism must be able to maintain balance in stable internal conditions in response to external and internal stimuli
- reproduction is a characteristic of living organisms and that the instructions for traits are governed in the genetic material

3801 Science Grade 8

Science is interdisciplinary in nature; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. This content includes the following:

- matter is composed of atoms and has chemical and physical properties
- the effects resulting from cyclical movements of the sun, earth, and moon
- characteristics of the universe
- natural events can impact earth systems
- climatic interactions exist among earth, ocean, and weather systems
- interdependence occurs among living systems and the environment and that human activities can affect these systems



SOCIAL STUDIES

4601 Social Studies Grade 6

Social Studies Grade 6 (Contemporary World Cultures) studies the different people, places, and regions of the world. The concepts of history, geography, government, economics, culture, citizenship, and science and technology are applied to contemporary societies. Students will practice critical thinking skills by analyzing societies, comparing culture regions, organizing and interpreting information, and making predictions.

4701 Social Studies Grade 7

Social Studies Grade 7 (Texas History) studies the history of Texas from early times to the present. The course includes the study of the regions of Texas, local and state government, the rich cultural background of the state, and the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on life in the modern world. Students will use critical thinking skills by analyzing historical documents relating to the geographic, economic, governmental, cultural, and technological factors influencing the growth and development of Texas.

4801 Social Studies Grade 8

Social Studies Grade 8 (U.S. History to 1877) studies the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, and social events of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. Students use critical thinking skills to expand their knowledge of historical information by analyzing documents relating to the geographic, economic, governmental, cultural, and technological factors influencing the growth and development of the United States.

4811 Pre-AP Social Studies Grade 8

Social Studies Grade 8 Pre-AP is an open enrollment course with no prerequisites required. The curriculum is based on the Grade 8 Social Studies state standards, but emphasizes the higher-level and critical thinking skills of analysis, evaluation and synthesis in preparation for the Advanced Placement courses. Additional focus is placed on inquiry, interpretation of historical documents, analysis of data from written and visual sources, and the evaluation, application and presentation of information.

*“Students gain a sense of control over their lives
when they feel that they have options.”*

Classroom Proverbs by Winnerscorp

NON-CORE ACADEMICS

The following describes the non-core academics courses offered at Leander ISD middle school campuses. All middle school students will be placed in one of the following courses each year of middle school.

8769/8869 AVID – Grades 7 and 8

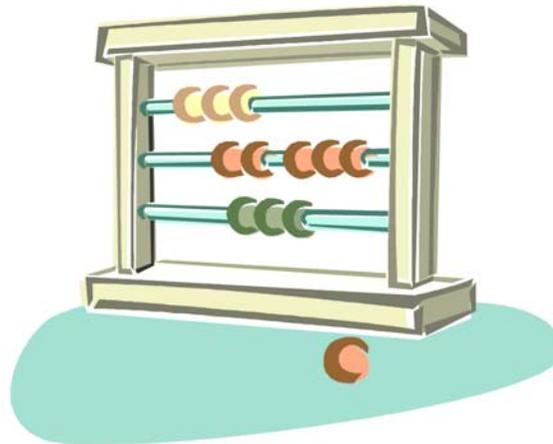
Prerequisites: *Student application, oral and written interview process*

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an academic support program that prepares students for university eligibility and success. AVID places identified students in a rigorous curriculum and gives them the support to succeed therein. The curriculum of the AVID elective focuses on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading (WICOR) and including specific strategies for note taking, test preparation and research, as well as tutorial support. The AVID elective class is also offered for all four years at the high school level.

APS (Academic and Personal Success) – Grades 6, 7 and 8

Prerequisites: *Campus placement*

This course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to build academic behaviors, key cognitive strategies and a deeper understanding and application of key content knowledge.



NON-CORE ACADEMICS (Continued)

8706/8707 Gateway to Technology One: Grade 7 and 8

8708/8709 Gateway to Technology Two: Grade 8

This program features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Students envision, design and test their ideas. They study mechanical and computer control systems; think robotics and animation. Students also explore the importance of energy, including innovative ways to reduce, conserve and produce it using solar, thermal and wind power. The knowledge that students gain and the skills they build from the course create a strong foundation for further STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) learning in high school and beyond. Throughout “Gateway”, students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork and innovation, as well as explore STEM careers. High School elective credit will be awarded to students based on the following criteria:

- Successful completion of GTT One: .05 High School elective credit
- Successful completion of GTT Two: 1.0 High School elective credit

Note: The GTT course is not an open enrollment course and limited seats exist.

