**6th Grade Courses**

**Advanced Math 6 (teacher recommended) [Year long class]**

This course combines the major and most important work of the content standards from Grade 7 and Grade 8 in an accelerated manner so that students can be prepared for the option of taking Algebra the following year.  This is the first semester course of advanced mathematics for seventh graders.  Prerequisites:  See middle school placement guidelines.

**Anthropology 6 (1 semester)**

This course will focus on projects based on Ancient Civilizations through Medieval Civilizations.  This course will integrate the following content standards throughout the school year:  maps/globes, culture, history and geography, economics, citizenship, and government.  This course will integrate electronic media and communication skills in its content.

**Art 6 (1 Semester)**

This course examines artists' world views.  Enduring understandings and ideas include:  Art reveals aesthetic theories; Artists create art from multiple perspectives of time, place and culture revealing aesthetic theories; Artistic forms follow function throughout time; Critical processes identify aesthetic theories; and Art reflects the values and beliefs of a civilization/society.  Students will play the role of artist, philosopher, historian, and archeologist to explore world art throughout time.

**Band 6 [Year long class]**

This course is a band ensemble for sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on a brass, woodwind, or percussion instrument.  Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skill in playing their instrument of choice.  A method book is used as the lesson guide.  Performances will be required.

**Chorus 6 [Year long class]**

In this course sixth grade students will continue to develop their skill for reading and singing two and three-part octavo music.  This emphasis is on vocal ensemble performance.  There will be required performances.

**College and Careers 6 [Year long class]**

Students learn how to effectively explore careers while using the Nebraska Career Education Model and related resources.  Students will learn the vocabulary and expectations of effective academic and career planning.  A focus will be to discover the relationship between personal-social qualities, interests, and skills to a wide variety of careers and post-secondary options to choose from.  The Nebraska Career Readiness Standards will be introduced and connected to expectations in today's workplace.

**Computers Application 1** **(1 Semester)**

This middle-level course is designed to emphasize digital citizenship, basic computer operations, word processing applications, spreadsheet applications, presentation applications, and technology communication tools.  Students will master keyboarding skills; compose, create, edit, and format word processing documents; organize and manipulate data in a spreadsheet; and prepare a formal presentation.

**English Language Arts 6 [Year long class]**

This course supports student mastery of sixth grade language arts standards and focuses on development and application of skills in grade level reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacies.  Students will read a variety of literary and informational texts and write in a variety of modes using numerous tools and organizational frameworks.  Students will also learn appropriate and safe use of digital tools related to research.

**English as a Second Language A (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is offered daily and worth 2 credits due to double seat time.  This course is designed for the beginning ESL student.  The focus of this course will be to develop basic communication skills, a beginning English language vocabulary, and a primary understanding of grammatical structures.  This course is typically for a first-year English language learner.

**English as a Second Language B (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for the early intermediate ESL student.  The focus of this course will be to continue the development of basic communication skills, English language vocabulary, and more advanced grammatical structures.  This course is typically for a second-year English language learner.

**English as a Second Language Reading A (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course offers students learning English as a second language beginning reading instruction in English.

**English as a Second Language Reading B (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for intermediate ESL students who need additional help to improve their reading skills.  Emphasis is on developing fluency, summarizing and sequencing events in a reading passage, recognizing cause and effect, and using systematic strategies to locate information from textbooks, charts, graphs, and tables which may be used in mainstream classes.

**English as a Second Language Transitions (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide-range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence.  Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

**Honors Specials Project 6 (teacher recommendation, formerly known as GATE) [Year long class]**

This course offers a wide variety of experiences that align with gifted and talented programming standards.  Learning opportunities meet grade level objectives in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry, cultural proficiency, metacognition and affective skills.

**Human Growth 6 (taught during PE)**

This course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing. This course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing. The course helps acquire responsible decision-making skills related to personal maturation, peer pressure, communication skills, goal setting, human sexuality and chemical and tobacco usage. A parent/guardian may choose to sign a document for their student to opt out.

