

**8th Grade
Course Guide
2020-2021**



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2020-2021 PGMS Course Selection Guide

8th Grade

Purpose

Pleasant Grove Middle School is committed to the general purpose that education should provide appropriate learning experiences for every child in the school. Experiences provide each child to continually develop and improve - emotionally, physically, morally, socially, and intellectually. PGMS acknowledges that the student of today will live in a society demanding knowledge and skills related to the use of computers and other technologies. The school is committed to the development of the "whole" child.

The curriculum is in a state of continuous study and revision, readily adaptable to meet the changing needs of children and provide a foundation of knowledge. Methods of instruction reflect recognition of individual differences among students. Instruction equips students with real world work skills, human relations skills, respect for authority, appreciation of our American heritage and other world cultures. Students are exposed to knowledge of how and where to obtain needed information, and an understanding of computers and other technologies which will enable them to function in an ever changing global society.

Well-trained and highly competent staff members demonstrate pride in their professional commitment to the intellectual, social, and moral development of school children. Continuous staff development and professional growth experiences are encouraged. Discipline is considered vitally important to a vigorous educational program. Overall, the school's efforts are directed to help each student become a productive member of our global society, capable of making a definite and positive contribution to society and to himself or herself.

Mission Statement

The mission of Pleasant Grove Independent School District, in collaboration with the community, is to empower students through experiential learning to successfully navigate the opportunities of a competitive and complex world.

Vision

Our Students:

- Embody school pride and display character and citizenship
- Recognize their potential and value and are confident in their ability to compete in an ever-changing society
- Are empowered through learning that cultivates curiosity and individual interest
- Are creative problem solvers who are prepared to actively engage and excel in their community

Our Learning Environment:

- Is driven by teachers and staff who set high expectations and are passionate about education
- Fosters an active relationship between home and school
- Cultivates positive parental and community involvement
- Nurtures each student's physical, mental, emotional and social well-being
- Promotes engaging, interactive instruction that focuses on real-world application and problem solving

Our District Along with the Community:

- Recruits and retains quality teachers and staff who are well-compensated, highly-trained and skilled
- Provides a safe learning environment
- Is innovative and proactive to meet the changing and diverse needs of our students
- Invests resources to promote student success
- Builds and extends partnerships with local businesses, civic organizations, and educational entities
- Promotes awareness of school and student accomplishments

Shared Beliefs

1. What is it we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know if each student has learned it?
3. How will we respond when some students do not learn it?
4. How can we extend and enrich the learning for students who have demonstrated proficiency?

**8th Grade Pleasant Grove Middle School Course Requirements and Descriptions
2020-2021**

Course Requirements (by grade level) Three-Year Plan

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit	English Language Arts	1 unit
Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit	Mathematics	1 unit
Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit	Science/Health	1 unit
Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit	Social Studies	1 unit
Reading	1 unit	Reading	1 unit	Technology Applications	1 unit
P.E./Pre-athletics	1 unit	P.E./Athletics	1 unit	Elective	1 unit
Fine Arts	1 unit	Elective	1 unit	Elective	1 unit

8th Grade Core and/or Required Courses and Numbers

8018 Digital Communications in the 21st Century

1008 English Language Arts (ELA)

1018 Honors English Language Arts

2008 Mathematics

2020 Honors Mathematics

2018 Algebra 1 High School Credit *Prerequisite: Academic Readiness Assessment and meet criteria.

4008 Science

4018 Honors Science

3008 Social Studies

3018 Honors Social Studies

8th Grade Electives and Numbers

Fine Arts

7010 Art 2 *Art 1 is a prerequisite.

7020 Art 3 *Art 2 is a prerequisite.

0010 Middle School Band 2

0003 Middle School Band 3

9014 Dance

7108 Middle School Theatre 2

Technology/Digital Learning Offerings

8039 Digital Video and Audio Design-PG TV/Announcements *Spring application required.

8028 Web Communications/Digital Newspaper

8020 Journalism Yearbook *Spring application required.

8106 STEAM: Mythbusters/Forensics

8072 STEAM: Robotics

Foreign Language

8049 Exploratory Foreign Language Spanish

8040 Spanish 1 (High School Credit)

Physical Education

9008 Athletics Boys'

9001 Athletic Girls'

9012 Cheerleading *Tryouts are held in the Spring.
1228 Drill Team *Tryouts are held in the Spring.
9025 Tennis

Other Elective Options

9037 Study Hall

Use the Course Requirements Three-Year Plan chart on page 2 as a guide for creating a schedule.

