



Joseph Kerr Middle School

Course Catalog

Year: 2024-2025
Report: U-CRS1201

Electives

Academic Strategies

07731

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is designed for students in need of academic support maneuvering through the rigors of middle school. This course focuses on specific organizational strategies as well as direct instruction in note taking, critical reading, writing, and public speaking. Students will use a daily planner/homework log, maintain an organized binder, work collaboratively with other students, and access the internet at school. Students will have the opportunity to practice for state grade level achievement tests.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Advocacy 7

14007

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07

Credits: 0.0

Max Credits: 0.0

This course is designed to provide students with personalized academic guidance. Students will learn study skills that can be applied across disciplines and will receive basic academic guidance each year from their assigned advocacy teacher. This course is Pass/No Pass.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Advocacy 7-8

14014

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 0.0

Max Credits: 0.0

This course is designed to provide students with personalized academic guidance along with a connection between the student, teacher, counselor, and the school. Students will learn study skills that can be applied across disciplines and will receive basic academic guidance each year from their assigned advocacy teacher. This course is Pass/No Pass.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Advocacy 8

14008

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 08

Credits: 0.0

Max Credits: 0.0

This course is designed to provide students with personalized academic guidance. Students will learn study skills that can be applied across disciplines and will receive basic academic guidance each year from their assigned advocacy teacher. This course is Pass/No Pass.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Art Appreciation

07763

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course introduces the basic elements and concepts of art and develops art vocabulary fluency. Students will express themselves through art and writing using charcoal and chalk artwork designed to prepare students for advanced art instruction.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

AVID 7

09007

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

Students enrolled in AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) will receive academic and social support to assist them with preparing for college and career. Students will be taught skills and behaviors for academic success and will be provided with intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned



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AVID 8

09008

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

Students enrolled in AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) will receive academic and social support to assist them with preparing for college and career. Students will be taught skills and behaviors for academic success and will be provided with intensive support with tutorials and strong student/teacher relationships.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Computer Applications

07764

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 5.0

This course emphasizes practical uses of computer skills. Students will learn basic keyboarding skills, multi-media creations and presentations, and proper and appropriate uses of the internet and online communications.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Digital Media

07751

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is designed for students who are interested in planning and leading PR and marketing campaigns that support lunch time activities, clubs, sports, schoolwide activities and student recognition programs. Students will use social media and a variety of digital tools to educate and support the school's activities.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Exploring Science I

07752

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is a hands-on laboratory based elective course in which students explore science in the world. Topics may include energy, ecosystems, technology, and human impact on natural systems. Students will engage in science and engineering practices to ask questions, solve problems, and construct explanations.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Future Quest

07729

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 20.0

This course is designed to involve students in practical, career-oriented learning adventures that will help shape their educational journey. Students will be immersed in authentic, real-world problem-solving experiences. Through self-paced career exploration modules, students will acquire industry specific skills across various California sectors, like agriculture, child development, manufacturing, and culinary arts. After completing each module, they assess potential career options within these industries. It's an engaging way for students to discover their interests and talents while preparing for the future, and to learn about Career Technical Education (CTE) pathways in high school.

Adopted curricular materials: Paxton Patterson College & Career Ready Labs

Geography Around the World

01009

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 5.0

This course focuses on the five themes of geography: location, place, human environment interaction, movement, and region. Students will acquire a framework for thinking about the world, improve geographical literacy, and develop geographical skills that will enable them to better understand and appreciate the world in which they live.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned



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Peer Tutor

07708

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is designed for students to learn how to effectively work with small groups of students in a variety of content areas. An emphasis will be placed on employing inquiry strategies in peer tutoring groups.
Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Public Speaking

07758

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is designed for students who would like to gain more poise and confidence in communication skills. Course content may include individual speeches such as argument, informational, personal narrative, and dramatic recitations. Both content (focus & substance, organization & development, and language) and delivery (voice, eye contact, and presence) will be addressed. A significant course goal is to help prepare students for the speech proficiency graduation requirement in high school.
Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Student Assistant