**Introduction to Tech and Living 6 (1 Semester)**

This introductory course is a unique exploratory course for students.  A blend of innovative units from both the Industrial Technology and Family and Consumer Science curriculum are taught by staff from either discipline.  Students are provided an opportunity to investigate a number of activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory.  Pairs of students work cooperatively through a seven-day Technology and Living Unit.  Students independently choose from areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), clothing, structures, foods, lasers, housing, electricity/electronics, consumerism, robotics, childcare, research and design, and family.

**Math 6 [Year long class]**

This course covers the 6th grade mathematics content standards.  Students will work with integers, fractions, decimals, and percents, study metric and standard systems of measurement, apply properties of geometry, use data analysis, and solve problems involving multiple-step equations.  This is the first semester of a year-long course.

**Music Tech 1** **(1 Semester)**

This course if the perfect blend of technology and music.  Students will be introduced to the skills needed in DJ’ing, Creating Sound Effects and Scores for Movies, Controlling Live Sound for Big Events, Creating their OWN music, Studio Recording & Sampling, and Preparing the best audio recording for Podcasting, Demos and Auditions.

**Physical Education 6 (PE) [Year long class]**

This course is designed to include a wide variety of sporting activities and teach the qualities of sportsmanship, competition and fitness.  It includes learning the rules and regulations for the major sports of volleyball, wrestling, basketball, soccer, and track and field events.  Students also participate in a variety of leisure and lifetime activities including badminton, aerobics and more.  Students must wear appropriate attire for physical education courses (tennis shoes, T-shirts, sweats or shorts, etc.).  Although the physical education locker rooms have showers available for students’ use; students are not required to shower for class.

**Reading 6A (teacher recommendation) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience difficulty comprehending grade-level material.  The curriculum focuses on strengthening fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills.

**Reading 6B (teacher recommendation) [Year long class]**

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.  Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed.  Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes.

**Robotics 6 (1 Semester)**

Exploring Robotics 6 is an introduction to robotics, engineering, programming, problem solving, and team dynamics.

**Science 6 1 and 2 [Year long class]**

Science Grade 6 engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science.  The topics include Earth’s systems, weather and climate, energy, structure and function and information processing, growth, development, and reproduction of organisms.

**Social Studies 6 [Year long class]**

This course examines the ancient world by studying Western Europe, Egypt, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America.  Special attention is given to geography, history, economics, culture and the government in these regions.

**Speech 6 (1 Semester)**

This elective for 6th grade will prepare students for oral communication situations encountered in both daily life and in formal settings.  Students will become acquainted with the communication process, develop and improve their public speaking skills and their oral interpretation skills.  Instruction focuses on the teaching of the fundamentals of speech and requires students to perform various speaking activities.

**STEAM 6 (1 Semester)**

Students will engage in activities in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM).  Students will develop skills necessary in these fields of study including but not limited to problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, and creativity.

**Strings 6 [Year long class]**

This course is the string ensemble for sixth grade students who are continuing instruction on violin, viola, cello or string bass.  Basic music concepts will be advanced as the student learns to read music and develop skill in playing their instrument of choice.  A method book is used as the lesson guide.  Performances will be required.

**7th Grade Course Guide**

**Advanced Math [Year long class]**

This course combines the major and most important work of the content standards from Grade 7 and Grade 8 in an accelerated manner so that students can be prepared for the option of taking Algebra the following year.

**Art (1 Semester)**

Throughout this course, students will experience a wide variety of artistic materials and examine the artistic communication and expression of identity by several artists, past and present.  Aesthetic theories of Expressionism and Imitationalism will also be studied in depth.  As they do so, they will be creating their own artwork about personal identity.

**Chorus [Year long class]**

Chorus 7 is available to seventh grade students who have special interests and abilities in choral singing.  Vocal skills are introduced through appropriate unison, two and three-part singing.  Musical independence is encouraged through increasing emphasis on musical notation.  Performance opportunities are an extension of the classroom experience.

**College and Careers [Year long class]**

Students will continue to explore careers using the Nebraska Career Education Model.  A focus will be to make connections between personal aptitudes and interests to specific Career Fields and Clusters.  Students will have opportunities to practice and develop skills in the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards of Practice.  Students will draw from class learning, skill development and activities to begin a Personal Learning Plan to transition into high school with a broad career cluster focus.

