

King Middle School

Course Description Guide

2020-2021

OVERVIEW

It is important for students to be enrolled in courses that will challenge them, but also allow for academic success. That balance is achieved by considering FSA scores, report card grades, work ethic, course pre-requisites and teacher recommendations.

Textbooks are purchased, the Master Schedule is created, and teachers are hired based on student registration in classes. Schedule changes are NOT made after the school year begins, unless there has been a clerical error or a student has been misplaced. Students and parents need to carefully select classes based on course descriptions, teacher recommendation and counselor advice.

We make every effort to honor students' elective choices, but Class Size Amendment which limits the number of students in core courses does have an effect on our master schedule. This may mean that it is not possible to balance classes and give all students their first or second choice of electives. Students with low FSA scores will be in remediation classes instead of electives.

Teacher recommendations for the level of classes are important because the teacher observes the student's work ethic, organizational skills, and maturity. Advanced and honors classes require extra time and commitment on the part of the student.

All applications will be picked up and returned to the Guidance department.

ADVANCED/HONORS/DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASSES

Advanced and honors courses have several FSA and course pre-requisites and have an expectation of considerable homework, class participation, good behavior & attitude, required outside projects, and outside-of-class preparation.

High school dual enrollment classes have higher FSA pre-requisites, an expectation of nightly homework, outside reading and preparation, outside projects, and expectations of good behavior & attitude. *Comprehensive semester exams comprise at least 20% of the semester report card grade. Students must pass a state End-of-Course Exam in math classes to receive credit for the class, regardless of grades.*

Dual enrollment classes establish the student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA) and will appear on high school transcripts. Students and parents should discuss the number of dual enroll classes that a student can handle at one time because of the daily out-of-class-time required to prepare for these classes. Grades of an A or B in Dual Enrollment courses indicate success. A "C" average means the student would carry a 2.0 GPA on the high school transcript. Students earning a quarter grade of D or F will be removed from the class.

AVID

Seventh and eighth grade students who need extra support to be on a college-bound track may apply for acceptance to the AVID program. These students have an AVID elective each day in place of another elective. AVID is an elective course designed to prepare students for college readiness and success. Students who apply for and are accepted into the course must also take at least one advanced level or high school course. The AVID curriculum supports students as they undertake the most rigorous courses, with emphasis on writing as a learning tool, the inquiry method, collaborative grouping, organization, and academic reading.

***Guidance counselors have application packets.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 6 Students learn several techniques to improve their expository and persuasive writing skills. Grammar mini lessons are presented, as a strong understanding of English grammar translates into solid writing. Greek and Latin roots are studied in order to create expansive vocabularies. Reading strategies such as KWL Plus, selective highlighting, and text coding are emphasized, and literature study includes award winning young adult fiction, short stories, plays, and poetry.

Language Arts 7 Greek and Latin roots are studied in order to create expansive vocabularies. Literature study includes fiction, nonfiction, short stories, drama, and poetry. Grammar lessons are presented to help students identify patterns and rules found in the English language. Techniques and devices are taught to improve expository and persuasive writing skills. Literary techniques and devices are used in comprehension and creation of written, oral, and visual communication. Multimedia tools are used to enhance communication, presentations, and information relevant to the course.

Language Arts 8 Curriculum focuses on reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing competencies, which are integrated throughout students' learning experiences. Major emphasis is on the implementation of the writing process with both formal and informal writing situations. Eighth grade students will learn several strategies to improve their expository and persuasive writing skills, which prepare students for FSA Writes. Eighth graders will study elements of literature, grammar, and vocabulary while reading young adult fiction, nonfiction, short stories, plays, and poetry.

Advanced Language Arts 6, 7, or 8 Advanced classes are more rigorous than regular classes with expectations of more advanced writing and reading assignments requiring more out-of-class time and homework. Unit Performance Assessments will be at a higher level. Writing and reading are more mature and challenging.