07711

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course introduces students to the various tasks associated with assisting a teacher with various tasks or school office personnel with the day-to-day operations of the school office. Under the supervision of school personnel, students will learn a wide range of practices to support classroom teachers or general office practices and functions to assist the school that may include answering phones, operating equipment, assisting with new student orientation, and giving campus tours. Student Assistants may be assigned to teachers, counselors, librarians, or office staff with providing vital service to the school campus. An application process may be required for enrollment in this course. Check with your school counselor to inquire about requirements.
Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Student Leadership I

07722

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 5.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is for students who are selected (through an application process) to lead the Associated Student Body. Students will plan and lead activities that include field trips, assemblies, lunchtime activities, and student recognition programs. Students will develop and implement a budget that meets their goals and carry out school-wide fundraisers to support the many programs for students at the school. Students will also promote school spirit and develop leadership skills. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA with no "F's" or "U's" in citizenship in order to remain enrolled in Leadership. This course is Pass/No Pass.
Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Yearbook

02636

Department: Electives

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 20.0

Yearbook is an elective course designed to teach students the fundamental principles used to prepare, create, proof, and distribute a middle school yearbook while participating in leadership roles and activities. Key skills for creating the yearbook include layout and design, photography, interviewing, and writing with clear purpose and audience in mind. Yearbook can be both a fun and exciting experience in which students realize their creative potential.
Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned



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English

Academic Writing for Success

02709

Department: English

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This English elective course is designed to build language, improve literacy skills, and expand content knowledge for Long-Term English Learners (LTEL) and struggling Redesignated English learner students. The areas of emphasis are language development, academic vocabulary acquisition, and the development of written skills. Thematic units ensure that students make connections to science, math, and social studies core content areas. Instruction includes student-centered activities that are culturally and linguistically responsive while simultaneously teaching students effective reading strategies. Students engage in lessons with culminating writing and oral projects for teaching listening, speaking, reading, and writing required to equip today's English Learner with communicative confidence.

Pre-requisite(s): Placement by site's EL team

Adopted curricular materials: English 3D Course B, Volume 1

Advanced Academic Writing for Success

02712

Department: English

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This English elective course is designed to build language, improve literacy skills, and expand content knowledge for long-term English Learners and struggling re-designated students. The academic areas of emphasis in this course are language development, academic vocabulary acquisition, and the development of written language skills. Thematic units ensure that students make connections to science, math, and social studies core content areas. Instruction includes student-centered activities that are culturally and linguistically responsive while simultaneously teaching students effective reading strategies. Students engage in lessons with culminating writing and oral projects which are supported by the use of research-based best practices.

Pre-requisite: Placement by site's English Learner (EL) team based on multiple data points and assessments.

Co-requisite: 7th or 8th grader who is either a LTEL or Struggling RF

Adopted curricular materials: English 3D, Course B, Volume II

EL English Intensive, MS Course I

02702

Department: English

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course provides English Learners with fundamental skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening via a rigorous and rich academic curriculum that begins to move students to grade-level performance. Students who begin in this course need sequential work in phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding and spelling as well as foundational work in reading comprehension, vocabulary, language, and writing. This course builds language and literacy proficiency with robust instruction, accessible instructional level text, close reading of grade level text, and multiple short and in-depth integrated reading and writing opportunities.

Pre-requisite(s): Initial identification should be determined by multiple measures (CELDT, CST, SBAC, MYPAS, primary language proficiency, etc.); however, the program placement assessment should be used to determine specific course placement.

Adopted Curricular Materials: Get Ready! by Vista Higher Learning



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EL English Intensive, MS Course II

02703

Department: English

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course provides English Learners with the next level of skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening via a rigorous and rich academic curriculum that continues to move students to grade-level performance. While students who begin in this course have more language proficiency, they need intensive work to build academic vocabulary and language, build fluency with more complex texts, and develop skill in comprehension, literary analysis, and writing. This course builds language and literacy proficiency with robust instruction, accessible instructional level text, close reading of grade level text, and multiple short and in-depth integrated reading and writing opportunities.