Core and/or Required Courses

Digital Communications in the 21st Century

Digital Communications in the 21st Century will prepare students for the societal demands of increased civic literacy, independent working environments, global awareness, and the mastery of a base set of analysis and communication skills. Students will be expected to design and present an effective product based on well-researched issues in order to thoughtfully propose suggested solutions to authoritative stakeholders. The outcome of the process and product approach is to provide students an authentic platform to demonstrate effective application of multimedia tools within the contexts of global communication and collaborative communities and appropriately share their voices to affect change that concerns their future.

English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 8: Course number 1008

Students are expected to demonstrate mastery with critical thinking skills in reading and writing. Various genres of literature such as poetry, drama, short stories, nonfiction, and novels will be used for analyzing literature requiring open-ended responses. Literary elements will be used as springboards for writing a variety of paragraphs, compositions, and detailed compositions. Students will be exposed to a broad range of relevant and engaging topics of interest. Students will be introduced to new vocabulary and apply it when speaking, reading, and writing.

Honors English Language Arts (ELA) Grade 8: Course number 1018

Students will follow the above course description *ELA with a focus on working independently. Students will implement and master a flexible range of metacognitive reading skills in both assigned and independent reading to understand an author's message. Students will continue to apply earlier standards with greater depth in increasingly more complex texts as they become self-directive, critical speakers, readers, and writers. For admission into accelerated English, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level ELA class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Mathematics Grade 8: Course number 2008

Students will demonstrate mastery in the primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. The mathematics curriculum follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skill adopted by the Texas Education Agency.

Honors Mathematics Grade 8: Course number 2020

The Honors math classes challenge motivated and responsible students to understand and demonstrate mastery in-depth, rigorous content. The primary focal areas are numbers and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. 8th grade math also includes the foundations of functions. Honors math coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments in class and outside of class. For admission into accelerated mathematics, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level math class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Algebra 1: Course number 2018

Algebra 1 is a high school credit course designed for students who have displayed advanced mathematical ability. The criterion for student placement in Algebra 1 requires a score of 70% or above on an academic readiness assessment and must have met the minimum standard for grade 7 state assessment. The primary focal areas are functional relationships; properties and attributes of functions; linear functions; linear equations and inequalities; quadratic and other nonlinear functions. Students are responsible for taking the STAAR Algebra 1 End Of Course (EOC) exam.

Science Grade 8: Course number 4008

This course is designed to expose the student to different types of lab techniques and to a broad area of the scientific field. Students will master basic principles of chemistry. This includes atomic structures and functions, learning to interpret the periodic table, and being introduced to chemical and physical reactions in the lab. Students will learn about force and motion and how that relates to movements of all types. Students will use graphs and calculations to determine acceleration, speed, and velocity. The next section involves earth and space science. Topics under these units include plate tectonics, weather and climate, stars, galaxies, and the people involved in the development of scientific theories. The students will finish the year by studying organisms and their environment.

Honors Science Grade 8: Course number 4018

The Honors science class requires mastery of the same TEKS as the on grade-level class, but will require more higher-order thinking and independent study. There will be at least one project per marking period to be completed outside of class. Also, students will work at an accelerated pace and cover the material more in-depth. For admission into accelerated science, the following performance standards shall be recommended. A student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level science class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

Social Studies Grade 8: Course number 3008

(U.S. History) Students demonstrate mastery in the study of the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of Supreme

Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material.

