

**IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
LAKESIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**3 Lemongrass
Irvine, CA 92604
(949) 936-6100**

2008-2009

8TH GRADE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS/SOCIAL SCIENCE is integrated through an interdisciplinary team approach in which the skills and content of both curricula complement each other. A language arts/social science team of teachers works closely with students throughout the two-year program in order to achieve continuity and build upon the skills mastered in the first year. This highly successful program allows teachers and students to establish a healthy student-teacher relationship, which leads to a meaningful middle school experience.

The language arts curriculum is a literature-based program integrated with the social science content. The program emphasizes learning experiences that build upon the student's prior knowledge to integrate reading, thinking, literature, writing, oral language, spelling, listening and research skills.

In social science, the curriculum is a study of United States history and geography, which includes ideas, issues and events that link the past to the present.

Active learning is incorporated into both the social science and language arts curricula through hands-on projects using research skills, writing activities, simulations, cooperative learning, dramatizations, oral presentations and use of higher level thinking skills. Additionally, language arts and social science classes also emphasize the application of word processing and Internet research skills.

In Lakeside's unique, comprehensive program, we address the needs of GATE and high achieving students in the classroom by providing opportunities to develop leadership and communication skills, higher level thinking skills and problem solving techniques. In addition, our staff has developed specialized curricula for the advanced students, in which they are clustered and interact with their peer group for literature, writing technology and independent studies.

All support staff participate in the language arts/social science program through the collaborative model. By partnering with the regular teachers, specialists are able to provide direct classroom support and instruction to all students as well as those with learning difficulties.

MATHEMATICS instruction is divided into two classes as follows:

370 **TRANSITIONAL ALGEBRA** is the program designed to prepare students for high school Algebra I in the 9th grade. Focus is on developing the topics introduced in Intro to Pre-Algebra to a mastery level. Students will build on their understanding of linear functions, including solving complex equations and inequalities and graphing, as well as develop a conceptual foundation of exponential and quadratic functions in preparation for Algebra I. Critical mathematical thinking, analyzing and solving complex problems in realistic situations and communicating mathematically are all emphasized. Most Introduction to Algebra students are placed into Algebra I in 9th grade, which is the regular college-preparatory sequence.

381 **ALGEBRA I** is a 9th grade course offered to accelerated math students. These are students who enjoy and are confident in math. Placement in this course is reserved for students who have successfully completed Pre-Algebra or on the recommendation of a Intro to Pre-Algebra teacher based on exceptionally high seventh-grade work habits, placement test, and basic skills test scores. This course is standards based.

SCIENCE 8 is activity based. Standards are covered and reinforced with a variety of demonstrations, experiments and hands-on activities, including building a mousetrap car, the physics of roller coasters and construction of 3-D DNA molecules. The year is divided into three trimester courses covering life science, physical science and earth science.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION is a co-educationally based instructional program designed to encourage lifetime involvement in physical activity. Basic knowledge and skill acquisition in a variety of sports and activities are presented as part of a two-year curriculum. Sports and activities include, but are not exclusive to: basketball, bowling, dance, flag football, floor hockey, Frisbee, golf, lacrosse, pickle-ball, racquetball, soccer, softball, table tennis, team handball, track and field, volleyball and innovative games. Students will also receive instruction in a variety of health and fitness related concepts. The "Lakeside Physical Challenge" fitness test will be administered during the first and third trimesters allowing students the opportunity to assess their fitness and set goals. In order to maintain and/or improve fitness, students will perform cardio-respiratory and resistance training activities on a regular basis.

ELECTIVES

TRIMESTER COURSES:

- 164** **PUBLIC SPEAKING/DEBATING** (grade 7/8) In this course, students will give individual speeches on various topics. The class will also include a debating section with students working in groups to prepare debates. Another facet of the class will be television shows and commercials, which will be written, produced and directed by the students utilizing video equipment.
- 221** **BEGINNING SPANISH** (grade 7/8) This is a one-trimester class designed to expose students to the Spanish language through the development of basic Spanish vocabulary. The course will focus on listening and oral communication skills that will lay a foundation for success in future Spanish courses. Students will also be introduced to the geography and culture of various Spanish-speaking countries. It is recommended that anyone interested in taking Spanish I in 8th grade or high school enroll in this course.
- 685** **LAW IN SOCIETY** (grade 7/8) This is a one-trimester class designed to expose students to the various responsibilities of lawyers and judges while taking part in simulated, role-playing activities. Students will take part in a series of short trials using fun and timely fact scenarios. The course will focus on both the crafting and judging of persuasive arguments. Students will also explore the role that law plays in their daily lives and how teens earned the rights they have today.
- 710** **ART APPRECIATION** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will be introduced to art and artists from Renaissance through Modern periods. After the introductions, students will recreate famous works using a variety of mediums including clay, pastels, tempera paint, and watercolors. There is a \$10.00 materials fee requested.
- 711** **JUST DRAWING** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will be introduced to a variety of drawing techniques such as sketching, contour, and technical drawing, using an assortment of mediums. There is a \$5.00 lab fee requested.