**Computer Science (1 Semester)**

This seventh-grade course will explore the basics of computer science and how computing powers the world.  Concepts will include career opportunities in Computer Science as well as computer science terminology and concepts.  Students will develop skills in creative and collaborative problem-solving while being introduced to various programming languages.

**English Language Arts (ELA) [Year long class]**

This course supports student mastery of seventh grade standards and focuses on developing and applying students' knowledge in language, literature, and composition and on developing students skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacy as appropriate for this grade level.  Students will write descriptive, narrative, literary, expository, persuasive, and technical pieces for various purposes and audiences using a variety of tools and strategies.

**English as a Second Language A (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is offered daily and worth 2 credits due to double seat time.  This course is designed for the beginning ESL student.  The focus of this course will be to develop basic communication skills, a beginning English language vocabulary, and a primary understanding of grammatical structures.  This course is typically for a first-year English language learner.

**English as a Second Language B (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for the early intermediate ESL student.  The focus of this course will be to continue the development of basic communication skills, English language vocabulary, and more advanced grammatical structures.  This course is typically for a second-year English language learner.

**English as a Second Language Reading A (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course offers students learning English as a second language beginning reading instruction in English.

**English as a Second Language Reading B (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for intermediate ESL students who need additional help to improve their reading skills.  Emphasis is on developing fluency, summarizing and sequencing events in a reading passage, recognizing cause and effect, and using systematic strategies to locate information from textbooks, charts, graphs, and tables which may be used in mainstream classes.

**English as a Second Language Transitions (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide-range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence.  Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

**Exploring Business (1 Semester)**

This seventh-grade course is designed to give an overview of the Business, Marketing, and Management Career Field.  Students will develop basic business knowledge and skills in marketing, management, finance, and economics.  Units of study also include:  The Business Community of Omaha, Written and Oral Communications, Introduction to Business Contract, Career Opportunities and Student Organizations –Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA).  This course may utilize discussion activities, guest speakers, simulated job experiences, hands-on activities and business- related field trips.

**Exploring Robotics** **(1 Semester)**

Exploring Robotics 1 is an introduction to robotics, engineering, programming, team dynamics and technical drafting.

**Honors Language Arts 7 [Year long class]**

This course is the same as Language Arts 7, with even greater emphasis placed on the in-depth study of selected topics and works, additional composition alternatives, and critical and creative thinking development opportunities.

**Honors Science 7 [Year long class]**

Honors Science 7 engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science.  The topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems, Earth's systems, history of Earth, heredity, and natural selection and adaptations.  This course provides a foundation for other science courses.  Students enrolled in honor courses have additional experiences that require a more rigorous program of study.

**Honors Specials Project (teacher recommended, formerly known as GATE) [Year long class]**

This course offers a wide variety of experiences that align with gifted and talented programming standards.  Learning opportunities meet grade level objectives in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry, cultural proficiency, metacognition and affective skills.

**Human Growth 7 (taught during PE)**

This course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing. The course helps acquire responsible decision-making skills related to personal maturation, peer pressure, communication skills, goal setting, human sexuality and chemical and tobacco usage. A parent/guardian may choose to sign a document for their student to opt out.

**Intermediate Band *(Prerequisite: one year previous instruction)* [Year long class]**

This course is offered to seventh grade students who began instrumental music instruction in their respective elementary schools or for eighth grade students who began instrumental music in seventh grade beginning band.  Instrumental technique and musical understanding focus on the second volume of standard instrumental studies and appropriate band arrangements.  Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities.

**Intermediate Strings (*Prerequisite: two years previous instruction)* [Year long class]**

This course is offered to seventh and eighth grade students who have successfully completed several years study.  Instrumental technique and musical understandings focus on standard string method studies and appropriate string orchestra selections.  The instrumentation includes violin, viola, cello and string bass.  Students with previous instrumental experience may begin changeover instruction on the low string instruments.  Performance may be included as an extension of classroom activities.

**International Studies (1 Semester)**

Global Studies is open to students interested in examining countries, people, and issues that are shaping our contemporary world.