****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

English I Honors This is a High School Dual Enrollment course that is offered to eighth grade students who meet academic requirements and have teacher recommendation. Grades will be on the high school transcript. Unit studies and themes are consistent with the ninth grade honors language arts curriculum. Class requirements include extensive outside reading, writing and projects. A cumulative exam counts for at least 20% of the semester grade.

****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

MATHEMATICS

Intensive Math 6, 7, or 8 This course covers the same material as regular math but provides extra remediation for students who scored below proficiency on the FSA Math the prior year.

Mathematics 6 This course covers the operations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions, exponents, ratio and proportion, basic geometry, estimation, data display, standard and metric measurement, and the use of variables.

Advanced Mathematics 6 For the highly motivated student who earned As & Bs in fifth grade math and has teacher recommendation, along with above average FSA scores. This course goes beyond the standard sixth grade course by including operations with integers, negative exponents, several types of percent problems, and multi-step equations in one variable.

****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

Mathematics 7 This course covers a variety of general math topics from core curriculum, including basic statistics, number theory, algebraic reasoning, proportional reasoning, percentages, probability and basic geometry.

Advanced Math 7 This course is primarily a Pre-Algebra course that prepares students for high school level Honors Algebra in eighth grade. This course has a strong emphasis on the use of variables in equations and inequalities, operations with integers, number relationships, number theory, patterns and functions, basic geometry and problem-solving strategies.

*** *Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan*

Mathematics 8 This course is primarily a Pre-Algebra course that is designed to prepare students to take Algebra I in high school. This course has a strong emphasis on the use of variables in equations and expressions and focuses on operations with integers and fractions. Basic geometric concepts are taught with an emphasis on algebraic thinking. In addition, the course covers word-problem solving strategies, probability and data analysis.

Algebra I Honors This course meets high school dual enrollment credit requirements. Students must complete and demonstrate mastery of the material covered in advanced 7th grade math and have earned a 3, 4 or 5 on the most current FSA Mathematics. Emphasis is on algebraic solutions to complex word problems, including functions and systems of equations, polynomials, irrational numbers and quadratic equations. Students are required to take the same cumulative semester exams that are given in high school, counting at least 20 percent of the semester grade. 7th grade students may qualify for this course by taking and scoring at least a high 8 on the IOWA Test as a 6 grader, along with a minimum grade of an A in advanced 6th Math and teacher recommendation.

*** *Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan*

Geometry Honors This is a high school dual enrollment course that will be on the high school transcript. The primary objective is to teach students how to reason mathematically through visualization, analysis and deductive reasoning. Proficiency with geometric skills is developed and applied to the understanding of geometric concepts. Topics include angle measurements and relationships, parallel line relationships, properties of polygons and solids, congruent triangles, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, constructions, area, volume and coordinate geometry. Emphasis is on logic and proofs. A variety of applications and general problem-solving techniques, including algebra skills, are required. Pre-requisites are a recommendation from the algebra teacher and a grade of 85 % or better in Algebra I Honors.

*** *Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan*

SCIENCE

Science 6 This course studies general concepts, theories, and processes relating to these core questions: *How do we learn about our world and ourselves? What are the parts of living things and how do they work? Why do some parts of our world change while others stay the same? How do natural forces affect our lives? How can we use models to learn about our world?* The content includes scientific method, laws and theories, cell structure and function, organization levels, body systems, classification, rock cycle, Earth structures, weathering and erosion, energy, weather, and force and motion.

Science 7 This course studies general concepts, theories, and processes relating to these core questions: *In what ways do living things interact with each other and the environment? Why does the Earth change over time? How does energy move in the environment? What is our role on Earth?* The content includes the scientific method, environmental organization, food chains and webs, ecosystems, resource conservation, fossils, evolution, endangered and extinct species, genetics and heredity, continental drift, plate tectonics, and energy and waves.