Prerequisite: Initial identification should be determined by multiple measures (CELDT, CST, SBAC, MYPAS, primary language proficiency, etc.); however, the program placement assessment should be used to determine specific course placement.

Adopted Curricular Materials: Get Ready! by Vista Higher Learning

ELA Literacy 7-8

02451

Department: English

Grade Level: 07-08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 20.0

This course is an intensive intervention class designed for students who have a multi-year trend of being more than two years below grade level in reading and writing and who have demonstrated eligibility for the course based on targeted assessments. The goal of ELA Literacy is to accelerate student learning for the purpose of being able to exit the course and to be successful with grade-level ELA and literacy standards in all content areas. This class provides students with opportunities to remediate foundational literacy skills via an engaging technology component that addresses a student's individual needs and learning pace. Additionally, whole class and small group instruction are provided in a scaffolded manner anchored in the ELA Common Core State Standards. This course earns English credit.

Pre-requisite(s): Placement by site's intervention team based on identified district data points and assessments

Adopted Curricular Material: Language! Live (California edition), Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc.

English 7

02400

Department: English

Grade Level: 07

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is designed to address California's 7th grade Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. The individual performance standards at these grade levels define competencies for 7th grade and will gauge the degree to which a student has met the overall content standards. Instruction will attend to the skills and concepts necessary for mastery of reading informational and literary text, writing, speaking and listening; and language.

Adopted curricular materials: CA StudySync 7, McGraw-Hill Education

English 7 Honors

02430

Department: English

Grade Level: 07

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course will provide students with a rigorous curriculum that teaches to the same standards as the English 7 course. At the honors level, however, extended learning activities move at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on complex texts.

Adopted curricular materials: CA StudySync 7, McGraw-Hill Education

English 8

02500

Department: English

Grade Level: 08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is designed to address California's 8th grade Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts. The individual performance standards at these grade levels define competencies for 8th grade and will gauge the degree to which a student has met the overall content standards. Instruction will attend to the skills and concepts necessary for mastery of reading informational and literary text, writing, speaking and listening; and language.

Adopted curricular materials: CA StudySync 8, McGraw-Hill Education and Refugee, Scholastic Inc.



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English 8 Honors

02530

Department: English

Grade Level: 08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course provides students with a challenging curriculum that teaches to the same standards as the English 8 course. At the honors level the curriculum moves at an accelerated pace with a more concentrated focus on complex texts.

Adopted curricular materials: CA StudySync 8, McGraw-Hill Education



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History/Social Science

Social Science 7 01510

Department: History/Social Science **Grade Level:** 07 **Credits:** 10.0 **Max Credits:** 10.0

This course will introduce students to world cultures and geography. All units will be taught within a structured format to present the essential elements of government, religion, economics, achievements, and geography. Students will examine the social, cultural and technological changes during the period of 500 - 1789 A.D. Thematic units will drive the curriculum and will guide students through the acquisition of the lifelong skills of reading, writing, technology, research, and oral communication. Adopted curricular materials: World History & Geography: Medieval to Early Modern Times, McGraw Hill

Social Science 7 Honors 01520

Department: History/Social Science **Grade Level:** 07 **Credits:** 10.0 **Max Credits:** 10.0

In this course, students will study the same standards as in the Social Science 7 course. At the honors level, the increased academic rigor of the course is based on additional reading and writing assignments. These extended learning activities will require students to utilize skills in critical analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and problem solving. Honors students must have the motivation to accelerate through standards and handle a more rigorous pace when learning. Adopted curricular materials: World History & Geography: Medieval to Early Modern Times, McGraw Hill

Social Science 8 01550

Department: History/Social Science **Grade Level:** 08 **Credits:** 10.0 **Max Credits:** 10.0

In this course students will study United States history from 1600 to 1920, concentrating on the critical events from the framing of the Constitution to World War I. Students will examine the social, cultural, political, and technological changes during this time in American history. The in-depth investigation of historical events and periods, the fostering of multicultural awareness, and the recognition of ethical, civic, and democratic values present in American history represent the major aspects of this course. Adopted curricular materials: United States History & Geography: Growth & Conflict, McGraw Hill