ELECTIVES

The following describes the elective courses offered at Leander ISD middle school campuses. It is our hope that by reading the descriptions students will be able to successfully select interesting and appropriate electives for the coming school year. Students in grades six through eight will be required to participate in daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes for at least four semesters during those grade levels. In addition, students in middle school are required to participate in one fine arts course in grade 6, grade 7 or grade 8. In LISD, the middle school fine arts course requirement can be satisfied by taking art, band, choir, dance, or theater. Dance or Dance Team are considered fine arts courses at the middle school and also satisfy the physical activity requirement.

Due to fluctuations in our campus enrollment numbers and teacher availability, changes may be necessary in our elective offerings. If for any reason an elective is not offered, we will place your child in his/her next available elective choice. Elective offerings will vary from campus to campus based on master scheduling considerations. Consider choices carefully, and be prepared to commit to selections for the school year.

Course	Length of Course	Grade
Advanced Art	Full Year	7-8
Advanced Theater Arts	Full Year	7-8
Athletics*	Full Year	7-8
Band	Full Year	6-8
Cheerleading*	Full Year	7-8
Choir	Full Year	6-8
Dance Team*	Full Year	7-8
Lifetime Fitness*	Full Year	6-8
Spanish I	Full Year	8
Spanish IV AP	Full Year	8
Yearbook**	Full Year	7-8
Art	One Semester	6-8
Computer Applications	One Semester	7-8
Dance*	One Semester	6
Teen Leadership	One Semester	6-8
Theater Arts	One Semester	6-8

* May be taken as a Physical Activity course

**Teacher approval and completed application required

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Texas Education Code 28.002 (1): Physical Activity Requirements for Public School Students, "...students in grades six through eight will be required to participate in daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes for at least four semesters during those grade levels." All courses listed in this section satisfy this requirement. **In addition, Dance and Dance Team courses will satisfy this requirement.**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in 7th and 8th grade can apply for Off Campus PE (OCPE) by obtaining an application documentation form from the guidance office. There is no off campus PE for 6th grade students. OCPE programs may be conducted off campus; however, they must be all-year programs, not seasonal league sports or activities. The deadline for a middle school student wishing to apply for OCPE is prior to the first day of school of the student's upcoming school year. Please see the front section of this catalog for more detailed information on OCPE.

Lifetime Fitness Grades 6, 7 and 8 7601-7604, 7701-7702

Lifetime Fitness is a course designed to teach students the values of a healthy lifestyle. The students are exposed to a variety of team and individual sports as well as different health topics. The students will be evaluated using a fitness assessment test to help them take ownership of their individual fitness levels. The class will help students learn goal setting and the importance of good sportsmanship. The students supply their own workout clothes, appropriate workout shoes, and a combination lock.

ATHLETICS

The athletics program is based on improving basic skills, setting and attaining goals, self-discipline, and desirable social behavior. Students wishing to play any of the athletic sports are required to have a physical by a doctor and complete the athletic paperwork requirements. Any student moving into the district mid-season, who wishes to participate in athletics will not be placed in athletics without the coaches approval.



Boys' Athletics Grades 7 and 8

7721, 7821

Boys' athletics offers cross-country, football, basketball, track, and soccer. Students choosing Athletics as an elective choice are signing up to play football.

Students, who choose not to play football, are enrolled in lifetime fitness. They may try out for basketball, and if they make the basketball team, their schedules may be changed to enter the athletic period.

Girls' Athletics Grades 7 and 8

7722, 7822

Girls' athletics is a year-long commitment that offers cross-country, volleyball, basketball, track, and soccer. Any seventh or eighth grade girl who wishes to enroll in athletics may do so under the following conditions:

- Satisfactory completion of the introduction to athletics unit during the spring semester.
- Meeting with the coaching staff at the end of the fall and spring semesters to determine if continuation in the athletic program is advised.
- All seventh graders will need the approval of the coaching staff in order to continue in the athletics program as an eighth grader
- All eighth graders will need the approval of the coaching staff to be recommended for high school athletics.

FALL SPORTS

Football – This is a “no cut” sport; all students can participate. Seventh grade practices are held before school and during first period athletics, and eighth grade practices are held during last period athletics and after school. Games are played Tuesday afternoons. Athletes furnish their own shoes and towel. (August – November)

Volleyball - There are tryouts for volleyball. Athletes are not guaranteed to make the team. Games are played Thursdays after school. The schedule includes Saturday tournaments. Athletes furnish their own shoes and towel. (September - October)

Cross-Country– Cross-Country is open to all interested students. Practices are before and/or after school. Meets are held Wednesdays after school. Races are two miles long for both boys and girls. Athletes will learn to run between two and six miles a day. Athletes furnish their own running shoes. (September - October) Enrollment into the athletics class is NOT required to participate in this sport.