- 715** **VIDEO PRODUCTION** This class is designed to teach students the skills needed to produce and edit digital video projects. They will learn digital computer editing, sound mixing, lighting design and camera techniques. We will be applying a “hands-on” approach with the ultimate goal of producing our 7th and 8th grade slide show videos.
- 717** **JUST PAINTING** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will explore a variety of painting techniques and skills, including murals, window painting, watercolor, tempera, oil pastels, acrylics and ink washes. Subject will include plants, trees, structures, the human form, animals, landscapes, self-portraits and more. There is a \$10.00 materials fee requested.
- 725** **CERAMICS** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will create clay projects using a variety of hand building techniques. Students will be introduced to the history of clay projects, fundamentals of ceramics, including types of clay, firing techniques and low-fire glazes. Students will also participate in a large-scale group project. There is a \$15.00 materials fee requested.
- 790** **DRAMA** (grade 7/8) This is a trimester class in which students perform plays during school assemblies and in the evening for parents, friends and families. Class includes lip syncs, stage directions, auditions, part memorization, performances and stagecraft.
- 831** **HOME ARTS** (grade 7/8) Students will experience six weeks of sewing, the practical application of tools, vocabulary, safety, and measuring for completing one sewing craft project. The second six weeks are spent in the food lab learning about safety, measuring, and practical experience in food preparation and nutrition. There is a \$20.00 materials fee requested.
- 961** **TEACHER ASSISTANT** (grade 8) A trimester class in which the student assists a teacher in organization, paperwork, bulletin boards, grading and filing. **(Teacher recommendation/signature required.)**
- 962** **LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER ASSISTANT** (grade 8) A trimester class in which a student learns skills used in running a library media center, including processing books, operating copiers and assist in a computer lab. The student needs to be willing to be an independent worker who can provide service with a smile. **Teacher recommendation/signature on registration card is required. (Sunderman)**
- 963** **OFFICE ASSISTANT** (grade 8) A trimester course in which student assistants learn a variety of general office skills and responsibilities such as filing, distributing mail and answering phones. Students work and interact directly with all staff members and office personnel including the Principal, Assistant Principal, Secretary, Clerks and Nurse. **(Administrative approval is required.)**
- 970** **STUDY SKILLS** (grade 7/8) This course is designed to assist students in completing school assignments and homework. When needed, students will be given access to the school technology to complete their assignments.

YEAR-LONG COURSES:

- 225** **SPANISH 1** (grade 8) This is a high school course designed to provide instruction of the written and spoken language and the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Activities, which may include singing, crafts and fiestas, take place in the class. An average grade of at least an A- in Language Arts, and the **Language Arts teacher's recommendation/signature are required for entrance into the class.**
- 751** **CONCERT BAND** This is an intermediate level wind and percussion ensemble. Students who have previous experience as well as motivated beginners are welcome to join. Although a limited number of school instruments are available for use, most students will need to rent or buy an instrument. Performances are mandatory.
- 759** **SYMPHONIC BAND** This is an advanced level wind and percussion ensemble. In order to join, students should have two or more years experience and have the recommendation of their elementary music instructor to join. Although a limited number of school instruments are available for use, most students will need to rent or buy an instrument. Performances are mandatory.
REQUIRES MUSIC TEACHER'S SIGNATURE.
- 763** **CONCERT ORCHESTRA** This is an intermediate level string ensemble. Students who have previous experience as well as motivated beginners are welcome to join. Although a limited number of school instruments are available for use, most students will need to rent or buy an instrument. Performances are mandatory.
- 766** **SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA** This is an advanced level string ensemble. In order to join, students should have three or more years experience and have the recommendation of their elementary music instructor. Although a limited number of school instruments are available for use, most students will need to rent or buy an instrument. Performances are mandatory.
REQUIRES MUSIC TEACHER'S SIGNATURE.
- 775** **CHORUS** This performing class provides students with the chance to sing in a choral ensemble. Enrollment is open to all students regardless of previous experience. Students may enroll in this class for a single trimester or for the entire year. Performances are mandatory.
- 954** **YEARBOOK** (grade 8) This course is trimester 1 and 2. Students in this course will learn how to plan, design, create and sell Lakeside's yearbook. Software training will include lessons on PhotoShop and InDesign. Students interested in this course should have a passion for writing and/or an interest in photography and graphic design. **(Requires approval by the Language Arts teacher.)**
- 991** **STUDENT LEADERSHIP** (grade 8 - one, two or three trimesters) In this class students will take a leadership role in planning, organizing and carrying through to completion student activities, assemblies and special events for the school year. Students will participate in school events as well as serve as chairpersons and members of various committees. Students elected as ASB officers will automatically become members of the Student Leadership class. **Teacher recommendation/signature on registration card is required. (Pang)**