Social Science 8 Honors 01560

Department: History/Social Science **Grade Level:** 08 **Credits:** 10.0 **Max Credits:** 10.0

In this course students will study the same standards as in the Social Science 8 course; however, at the honors level, the increased academic rigor of the course is based on additional enrichment activities, reading, and writing assignments. The extended learning activities require students to increase their use of critical thinking styles to include analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and problem solving. Honors students must have the motivation to accelerate through standards and handle a more rigorous pace when learning. Adopted curricular materials: United States History & Geography: Growth & Conflict, McGraw Hill



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Mathematics

Mathematics 7

03511

Department: Mathematics

Grade Level: 07

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course focuses on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships, including percentages; (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.

Adopted curricular materials: Imagine IM, Grade 7, Imagine Learning and ALEKS

Mathematics 7 Accelerated

03513

Department: Mathematics

Grade Level: 07

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is an accelerated math course for the student who not only is advanced in the math skills and understanding, but who can move through the math standards at a faster pace. The CA framework suggests this "compacted" pathway in which the standards from grade seven, grade eight, and the Mathematics I course be compressed into an accelerated pathway. Students will complete all 7th grade standards and the first half of the 8th grade standards. This course leads to the completion of high school Mathematics I by the end of 8th grade, but does not skip any grade-level standards along the way.

Adopted curricular materials: Imagine IM Grade 7, Imagine IM Grade 8, ALEKS (digital on-line curriculum)

Mathematics 8

03514

Department: Mathematics

Grade Level: 08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course focuses on three critical areas: (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 the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

Adopted curricular materials: Imagine IM, Grade 8 or ALEKS (digital curriculum)

Mathematics I

03015

Department: Mathematics

Grade Level: 08-12

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

Graduation Requirement: Mathematics I

UC/CSU: Mathematics I (c)

NCAA: Yes

This course is the first course in a series of three that uses an integrated approach to cover the following domains: Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. The problem situations, models, and technology used will foster connections to the eight standards of mathematical practice, which develop concepts from multiple perspectives.

Mathematics I topics focus on the interconnectedness of function elements, tables, graphs, and equations; comparison and contrast and decision-making using Algebraic models; proving Geometric theorems about two-dimensional figures; and modeling using mathematical probability. Technology will be used to introduce and expand upon all areas of focus

Pre-requisite for students taking Mathematics I in Grade 8: Mathematics 7 Accelerated with a grade of C or better

Adopted curricular materials: Reveal Math Integrated I, McGraw Hill or ALEKS (digital curriculum)



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Physical Education

Physical Education 7

08000

Department: Physical Education

Grade Level: 07

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is the study and practice of the science and art of human movement. Through physical education, individuals demonstrate the knowledge and ability to perform motor skills and movement patterns for everyday life. Students will assess and maintain physical fitness to improve health and performance through vigorous activities while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Students will utilize knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies throughout physical activity. The 7th-grade activities and sports may include fitness training, cooperative activities, net games, invasion games, target games, track and field skills, and multi-cultural dance.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned

Physical Education 8

08010

Department: Physical Education

Grade Level: 08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course is the study and practice of the science and art of human movement. Through physical education, individuals demonstrate the knowledge and ability to perform motor skills and movement patterns for everyday life. Students will assess and maintain physical fitness to improve health and performance through vigorous activities while demonstrating knowledge of fitness concepts, principles, and strategies. Students will utilize knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies throughout physical activity. The 8th-grade activities and sports may include volleyball, flag football, team handball, soccer, basketball, square dance, gymnastics/tumbling, fitness training, cooperative activities, and striking and fielding games.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned



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Science

Agricultural Science I

04012

Department: Science

Grade Level: 07

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course engages students in the science and engineering practices of agricultural science through exploration of phenomena, hands-on laboratory activities, problem-solving situations, open-ended investigations, and cooperative/collaborative work. The emphasis will be on the life sciences with the application of agriculture to those content areas. Topics may include structures and processes, ecosystems, heredity, biological evolution, and introduction to United States agriculture. A unit on comprehensive sexual health is also included as part of the curriculum.