WINTER SPORTS

Basketball - Tryouts for basketball occur at the beginning of the season. Athletes are not guaranteed to make the team. Most games are played on Mondays or Thursdays; however, tournaments are scheduled for Friday evenings and Saturdays. Seventh graders practice before school and during first period athletics, and eighth grade practices are held during last period athletics and after school. Athletes furnish their own shoes and safety equipment such as kneepads and mouth guards. (November – February)

SPRING SPORTS

Track and Field- Athletes compete with one seventh grade and one eighth grade team. Practices are before and/or after school. There are tryouts for some track and field events. Students furnish their own running shoes. Enrollment into the athletics class is NOT required to participate in this sport. (February – April)

Soccer - There are tryouts for soccer. Athletes are not guaranteed to make the team. Practice occurs before and/or after school. The soccer team consists of one team with both seventh and eighth graders. Athletes must furnish their own shoes. Enrollment into the athletics class is NOT required to participate in this sport. (March – May)

ADDITIONAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES

7711 Cheerleading Grades 7 and 8

The middle school cheerleading program is a “no-cut” program open to all seventh and eighth grade students. Cheerleaders perform at all home football, volleyball, and basketball games. They also perform at pep rallies and support all other athletic teams. The members are required to attend daily before or after-school practices. Students must adhere to all rules and policies in the organization’s constitution and by-laws.

Note: Depending upon cheer placement, possible schedule conflicts may occur resulting in students being unable to participate in additional opportunities.



FINE ARTS

Students in middle school are required to participate in one fine arts course in grades 6, 7 or 8. In LISD, the middle school fine arts course requirement can be satisfied by taking art, band, choir, dance or theatre. The fine arts requirement can be met with either a semester or a yearlong course. All courses offered in this section meet the state fine arts requirement.

6600 Art MS 1 Semester

Art MS 1 is an introductory course for students taking art for the first time in middle school, and no previous experience is necessary. Art MS 1 meets daily and is available to any student interested in exploring art as an elective. Students will have the ability to develop their artistic skills by working in a variety of media.

6700 Art MS 2 Semester-Prerequisites: Art MS 1

6800 Art MS 3 Semester-Prerequisites: Art MS 2

These courses are for students in their second or third year in a middle school art class. Students will develop new skills and techniques through the use of a variety of art media while learning the elements and principles of art. Students will develop skills in perception, creative expression, and historical and cultural heritage.

6703 Art MS 2 Advanced-Prerequisites: Art MS 1

6803 Art MS 3 Advanced-Prerequisites: Art MS 2 or Art MS 2 Advanced

Students are admitted to these classes by teacher recommendation. Students must have completed Art MS 1, Art MS 2, or the equivalent in another district, in order to be considered (students at an LISD MS with the 6th grade wheel may be considered as well). By enrolling in these courses, students are committing to a full year course. Students in advanced art will have the opportunity to develop advanced techniques and skills in a variety of media. Additionally, students will study art history, modern visual art media, and professional preparation of a portfolio for Art I Studio and/or pre-AP Art in high school. The art teacher will select qualified advanced students based on their level of talent, creativity and the desire to further their art education in high school. Students may be required to show a portfolio or sampling of their previous work to be considered for advanced art.

BAND

Middle school band students participate in many exciting and rewarding activities. Band fosters creativity, self-esteem, and self-discipline; promotes teamwork; develops higher level thinking and leadership skills; nurtures strong bonds of friendship; and creates a family-like environment for all students. Additionally, students benefit from the setting and attainment of high-level individual and group goals.

Band MS 1 - 6610, 6611, 6612

Band MS 1 is a full-year elective for students taking band for the first time in middle school, and no previous musical experience is necessary. The class meets daily and is available to any student interested in learning to play a band instrument for the first time. Placement on an instrument is based on physical characteristics, student preference, director recommendation, and availability, and LISD band directors guide students in selecting the instrument for which they are suited. The class meets during the school day; however, there may be some outside of class time requirements at various times through the year to prepare for concerts. Participation in concerts is required.

Band MS 2 - 6710, 6711, 6712

Prerequisite: Band MS 1

Band MS 3 - 6810, 6811, 6812

Prerequisite: Band MS 2

Band students in their second or third year in middle school band enroll in MS 2 or MS 3 and are placed by audition into ability-based bands. Other factors that can affect band placement are experience, attitude/behavior, and director recommendation. MS 2 and MS 3 band students present concerts throughout the year for both the student body and the community and participate in several group and individual contests. Full band, small group, and individualized instruction are provided to ensure the success of the students. Weekly section rehearsals, either before or after school, and participation in concerts and contests are required.