Honors Social Studies Grade 8: Course number 3018

(U.S. History) Students will demonstrate mastery in the study of the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will be responsible for independent thinking and projects to demonstrate learning by using technology and higher order thinking skills. Students will research topics to be debated and discussed in class. Tests will include short essay questions and map analyzing. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze the various economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine the American beliefs reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19th century and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizens of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a constitutional republic. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. Students use critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual material. A student shall have (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level Social Studies class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian.

8th Grade Electives

Fine Arts

Art 2: *Art 1 is a prerequisite. Course number 7010

Students will implement techniques with perception, creative expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage and critical evaluation.

Art 3: *Art 1 and 2 are prerequisites. Course number 7020

Students will implement techniques with In-depth study of art through the four basic strands of perception. Third-year Art students will be creative with expression/performance, historical and cultural heritage and critical evaluation.

Middle School Band 1: Course numbers - 0001 for Percussion, 0002 for Trombone, 0004 for French horn, 0005 for Trumpet, 0006 for Baritone/Tuba, 0007 for Clarinet, 0008 for Flute, 0009 for Saxophone

Instrument specific, basic musicianship and performance techniques are learned on individual woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments. Beginning band emphasizes proper performance technique, breath control, tone, quality, range, and proper posture. Students are assigned a musical instrument based upon a student assessment. Performance opportunities are included.

Middle School Band 2: Course number 0010

Performance techniques and fundamentals are reinforced, adding new material to repertoire by learning new music and mastering additional technical exercises and advanced musical expression; built upon previous knowledge and skills, continue to advance musical abilities. Performance opportunities are included.

Middle School Band 3: Course number 0003

Performance techniques and fundamentals are reinforced; adding new material to repertoire by learning new music and mastering additional technical exercises and advanced musical expression; built upon previous knowledge and skills, and continue to advance musical abilities. Performance opportunities are included.

Dance: Course number 9014

Students will learn the fundamentals of various types of dance, including ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance.

Middle School Theatre 2 Course number 7108

Students will be given an overview of dramatic and theatrical arts that will increase their communication and interpersonal skills, critical and creative thinking, and willingness to work collaboratively as part of a team. The course develops students who are appreciative and evaluative of theatre, film, and other storytelling techniques by promoting a cultural and historical understanding of theatre; using theatre to master and cultivate reading, writing, and public speaking skills; and inspiring creativity and problem-solving through physical and vocal expression.

Physical Education (P.E.)

Athletics: Course number 9008 for boys' athletics; Course number 9001 for girls' athletics Athletics requires rigorous physical training, daily participation, and regular UIL competition in up to three sports; after-school practice will be required. Boys may participate in football, basketball, and track and field events. Girls may participate in volleyball, basketball, and track and field events.

Cheerleading: Course number 9012

The focus of cheerleading is to create school spirit and promote a sense of pride and dignity in PGMS. While experiencing teamwork, we will strive to develop a sense of fair play and learn the importance of doing one's best. Cheerleaders will cheer at pep rallies, PGMS sporting events, and other special events and competitions as required. Tryouts are held during the spring (second) semester for the following school year.

Drill Team: Course number 1228

Drill Team is a physical conditioning and performance-oriented course. Drill Team includes various areas of performance preparation for athletic events, parades, pep rallies, and other school and community related functions. Such preparation shall include the following areas of concentration: warm-up and stretching techniques, dancing techniques, and marching techniques. Tryouts are held during the spring (second) semester for the following school year.

Tennis: Course number 9025

The goal for Tennis class is educate, build character, and help develop skills from hard work . Players will learn the basics and scoring, and progress to matches and prepare them for high school tennis. The mission is to expose all players to the importance of working together for a common goal and to create a high level of teamwork.