**JAG (teacher recommended) [Year long class]**

Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) is a graduation enhancement program focusing on personal and career development and future readiness.  The class will participate in a variety of classroom activities, assignments, exploration, guest speakers, mentorship, and guidance.  Each member will become part of a student leadership organization and have several opportunities to further unlock and enhance their potential.  This is the middle-level experience/course that students would be enrolled into prior to high school.

**Jazz Band [Year long class]**

This course is a middle school instrumental ensemble comprised of advanced instrumental students.  Various jazz rudiments and improvisation techniques are introduced through a variety of jazz and popular styles of music.  Membership is by audition. Lifetime Fitness

**Math 7 [Year long class]**

This course covers the content standards for Seventh Grade Math.  Students will perform operations with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and integers, solve proportions and percent problems, convert measurements within systems, use plane geometry, and solve equations and real-life problems.

**Music Technology 2 (1 Semester)**

This course is designed for students interested in music and its related computer applications.  No previous experience in computers or music is necessary.  Students will explore electronic musical instruments, computer-assisted instructions, MIDI sequencing and music notation.

**Physical Education (PE) [Year long class]**

This course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing.

**Reading 7A [Year long class]**

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience difficulty comprehending grade-level material.  The curriculum focuses on strengthening fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills.  Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**Reading 7B [Year long class]**

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.  Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed.  Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes.  Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**Science 7 [Year long class]**

Science 7 engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science.  The topics include structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, interdependent relationships in ecosystems, matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems, Earth's systems, and history of Earth.

**Service Learning (1 Semester)**

This course is a hands-on study of the practice and intent of service learning, the integration of community service, and related academic study for 7th grade.  Students will spend one semester actively developing, planning, implementing, and evaluating service-learning experience.  Principals of civic engagement will be added to provide students with a well-rounded learning experience.  Teachers are advised to have attended the UNO Service-Learning Academy or received training in service learning or project based learning.

**Social Studies 7 [Year long class]**

This course examines the world we live in by studying Africa, Asia, and Eastern Europe.  Special attention is given to the geography, history, economics, culture, and elements of citizenship within the regions studied.  Along with their texts, students use technology, novels, current events, and interdisciplinary activities to expand their understanding of the Eastern Hemisphere.

**Speech 7 (1 Semester)**

This elective for 7th grade will prepare students for oral communication situations encountered in both daily life and in formal settings.  Students will become acquainted with the communication process, develop and improve their public speaking skills and their oral interpretation skills.  Instruction focuses on the teaching of the fundamentals of speech and requires students to perform various speaking activities.

**STEAM 7 (1 Semester)**

Students will engage in activities in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM).  Students will develop skills necessary in these fields of study including but not limited to problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, and creativity.

**Swing Choir [Year long class]**

This choral/dance ensemble usually consists of approximately 20 singers who are selected by audition.  One of the primary functions of this group is to serve as “ambassadors” for the school.  Choreographed routines and frequent performance and competitions often require time outside of school must be a student consideration for enrollment.

**8th Grade Course Guide**

**Advanced Band [Year long class]**

This course is offered to seventh and eighth grade students with advanced abilities secured through several years of instrumental music participation.  Music introduced includes technique studies and selected concert music with full instrumentation appropriate to the classes and ability.  Membership is achieved by the recommendation of the instructor.  Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities.

**Advanced Strings [Year long class]**

This course is offered to eighth grade students who have demonstrated advanced ability in playing a string instrument.  Technique studies and selected concert music advance both technical and musical understandings.  The instrumentation includes violin, viola, cello and string bass.  Membership is achieved by the recommendation of the instructor or successful completion of Intermediate Strings.  Performance is included as an extension of the classroom activities outside of the school day.

**Art 8 (1 Semester)**

This course allows students to be innovative and reflect on their own experiences as many American artists have and do today.  American artists were and are on the forefront of shaping America’s identity through recording the human experience in innovative ways.  Throughout this course, students will continue to develop their artistic voice and style and explore how they do and will play a part in society.  Students will examine art and artists throughout American history focusing on America’s diversity and influence.  Aesthetic theories of Instrumentalism, Expressionism and Formalism will be studied as well.

**Chorus 8 [Year long class]**

Chorus 8 is available to eighth grade students who have special interests and abilities in choral singing.  Choral music is introduced in two and three parts that include bass clef participation.  Vocal emphasis is placed on the introduction of the male changing voice and greater extension of all voice ranges.  Performance opportunities including the All-City Music Festival are an extension of the classroom experience.