CHOIR

Middle school choir students learn skills that develop their singing voice and music reading skills. Regardless of skill level, students learn musical vocabulary, sight-reading, and written notation. In addition to their choir class participation, students have opportunities for individual and small group performances.

Choir MS 1 - 6620, 6621, 6622, 6623, 6624, 6625

Choir MS 1 is a full-year elective for students taking choir for the first time in middle school, and no previous musical experience is necessary. Students focus on music making, exploring the fundamentals of various styles of singing, and learning the vocabulary and notation of written music. Choir MS 1 meets daily and is available to any student interested in learning to sing for the first time or for those who wish to build on their successful experiences in elementary choir. Participation in concerts is required.

Choir MS 2 - 6720, 6721, 6722, 6723, 6724, 6725

Prerequisite: Choir MS 1

Choir MS 3 - 6820, 6821, 6822, 6823, 6824, 6825

Prerequisite: Choir MS 2

Choir students in their second or third year in middle school choir enroll in MS 2 or MS 3. These courses focus on the continued development of the choral voice, with opportunities for work on the solo voice. Students in Choir MS 2 and MS 3 have the opportunity to participate in All-Region, UIL, Solo and Ensemble contests, and various music festivals and concerts. Daily rehearsals include vocal production, sight reading and rhythm studies, and preparing choral literature for school performances. These courses require a full year commitment and participation in all concerts is required.

*“A dream begins as an idea. The idea becomes a plan,
the plan is developed, and the dream becomes a reality.”*

DANCE

Dance MS 1 - 6631 or Dance MS 1 Semester - 6630

Students in their first year of dance in middle school enroll in Dance MS 1. The purpose of this class is to introduce students to dance, as well as basic choreography. The history of selected dance forms will be explored, and students will spend the majority of the class time experiencing these dance forms through movement and performance. Students may take lifetime fitness opposite this course. This course is **NOT** a prerequisite for Dance Team.

Dance Team MS 1 - 6635

Dance Team MS 2 - 6735

Dance Team MS 3 - 6835

Prerequisites – Grades 7 and 8 only, Clinic Attendance and Director Recommendation

Middle School Dance Team is a full year course designed for seventh and eighth grade girls and is an open enrollment activity. Dance team members participate in dance routines at school functions such as football games and pep rallies. The members are required to attend daily before or after-school practices. Students must adhere to all rules and guidelines in the organization's constitution and by-laws.

THEATRE ARTS

Theatre Arts encourages students to acquire knowledge of and participation in the art of theatre and its technical aspects. The program focuses on developing a sense of self and personal artistic vision, understanding theatre's role in culture and society throughout history, performing monologues and duets before classroom audiences, and performing a full length play in front of a public audience.

6640 Theatre Arts MS 1 Semester

Theatre MS 1 is an introductory course for students taking theatre for the first time in middle school, and no previous experience is necessary. Theatre MS 1 meets daily and is available to any student interested in exploring theatre as an elective. The class meets during the school day; however, there may be some outside of class time requirements at various times through the year to perform and prepare for performances. Students will have opportunities to develop their performance skills through a variety of in-class and outside of class performances, as well as improve their public speaking skills.

6740 Theatre Arts MS 2 Semester-Prerequisite: Theatre Arts MS 1

6840 Theatre Arts MS 3 Semester -Prerequisite: Theatre Arts MS 2

Theatre students in their second or third year in middle school theatre enroll in MS 2 or MS 3. These courses build upon the fundamental knowledge of drama and theatre arts and offer a more in-depth curriculum. Students will have opportunities to explore career possibilities in theatre and continued participation in high school theatre courses. In addition to technical projects and acting opportunities, activities may include field trips and guided preparation for high school advanced theatre placement auditions.

6743 Theatre Arts MS 2 Advanced-Prerequisites: Theatre Arts MS 1

6843 Theatre Arts MS 3 Advanced-Prerequisites: Theatre Arts MS 2 or Theatre Arts MS 2 Advanced

Students are admitted to these classes by application only. Students must have completed Theatre MS 1, Theatre MS 2, or the equivalent in another district in order to apply. By completing the application, students are committing to a full year course. Students in advanced theatre will study advanced acting techniques, production and technology skills, theatre history, modern theatrical media, and professional preparation for auditioning for professional theatre.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

The IB Diploma Program also requires four years of foreign language study, therefore it is recommended that potential students take year one of foreign language in 8th grade, if possible.