Science 8 This course studies general concepts, theories and processes relating to these core questions: *How are science and technology used to solve problems and improve our way of life? How are objects in the universe organized? What does the structure of an object tell us about how it works? Why are both stability and change necessary for sustaining life?* Content includes the scientific method, seasonal changes, lunar phases, sun and planets, space exploration, electromagnetic spectrum, matter, atoms, periodic table, acids and bases, chemical reactions, cellular respiration, and human growth & development.

Advanced Science 6, 7 or 8 Designed for the highly motivated above-average student who can read and work independently outside of class to prepare. Requires more homework and out-of-class reading. Advanced students need to demonstrate time management and multi-tasking skills.

*** *Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan*

Integrated Science

Laboratory investigations in the high school classroom should help all students develop a growing understanding of the complexity and ambiguity of empirical work, as well as the skills to calibrate and troubleshoot equipment used to make observations. Learners should understand measurement error; and have the skills to aggregate, interpret, and present the resulting data. Students are required to take the same cumulative semester exams that are given in high school, counting at least 20 percent of the semester grade.

***** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan**

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History This course focuses on the development of the world community within the context of history by examining connections to the past to prepare for the future as participating members of a global society. Students will use knowledge of history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, and social and employment settings.

Advanced World History Designed for the highly motivated student who can read and work independently outside of class.

***** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan**

Civics This state-required course provides a study of the foundations of government and what it means to enjoy the freedoms and liberty that a democracy provides its citizens. The course work is also integrated with economics, and geography. **In order to be promoted from middle school, students must pass and End-of Course Exam.**

Advanced Civics Designed for the highly motivated student who can read and work independently outside of class.

***** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan**

United States History The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the development of the United States within the context of history by examining connections to the past to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. Students will use knowledge pertaining to history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, social, and employment settings.

Advanced United States History Designed for the highly motivated student who has teacher recommendation and can read and work independently.

***** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan**

ELECTIVES

ART

Studio Art 1 (7th/8th beginning class) Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provide a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Studio Art 2 Students refine techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional (2-D) artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students manipulate the structural elements of art to promote creative risk-taking in 2-D artwork. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provides a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Studio Art 3 Students will be placed based on prerequisites and/or experience.

BAND

***All students may sign up for Beginning Band. Other bands require a recommendation from the Band teacher.*

Beginning Band This course is for students with no previous band experience. Students will choose from several different band Instruments. No previous music reading knowledge is necessary. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is part of this course.

Intermediate Band This course is for seventh and eighth grade students with at least one year of band instruction. The purpose of this course is to continue to develop playing skills and related non-playing concepts. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is a required part of this course.

Jazz Band This course is for any student that has successfully completed Beginning Band. The purpose of this course is to introduce Jazz concepts, styles and history. To be in Jazz Band, all students MUST be in Intermediate or Advanced Band. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is a required part of this course.

Advanced Band For eighth graders with at least one year of band instruction, the course continues to develop playing skills and related non-playing concepts. Advanced seventh grade band students may be placed in this group with teacher approval. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is required.

CHORUS

Women's Chorus- This is an advanced course for 7th and 8th grade girls who have already completed a year of chorus. The purpose of this ensemble is to continue to develop high level vocal and choral techniques as well as overall musicianship. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is part of this course.
Teacher recommendation is required.

Men's Chorus- Open to all 7th and 8th grade boys who have completed a prior course of Chorus or are new to the class. Designed for boys to learn proper vocal technique to become better singers and musicians. This class incorporates learning to read music lyrics, notation and symbols. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is part of this course.

Swing Choir- Open to 7th and 8th grade girls as a class that combines singing with choreography. Students learn proper vocal technique and sing various styles of music, focusing on jazz, Broadway, and pop.

Crusader Chorus (7/8 Beginning Class)- For 7th and 8th grade girls who have not had chorus before. Designed for students to learn proper vocal technique to become better singers and musicians. This class incorporates learning to read music lyrics, notation, and symbols. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is part of this course.

HEALTH

Health 1 The purpose of this course is to give students initial exposure to the skills and attitudes associated with a broad range of occupations relating to careers in health, including job requirements and tasks performed, to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals.