Adopted curricular materials: STEMscopes CA-NGSS-3D, Grade 7 Life Science

Agricultural Science II

04022

Department: Science

Grade Level: 08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course provides extensive opportunities to practice and master agricultural science skills introduced in the 7th grade course as well as builds on the science and engineering practices explored in earlier grades. The emphasis will be on the physical sciences and their application to agriculture as a preparation for 9th grade science. Topics may include matter and its interactions, motion and stability, energy, and waves and their applications.

Adopted curricular materials: STEMscopes CA-NGSS-3D, Grade 8 Physical Science

Science 7

04010

Department: Science

Grade Level: 07

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course engages students in science and engineering practices through exploration of phenomena, hands-on laboratory activities, problem-solving situations, open-ended investigations, and cooperative/collaborative work. The course emphasis is on the life sciences, and topics may include structures and processes, ecosystems, heredity, and biological evolution. A unit on comprehensive sexual health is also included as part of the curriculum.

Adopted curricular materials: STEMscopes CA-NGSS-3D, Grade 7 Life Science

Science 8

04020

Department: Science

Grade Level: 08

Credits: 10.0

Max Credits: 10.0

This course builds on the science and engineering practices explored in earlier grades. The course emphasis is on the physical sciences, and topics may include matter and its interactions, motion and stability, energy, and waves and their applications.

Adopted curricular materials: STEMscopes CA-NGSS-3D, Grade 8 Physical Science



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Visual/Performing Arts

Art I 06516

Department: Visual/Performing Arts **Grade Level:** 07-08 **Credits:** 5.0 **Max Credits:** 10.0

This course introduces students to the basic elements and principles of art. The students will experience many of the following two-dimensional media and techniques: paint (watercolor, tempera, and acrylic), oil and chalk pastels, pen and ink, linoleum printing, silk screening, cartooning, and calligraphy. Students will create three-dimensional projects using some of the following materials: clay, paper, wood, leather, glass, enamel, plastic, and metal.

Adopted curricular materials: Exploring Visual Design, Davis Publishing

Art II 06517

Department: Visual/Performing Arts **Grade Level:** 08 **Credits:** 10.0 **Max Credits:** 10.0

This course exposes students to art through hands-on creation using a variety of media and artistic techniques. Graphite pencil, charcoal pencil, watercolors and tempera paint are just a few of the art media that will be explored. The Elements of Art and Principles of Design will be examined through discussion, activities, and the exploration of historical works. The class will consist of projects, warm-ups, technical exercises, critiques and final exams.

Adopted curricular material: No textbook assigned

Band I 06531

Department: Visual/Performing Arts **Grade Level:** 07-08 **Credits:** 10.0 **Max Credits:** 10.0

In this course, students will learn to play a musical instrument. The student is able to choose which instrument he or she will play. Students also learn necessary musical concepts in order to graduate to Band II and/or Jazz Band I. Some school instruments are available for check out to students free of charge.

Adopted curricular materials: Tradition of Excellence: Comprehensive Band Method, Book 1, Kjos Music Press for Band

Band II 06532

Department: Visual/Performing Arts **Grade Level:** 07-08 **Credits:** 10.0 **Max Credits:** 10.0

This course is designed for seventh and eighth grade students with at least one full year of band experience. This class is designed for the serious music student who wants to learn the fundamentals of playing an instrument and interested in developing good musicianship skills. Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required. Note: Parent participation to provide transportation for field trips and to competitions is highly encouraged. Enrollment by teacher request.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned.

Jazz Band I 06581

Department: Visual/Performing Arts **Grade Level:** 07-08 **Credits:** 10.0 **Max Credits:** 10.0

This course is designed for music students that have demonstrated good musicianship and attitude in a beginning instrument class. It is for students who want to play electric guitar or bass. Practice at home and attendance at concerts are required. Enrollment by teacher request.

Adopted curricular materials: No textbook assigned