5801 Spanish I Grade 8

This class follows the same scope and sequence as all the LISD High School Spanish I classes. Therefore, the rigor, pace, and expectations of this class will be consistent with those of the high school. Spanish I introduces the basic language skills of showing, viewing, listening, reading, speaking, and writing in Spanish. Students will learn vocabulary and grammatical structures necessary to communicate in everyday situations. A variety of videos, student presentations, projects, and dramatizations will reinforce language skills and introduce various aspects of Hispanic culture. Students are expected to take an active role in all oral activities to enhance proper pronunciation.

***Note:** The grade for Spanish I will not be averaged into the student's high school grade point average (GPA), but high school credit will be awarded. A proficiency exam is available for students who already speak Spanish and wish to advance to higher levels of Spanish. The exam allows students to advance in Spanish levels, but does not award credit for levels not taken. See district website for additional information. Students who choose to advance in levels may not be able to do so until the ninth grade.*

5802 Spanish IV Advanced Placement

Prerequisite: placement exam

Spanish IV AP stresses oral skills, composition, and grammar while emphasizing the use of Spanish for active communication. The students will develop the following skills: comprehension of a variety of registers, acquisition of vocabulary and structure to allow the easy, accurate reading of newspaper and magazine articles as well as modern Hispanic literature, composition of expository passages, expression of ideas orally with accuracy and fluency. This course will prepare students for the AP Spanish Language Exam.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

8604 Computer Applications Grades 6

Sixth grade computer applications is an exploratory course that teaches students how to type properly. Students will work through a number of typing activities which teach hand placement and key location on the keyboard. Students will also be introduced to a variety of computer software applications.

8704 Computer Applications Grades 7 and 8

The main focus of this course is to teach all students how to type properly. Students will work through a number of typing activities which teach hand placement and key location on the keyboard. Students will obtain an overall knowledge of computer software and learn how to manipulate several different programs including Microsoft Word, Power Point, and Excel.

8650 Teen Leadership Grades 6

Leadership is an introductory course that will develop leadership skills in an interactive atmosphere. Students will learn personal responsibility for their own actions, attitudes, and behaviors through role play, creative activities, and daily discussions. They will learn that leadership is about being your personal best and supporting others.

8750 Teen Leadership Grades 7 and 8

Students will develop leadership skills in an interactive atmosphere. They will learn personal responsibility for their own actions, attitudes, and behaviors through role play, creative activities, and daily discussions. Students will also develop communication and public speaking skills, and they will be directly involved in community service projects. They will learn that leadership is about being your personal best and supporting others.

8770 Yearbook Grades 7 and 8

Prerequisite: *Completed application*

Students will learn several software programs used to publish the school yearbook, newspaper, and weekly news video broadcast. This publications class is generally limited to twenty-five students. Students must have maintained a B average in academic classes the prior year and be responsible, self-motivated, reliable, and prompt.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

National Junior Honor Society

National Junior Honor Society is a national organization for seventh and eighth grade students. The purpose of this society is to recognize, reward, and promote scholastic achievement. Selection is based on teacher evaluations of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. A faculty committee sets standards that must include a cumulative academic average of at least 90 percent. Invitations for induction are distributed to seventh graders during the spring semester.

Student Council - Grades 6 - 8

Student Council develops commitment to citizenship, scholarship, leadership, human relationships, and cultural values. The Student Council consists of representatives from each team. General elections are held to elect officers and council members. The objectives of the Student Council are:

- To initiate, implement and complete projects and activities that help the school, the students, the faculty, the administration, and the community;
- To develop and provide opportunities for leadership and service in the local school and community;
- To develop not only leadership abilities within the youth of today, but also leadership for the community, state, and nation for tomorrow;
- To provide a living workshop of democratic processes;
- To increase student involvement and pride in their school.

Clubs - Grades 6 - 8

Clubs offer the students opportunities to pursue their interests, as well as to meet and work with other students. A variety of clubs in which students may become involved will be posted on the Guidance/Counseling web page.



Leander ISD Purpose

**The purpose of LISD is to educate each student to be successful
in an ever-changing world.**

10 Ethical Principles

Concern for others

Promise-Keeping

Fairness

Integrity

Respect for Others

Excellence

Honesty

Accountability

Law Abidance/Civil Duty

Loyalty

Leander ISD Vision

**Every student is encouraged, supported, and challenged
to achieve the highest levels of knowledge,
skills, and character.**

Leander ISD's The Learning Model