Health 2 The purpose of this course is to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals and to provide information regarding careers in the Health Science career cluster.

HOSA The purpose of this course is to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals and to provide information regarding careers in the Health Science career cluster. This is a club that participates in district, state and national
****Application required****

Journalism

Journalism 1 The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in the production of journalism across print, multimedia, web, and broadcast/radio platforms and to develop knowledge of journalism history, ethics use, and management techniques related to the production of journalistic media.

Application required

Journalism 2 The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop skills in the production of journalism across print, multimedia, web, and broadcast/radio platforms and to become aware of journalism history, careers, ethics use, and management techniques related to the production of journalistic media. Some activities may be required outside of the school day.

Application required

ORCHESTRA

Beginning Orchestra – Orchestra students will have a chance to try Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass and will then pick an instrument to learn for the rest of the year. Students who choose Orchestra at the end of the year will learn to play various styles of music including, Fiddle, Classical, Rock, and Metal (a few students will also double on Electric Guitar, Electric Bass and Drum-set). Students will be able to read music notation by the end of the first semester. The two classes will combine to perform for Demo night and the Spring concert.

Concert Orchestra is the natural progression for Beginning Orchestra students and those with one or more years playing experience. Instruction will move quickly, and two method books will be completed. This orchestra will play various styles of music including, Fiddle, Classical, Rock, and Contemporary (a few students will also double on Electric Guitar, Electric Bass and Drum-set). Students will be divided into two equal classes (Garnet and Gold). The two classes will combine for Winter, Spring, and School concerts. Scientific data confirms that students who study music attain a higher level of achievement in every facet of life.

Chamber Orchestra is the top select group at KMS. Students with two or more years playing experience are selected based on playing ability and citizenship. This orchestra will play various styles of music including, Fiddle, Jazz, Classical, Rock, Metal, Grunge and Contemporary (a few students will also double on Electric Guitar, Electric Bass and Drum-set). Students will perform on the Winter, Spring, and School concerts and will also perform at Florida Orchestra Association sponsored events. This group is frequently invited to perform outside of school in the Tampa/Orlando area. Past performances have included Busch Gardens, Disney Studios, and Universal Islands of Adventure. Scientific data confirms that students who study music attain a higher level of achievement in every facet of life.

Jazz Orchestra is a group that will focus on playing popular music. This orchestra will play various styles of music including, Fiddle, Classical, Rock, and Contemporary (a few students will also double on Electric Guitar, Electric Bass and Drum-set). Students in Jazz orchestra must also be signed up for either Concert or Chamber orchestra.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education/ Business Keyboarding Required for sixth graders, this course develops competence in: physical fitness, body management, throwing and catching, striking, striking with objects and strategies for physical activities. Students will also learn about health-related topics, including personal health and individual wellness planning. This is paired with a semester of Business Keyboarding.

Physical Education This course explores the relationship between physical education and other disciplines, assessment of health-related fitness, fitness program design, components of fitness, evaluation of physical activities and fitness, maintaining and improving health-related fitness, and learning to play team and individual sports.

READING

Intensive Reading This course is required as remediation for those who need to increase reading skills. The purpose of this course is to develop and strengthen reading through the integration of reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and critical thinking. Depending on FSA reading level, the class may be for one period or a block of two.

SPANISH

Conversational Spanish This is an introductory course to expose students to the preliminary concepts in Spanish such as alphabet, colors, numbers, telling time, animals and greetings. Students will move more slowly through the curriculum than the high school courses and will not earn high school credit for the class. Students must earn an A or B grade in this course as well as meet the specified requirements listed below to be able to advance to Spanish 1 the following year.

