



IRVINE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

LAKESIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

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2011-2012 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:

TRANSITIONAL ALGEBRA is the second year of the two year program designed to prepare students for Algebra I in the 9th grade. Focus is on the foundational skills for Algebra I, such as solving complex equations and inequalities, working with linear functions and their graphs, and developing conceptual foundation of exponential and quadratic functions. Critical mathematical thinking, analyzing and solving complex problems in realistic situations and communicating mathematically are all emphasized. Most Transitional Algebra students are placed into Algebra I in 9th grade, which is the regular college-preparatory sequence.

ALGEBRA I is a high school equivalent 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 the Intro to Pre-Algebra

teacher based on exceptionally high seventh-grade work habits, placement test, and basic skills test scores. Students that maintain a B or higher in Algebra I are eligible to enroll in Geometry in the high school and are on track to complete AP level coursework in high school. Students seeking Honors placement in high school must maintain A's all three trimesters.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8 This course is designed to investigate physical science using an integrated approach. The focus is to instill sound investigative and critical thinking skills in our students so they will be able to design their own experiments. Scientific Inquiry is a significant, embedded part of this course. Topics covered include Chemistry: properties and states of matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonds and reactions, chemistry of living systems and solutions, acids, and bases; Physics: forces, motion and buoyant forces; and Earth in Space including astronomical units and the structure of other objects in our solar system. Student directed activities include building an individual mousetrap car, a group seltzer rocket and building kit roller coasters.

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 basketball, bowling, dance, flag football, floor hockey, Frisbee, golf, lacrosse, pickle-ball, racquetball, soccer, softball, table tennis, team handball, track, volleyball and innovative games. Students will also receive instruction in a variety of health and fitness related concepts. A physical fitness pretest will be administered during the first trimester allowing students the opportunity to assess their fitness and set goals. Throughout the year students will perform cardio-respiratory and resistance training activities on a regular basis in order to maintain and/or improve their personal fitness. A final assessment of physical fitness will be administered during the third trimester to see if students have achieved the Lakeside basic level standards as well as their own personal goals.

ELECTIVES

TRIMESTER ELECTIVE COURSES:

- 164** **PUBLIC SPEAKING/DEBATING** (grade 7/8) In this course, students will give individual speeches on various topics. Students will learn public speaking strategies, such as using varying voice pitches, eye contact, body language, and formal speech format to reach the audience. The class will also include a debating section with students working in groups to prepare debates. Students will learn the different roles and rules of debate as well as the importance of preparing proper arguments and rebuttals.
- 176** **JOURNALISM** (grades 7/8) In this course, students will explore the history of media and its current influence in the world. The class will allow students to study current events as explored through the use of the daily newspaper. Students will become "Lakeside reporters" and have the opportunity to interview, write short stories and take photos for the annual "Lakeside Letter" newspaper.
- 220** **INTRO TO 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 various courtroom roles through simulated, role-playing activities. Students will take part in a series of short trials using fun and timely fact scenarios. Coursework will focus on the crafting and judging of persuasive arguments, and the application of basic legal strategies. Students will also examine theories of crime and punishment and explore the role that law plays in their daily lives.

- 710** **ART APPRECIATION** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will be introduced to art and artists from Prehistoric through Modern periods. After the introductions, students will recreate works of art using a variety of mediums including clay, pastels, tempera paint, and watercolors.
- 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, cartooning, and technical drawing, using an assortment of mediums.
- 715** **VIDEO PRODUCTION** (grade 7/8) 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. Additionally this class is responsible for creating our school video news program, “Lakeside Live.”
- 717** **JUST PAINTING** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will explore a variety of painting techniques and skills which may include murals, window painting, watercolor, tempera, and ink washes. Subject may include plants, trees, structures, the human form, animals, landscapes, self-portraits and more.
- 725** **CERAMICS** (grade 7/8) In this 12-week repeatable class, students will create ceramic art 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 may also participate in a large-scale group project.
- 790** **DRAMA** (grade 7/8) Students will be introduced to basic performance skills through monologues, scene work, and improvisation, culminating in a final production presented in an evening performance for families and friends, as well as during school wide assemblies. All students are welcome, regardless of previous performance experience. This course is repeatable.
- 835** **FUN WITH FOOD – Survival Cooking for Middle Schoolers** (grade7/8) Students will experience twelve weeks of cooking, including introduction to safety and measuring, practical applications of cooking tools, reading and understanding recipes, exploration of nutrition and hands-on learning through in class food preparation. Most importantly, they will get to enjoy the delicious food that they cook!
- 837** **SEWING SECRETS & CREATIVE CRAFTS** (grade 7/8) This class introduces beginners to the basics of embroidery and sewing. Students learn the practical application of tools, vocabulary, safety, and measuring for completing embroidery and sewing machine craft projects including a cartoon pillow project. Students will get to keep the fabulous creations that they make in this class!
- 961** **TEACHER ASSISTANT** (grade 8) A trimester class in which the student assists a teacher in organization, paperwork, bulletin boards, and filing. **(Teacher signature on registration card is 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/librarian signature on registration card is required).**
- 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 delivering call slips to teachers. Students work and interact directly with all staff members and office personnel including the Principal, Assistant Principal, Secretary, Clerks and Nurse. **(Front office staff signature on registration card is required.)**

YEAR-LONG ELECTIVE COURSES:

- 225** **SPANISH 1** (grade 8) This is a high school equivalent 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 recommendation of the language arts or Spanish teacher are required for enrollment in this course. **(Language arts or Spanish teacher's signature on registration card is required.)**
- 751** **CONCERT BAND** (grade 7/8) This is an intermediate level wind and percussion ensemble. Students who have previous experience as well as motivated beginners are welcome to join. Instruments are available upon request. Performances are mandatory.
- 759** **SYMPHONIC BAND** (grade 7/8) 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 school music instructor to join. Instruments are available upon request. Performances are mandatory. **(Music teacher's signature on registration card is required.)**
- 763** **CONCERT ORCHESTRA** (grade 7/8) This is an intermediate level string ensemble. Students who have previous experience as well as motivated beginners are welcome to join. Instruments are available upon request. Performances are mandatory.
- 766** **SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA** (grade 7/8) 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 school music instructor. Instruments are available upon request. Performances are mandatory. **(Music teacher's signature on registration card is required.)**
- 775** **CHORUS** (grade 7/8) This performing class provides students with the chance to sing in a choral ensemble. Enrollment is open to all students regardless of previous experience. Performances are mandatory.
- 954** **YEARBOOK** (grade 8) Students in this course will learn how to plan, design, create and sell Lakeside's yearbook. Students will receive online training in designing and editing pages in the yearbook. Students interested in this course should have a passion for writing and/or an interest in photography and graphic design. **(Language arts teacher's signature on registration card is required.)**
- 991** **STUDENT LEADERSHIP** (grade 8) In this class, students will take a leadership role in various activities including dances, competitions, community service at school and in the community, fundraising, purchases, learning parliamentary procedures, and most importantly, becoming role models for others on campus. Students will also have the opportunity to serve as chairpersons and members of various committees. Students elected as ASB officers will automatically become members of the Student Leadership class. **(Prior application and approval for this class by Ms. Seydewitz is required.)**

*8th grade course descriptions 2011-2012
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