**College and Careers 8 [Year long class]**

Students will be using previous career exploration around the Nebraska Career Education Model and their understanding of the Nebraska Career Readiness Standards to complete independent and collaborative projects aligned with their aptitudes and interests.  Additional opportunities for career readiness skill development will be incorporated.  Students will review and add to their Personal Learning Plan to demonstrate personal responsibility for career preparation.

**English Language Arts 8 [Year long class]**

This course supports student mastery of eighth grade standards and focuses on developing and applying students' knowledge in language, literature, and composition and on developing students skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacy as appropriate for this grade level.  Students will write descriptive, narrative, literary, expository, persuasive, and technical pieces for various purposes and audiences using a variety of tools and strategies.

**English as a Second Language A (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is offered daily and worth 2 credits due to double seat time.  This course is designed for the beginning ESL student.  The focus of this course will be to develop basic communication skills, a beginning English language vocabulary, and a primary understanding of grammatical structures.  This course is typically for a first-year English language learner.

**English as a Second Language B (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for the early intermediate ESL student.  The focus of this course will be to continue the development of basic communication skills, English language vocabulary, and more advanced grammatical structures.  This course is typically for a second-year English language learner.

**English as a Second Language Reading A (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course offers students learning English as a second language beginning reading instruction in English.

**English as a Second Language Reading B (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for intermediate ESL students who need additional help to improve their reading skills.  Emphasis is on developing fluency, summarizing and sequencing events in a reading passage, recognizing cause and effect, and using systematic strategies to locate information from textbooks, charts, graphs, and tables which may be used in mainstream classes.

**English as a Second Language Transitions (based upon test scores) [Year long class]**

This course is designed for advanced ESL students with a focus on developing increased fluency and comprehension in reading more advanced materials and use a wide-range of strategies to construct oral and written claims and support them with reasoning and evidence.  Successful completion of learning goals from ESL B or demonstration of equivalent skills is required for registration in this course.

**French [Year long class]**

This course in World Languages at the first-year level stresses interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal communication abilities to develop survival skills in the target language.  Students become aware of the personal and economic opportunities that knowing a second language will bring them and how that knowledge will enable them to function better both in the United States and globally.  They also begin to develop an awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with that language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world.

**Gifted and Talented-Honors Special Projects 8 [Year long class]**

This course offers a wide variety of experiences that align with gifted and talented programming standards.  Learning opportunities meet grade level objectives in problem-solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, inquiry, cultural proficiency, metacognition and affective skills.

**Human Growth 8 (taught during PE)**

This course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing. This course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing. The course helps acquire responsible decision-making skills related to personal maturation, peer pressure, communication skills, goal setting, human sexuality and chemical and tobacco usage. A parent/guardian may choose to sign a document for their student to opt out.

**Honors English Language Arts 8 [Year long class]**

This course is the same as Language Arts 8, with even greater emphasis placed on the in-depth study of selected topics and works, additional composition alternatives, and critical and creative thinking development opportunities.

**Honors Math-Pre Algebra 8 [Year long class]**

This course is the honors section of Algebra 1-2.  It covers traditional algebra topics including operations with signed numbers and polynomials, solving first-and second-degree equations, verbal problems, systems of linear equations, graphing and writing linear equations and inequalities, and simplifying exponential expressions.  As an honors class, these topics will be covered in greater depth and with enrichment.

**Honors Physical Science 8 [Year long class]**

Honors Physical Science Grade 8 engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science.  The topics include forces and interactions, waves and electromagnet radiation, structure and properties of matter, energy, chemical reactions, space systems, weather and climate, and Earth's systems.  This course provides a foundation for other science courses and meets the district requirement for Physical Science.  Students enrolled in honor courses have additional experiences that require a more rigorous program of study.

**Introduction to Computer Science 8 (1 Semester)**

This eighth-grade course will continue to develop knowledge and skills in computer science.  Students will further develop computational thinking skills to solve problems and address real-world challenges.  The course will include a focus on project creation and collaboration through technology, ethical use of technology and its impact to the community.