Technology/Digital Learning Offerings

Digital Video and Audio Design

Digital Video & Audio Design (DVAD), is the fusion of creative and intellectual skills with technological innovations to create interactive and participatory media products. It connects traditional journalism skills and ethics with expertise in video production, audio mastering, podcasting, and convergent media packages for the web. A strong foundation in production methods including pre-production, production, and post-production will be developed. This course incorporates project-based and cooperative learning to develop the next generation of writers and news media entrepreneurs.

Web Communications/ Digital Newspaper: Course number 8028

In Web Communications, students will learn to make informed decisions and apply the decisions to the field of IT. Students will implement personal and interpersonal skills to prepare for a rapidly evolving workplace environment. The knowledge and skills acquired and practiced will enable students to successfully perform and interact in a technology-driven society. Students will enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and critical thinking and apply them to the IT environment.

Journalism Yearbook: Course number 8020

Students will demonstrate and master creativity, responsibility, and cooperation in producing the school yearbook. While learning desktop publishing, they will have the opportunity to plan theme concepts, design and photography coverage as well as writing and editing copy. To be eligible for this class, students must have an 85+ average for the first semester in English Language Arts courses, submit a writing sample, and get teacher recommendations. Limited space. Spring application required.

STEAM: Mythbusters/Forensics: Course number 8106

MythBusters - (1st semester)

Students will master Discovery Education and solve “Myths” using science and technology. Separating truth from fiction can be tough. This elective allows students to endeavor and find the truth as myths are put to the test in the classroom! Students will problem-solve, collaborate, and make new discoveries. This class is inspired by the hit TV show “Mythbusters.” Myth Busting activities follow the STEAM initiatives.

Forensics - (2nd semester)

Students will be introduced and master the field of forensic science as they explore different areas of Crime Scene Investigation, including DNA analysis, forensic biology, ballistics, fingerprinting, serology, and physical evidence. This course will use web-based and hands-on activities to create authentic, interactive learning experiences.

STEAM: Robotics Programming and Design

Robotics Programming and Design will foster students' creativity and innovation by presenting opportunities to design, implement, and present meaningful robotic programs through a variety of media. Students will collaborate with one another, their instructor, and various electronic communities to solve problems in designing and programming robots. Through data analysis,

students will identify task requirements, plan search strategies, and use robotic concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. By using robotic knowledge and skills that support the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results. Students will learn digital citizenship by researching current laws and regulations and by practicing integrity and respect. Students will gain an understanding of the principles of robotics through the study of physics, robotics, automation, and engineering design concepts.

Foreign Language

Exploratory Foreign Language Spanish: Course 0052

The purpose of the course is to provide opportunities for mastery and improvement in student self-development through the study of Spanish language and culture. The content includes, but is not limited to exploration of basic principles of Spanish language, cultural concepts related to the Spanish-speaking world, and comparisons between the students' own language and culture and that of Spanish-speaking countries. Exploratory Spanish introduces students to the target language and its culture. Students will learn beginning skills of listening and speaking and be introduced to basic skills in reading and writing in Spanish. Also, culture and comparisons are included in this course.

Spanish 1: (High School Credit) Course number 8040

Spanish 1 is a high school credit course designed for students to master skills who have displayed accelerated

English Language Arts and reading abilities at the middle school level. Students will gain knowledge of the Spanish language and culture through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Spanish 1 is a rigorous high school level course that will require study time outside of the classroom and regular homework assignments. Spanish I may also be taken at Pleasant Grove High School. For admission into Spanish 1 at the middle school level, the following performance standards shall be recommended. In English and Reading a student shall have: (1) earned a previous year grade average of 90+ in an on-level class or an 85+ in an accelerated class; (2) met the standard on the state-mandated assessment; (3) obtained permission from his or her parent(s) or guardian. Reading and English will be averaged together.

Other Elective Options

Study Hall: Course number 9037

Designed to provide an environment conducive to studying, preparing for exams, completing assignments and projects, and completing missed assignments due to absences. Students must come prepared daily with specific course assignments. Reinforcement programs for state assessments are also included.