****Includes 7th / 8th graders in the same class*

Spanish I This is a high school dual enrollment course for seventh and eighth graders that affects a student's high school GPA. Students must have a Level 5 on FSA and recommendation of the current language arts teacher. Students begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. *Students must take a cumulative exam that counts for at least 20 percent of the semester grade.*

**** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan*

Spanish II This is a high school dual enrollment course for eighth graders that affects a student's high school GPA. Students must have successfully completed Spanish I. Students continue to develop their Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the continuation of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on furthering the fundamentals of applied grammar. *Students must take a cumulative exam that counts for at least 20 percent of the semester grade*

**** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan*

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Business Technology I This class provides an overview of multiple software programs including Business related applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint and Graphic Designing Applications such as Adobe Photoshop. This class is for the student who enjoys technology and wants to learn more about graphic design or business related fields.

Business Technology II This course is designed for 7th graders who have taken Business Technology I and want to enhance their soft skills in Business related applications and Graphic Design. Students will dig deeper into programs such as Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. They will also be introduced to Adobe Muse to learn how to create webpages. It is highly recommended that students join FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) to compete against other students from across the district and state in these technology areas.

Digital Information Technology

**** This is a high school dual enrollment course for eighth graders that affects a student's high school GPA. Students can earn an industry certification in this course.* This is an 8th grade course in which students receive dual credit for a high school technology course. Students must apply their 7th grade year and should have completed Business Technology I and II. Students should also already be an active member in FBLA and have the experience of attending a competition. This course is a high school course and is treated as such. Students work on intensive training for Industry Certification in Microsoft Office. Students are required to test and pass 3 different certifications in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. They will also work in Adobe Muse to create dynamic webpages and work on advancing their Photoshop skills.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Digital Design I

Introductory Adobe Photoshop courses familiarize users with the editing capabilities of Adobe Photoshop software. Students learn how to use the Adobe Photoshop interface and access its expansive set of features. Lessons cover the basics of saving and storing image files and defining the various processes used for image editing. When they complete this Adobe Photoshop course, students will know how to use the paintbrush, airbrush, stamp and pencil tools.

Digital Design II

Layering images is one of Adobe Photoshop software's most powerful tools. This Adobe Photoshop courses give students an overview of layer features and layer management techniques, including adding, deleting, reordering, flattening and duplicating layers. Students taking this class often work with gradients, which involve blending two or more colors together, and masks, which allow users to add or remove backgrounds from a picture or image. Other lessons focus on isolating image layers in order to erase or add layers to a specific part of an image.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Engineering and Design Technology I This hands-on course includes introductory studies in areas of technology and engineering which introduce students to the development of abilities to calculate, make important observations, analyze and solve problems using manipulative skills while working cooperatively with others in team activities. Students will create innovative projects in robotics, racecar design and production, building water towers, product creation, etc.

Engineering and Design Technology II This course is designed for the student who has taken at least one year of technology, computer, or graphics design courses. Students will engage in advanced projects to include furniture repurposing, robotics, product creation, and an introduction to Adobe and/or 3D modeling software. In addition, they may help run our Storm Cellar where they will sell the items they have made. Teacher recommendation required.

Engineering and Design Technology III –This course is designed for the student who is interested in earning industry certifications in various programs through the creation of projects and program application. Although these may change from year to year, they may include: Adobe Photoshop CS5 and 6, Adobe Photoshop CC, Illustrator, Adobe Premier, Adobe InDesign or Solid works. Teacher recommendation required.

TSA Leadership- TSA members who attended this year's state and/or national conference are eligible to apply for this class. Students will work in groups on set and nationally winning TSA projects as well as team and leadership building. In addition, they may work on learning programs needed to complete their projects.

YEARBOOK

Yearbook Production This course is open to seventh and eighth grade students who have already taken computer courses and have been selected through an application process and teacher recommendation. Using InDesign CS3, Photoshop CS3, and other great programs, students market, sell, create, and distribute the yearbook.

****Application and teacher approval required*

TV PRODUCTION

TV Production Students will produce the daily television newscast and learn how to create, direct, produce and be the on-air talent. The class will also do special video, web and audio productions throughout the year for the school and various projects. Students may also participate in TV production contests and competitions with their projects.

****Application and teacher approval required*