**Introduction to Design 8 (1 Semester)**

This eighth-grade course will continue to develop knowledge and skills in design elements and principles.  Students will learn advanced skills in utilizing software for design.  The course will focus on planning, creating, editing, and presenting ideas through various mediums to communicate information to multiple audiences.

**Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) [Year long class]**

Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) is a graduation enhancement program focusing on personal and career development and future readiness.  The class will participate in a variety of classroom activities, assignments, exploration, guest speakers, mentorship, and guidance.  Each member will become part of a student leadership organization and have several opportunities to further unlock and enhance their potential.  This is the middle-level experience/course that students would be enrolled into prior to high school.

**Journalism 8 (1 Semester)**

This one-semester project-based course will produce a monthly television magazine show for Buffett.  The course will provide students with the opportunity to further develop skills in video capture and editing, and all aspects of producing videos for the Buffett television network.  Students will create and edit graphics, sound, and special effects to be incorporated into video productions.  Students will be required to work independently and in small teams to produce commercials, public service announcements, and short features.  Students will create storyboards, write and rewrite shooting scripts, record and edit projects.

**Math 8 [Year long class]**

This course provides experiences that include practice in numeration, computation, estimation, problem solving, geometry/special concepts and measurement.  It introduces algebraic and statistical concepts and provides opportunities for students to develop understanding of the structure of mathematics as outlined in the Nebraska State Standards for 8th grade.  This is the first semester course of grade level mathematics for eighth graders.

**Physical Education 8 (PE) [Year long class]**

This course will use current Physical Education standards and Human Growth and Development pacing.

**Reading 8A [Year long class]**

This course is designed for readers who have a foundation in decoding skills but experience difficulty comprehending grade-level material.  The curriculum focuses on strengthening fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary skills.  Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**Reading 8B [Year long class]**

Students in this course will improve reading proficiency with explicit, direct instruction in fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.  Strategies for phonemic awareness and phonics will be taught as needed.  Students will read leveled, high interest literature for both academic and recreational purposes.  Placement is based on standardized test scores and teacher recommendation.

**Science 8 [Year long class]**

Science 8 engages students in the three dimensions (science practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts) of learning as identified by the Nebraska College and Career Ready Standards for Science.  The topics include forces and interactions, waves and electromagnetic radiation, energy, heredity:  inheritance and variation of traits, biological evolution, space systems, and history of Earth.  This course provides the foundations for other science coursework.

**Spanish [Year long class]**

This course in World Languages at the first-year level stresses interpretive, presentational, and interpersonal communication abilities to develop survival skills in the target language.  Students become aware of the personal and economic opportunities that knowing a second language will bring them and how that knowledge will enable them to function better both in the United States and globally.  They also begin to develop an awareness and appreciation of the various cultures associated with that language as well as the impact these cultures have made on their own community, country, and world.

**Spanish for Spanish Speakers [Year long class]**

This course is designed for students who speak Spanish fluently but have difficulty reading and writing the language.  Most of these students feel more comfortable reading and writing in English.  Students will develop basic Spanish literacy skills along with gaining a deeper knowledge of the culture, history, and literature of the Spanish language.  The course is taught in Spanish.

**Social Studies 8 [Year long class]**

This course explores the ideas, issues, and events from the adoption of the United States Constitution to the Gilded Age.  Instruction is organized around the themes of geography, history, economics, and civics.  Students investigate key people, events, ideas, and cultures of our country using historical thinking and primary and secondary sources.

**STEAM 8 (1 Semester)**

Students will engage in activities in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM).  Students will develop skills necessary in these fields of study including but not limited to problem solving, critical thinking, innovation, and creativity.

**Technology and Living 8 (1 Semester)**

This course is a unique exploratory course for 8th students.  A blend of innovative units from both the Industrial Technology and Family and Consumer Science curriculum are taught by staff from either discipline.  Students are provided an opportunity to investigate a number of activities based on learning units in a state-of-the-art laboratory.  Pairs of students work cooperatively through a seven-day Technology and Living Unit.  Students independently choose from areas such as computer-aided design (CAD), clothing, structures, foods, lasers, housing, electricity/electronics, consumerism, robotics, childcare, research and design, and family.