Missouri Course Access and Virtual School Program (MOCAP)

Course Descriptions-SJSD Virtual Academy

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KINDERGARTEN ART

Students will explore “Art as Communication” through: Subject Matter and Theme; Historical and Cultural Contexts; Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions; Understanding and Applying Media Techniques and Processes; and Evaluating merits of Personal and shared artwork. Using these techniques focused on higher level thinking skills will give elementary age students a solid foundation of art techniques and processes and will foster a life long appreciation for art.

KINDERGARTEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In this English Language Arts course, kindergarten students will build foundational skills: print concepts, phonemic awareness, phonics, word recognition, and fluency. In addition, students will obtain a fundamental understanding of skills and strategies needed for reading a broad range of high-quality increasingly challenging literature and informational texts in all content areas. Students will also gain experience in effectively writing a variety of text types, emphasizing narrative, informative, and opinion with research embedded throughout all genres.

KINDERGARTEN MATH

In Kindergarten, instructional time should focus on two critical areas: (1) representing and comparing whole numbers, initially with sets of objects; (2) describing shapes and space. More learning time in Kindergarten should be devoted to number than to other topics.

KINDERGARTEN MUSIC

K-6 General Music emphasizes the tools with which to make music happen. Along with perfecting the use of "every ones' natural instrument," - the voice, students gain thorough knowledge of reading, writing and creating at his or her age-appropriate level using both vocal and instrumental genres. In addition, the studies of styles of music, composers of music, art in music, and the pure love of music are all stressed.

KINDERGARTEN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The elementary physical education course is designed to be a systematic program of sequential learning experiences and developmentally appropriate activities designed to impact the psychomotor, cognitive and affective learning domains, all of which will enhance student's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for healthy, active living and overall health and wellness, now and in the future. Students in elementary physical education in the St. Joseph School District will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop competence in locomotor and non-locomotor skills, fundamental and manipulative skills, sport-specific skills, tumbling skills, dance skills, and cooperative and team building skills.

KINDERGARTEN SCIENCE

In this course, students will participate in an integrated model of scientific inquiry to actively engage in science and engineering practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of the core ideas in Earth, Life, and Physical Science. The standards describe important scientific ideas which allow for student learning to be scaffolded throughout their school career.

KINDERGARTEN SOCIAL STUDIES

In Kindergarten, students engage in the study of themselves, their families, and their schools. They will learn how to participate and use effective citizenship skills. They will explore their families, their classrooms, and their schools throughout an interdisciplinary approach including history, civics, economics, and geography.

1ST GRADE ART

K-6 Visual Arts classes enable students to explore the many areas of the visual arts. Students will explore “Art as Communication” through: Subject Matter and Theme; Historical and Cultural Contexts; Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions; Understanding and Applying Media Techniques and Processes; and Evaluating merits of Personal and shared artwork. Using these techniques focused on higher level thinking skills will give elementary age students a solid foundation of art techniques and processes and will foster a life long appreciation for art.

1ST GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In this English Language Arts course, first grade students will build upon the foundational skills taught in kindergarten: print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, and fluency. In addition, students will obtain a fundamental understanding of skills and strategies needed for reading a broad range of high-quality increasingly challenging literature and informational text in all content areas. Students will also gain experience in effectively writing a variety of text types, emphasizing narrative, informative, and opinion with research embedded throughout all genres

1ST GRADE MATH

In Grade 1, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of addition, subtraction, and strategies for addition and subtraction within 20; (2) developing understanding of whole number relationships and place value, including grouping in tens and ones; (3) developing understanding of linear measurement and measuring lengths as iterating length units; and (4) reasoning about attributes of, and composing and decomposing geometric shapes.

1ST GRADE MUSIC

K-6 General Music emphasizes the tools with which to make music happen. Along with perfecting the use of "every ones' natural instrument," - the voice, students gain thorough knowledge of reading, writing and creating at his or her age-appropriate level using both vocal and instrumental genres. In addition, the studies of styles of music, composers of music, art in music, and the pure love of music are all stressed.

1ST GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The elementary physical education course is designed to be a systematic program of sequential learning experiences and developmentally appropriate activities designed to impact the psychomotor, cognitive and affective learning domains, all of which will enhance student's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for healthy, active living and overall health and wellness, now and in the future. Students in elementary physical education in the St. Joseph School District will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop competence in locomotor and non-locomotor skills, fundamental and manipulative skills, sport-specific skills, tumbling skills, dance skills, and cooperative and team building skills. In addition, all students will participate in a variety of activities designed to promote physical fitness and the learning of fitness, health and wellness concepts.

1ST GRADE SCIENCE

In this course, students will participate in an integrated model of scientific inquiry to actively engage in science and engineering practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of the core ideas in Earth, Life, and Physical Science. The standards describe important scientific ideas which allow for student learning to be scaffolded throughout their school career.

1ST GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In first grade, students explore their place in the world around them building on their work in kindergarten and expanding perspective beyond themselves. Through comparison of family, school and community, students will explore multiple perspectives from the past and today.

2ND GRADE ART

Students will explore “Art as Communication” through: Subject Matter and Theme; Historical and Cultural Contexts; Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions; Understanding and Applying Media Techniques and Processes; and Evaluating merits of Personal and shared artwork. Using these techniques focused on higher level thinking skills will give elementary age students a solid foundation of art techniques and processes and will foster a life long appreciation for art.

2ND GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In this English Language Arts course, second grade students will build upon the foundational skills taught in first grade: phonics, word recognition, and fluency. In addition, students will obtain a fundamental understanding of skills and strategies needed for reading a broad range of high-quality increasingly challenging literature and informational text in all content areas. Students will also gain experience in effectively writing a variety of text types, emphasizing narrative, informative, and opinion with research embedded throughout all genres

2ND GRADE MATH

In Grade 2, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) extending understanding of base-ten notation; (2) building fluency with addition and subtraction; (3) using standard units of measure; and (4) describing and analyzing shapes.

2ND GRADE MUSIC

K-6 General Music emphasizes the tools with which to make music happen. Along with perfecting the use of "every ones' natural instrument," - the voice, students gain thorough knowledge of reading, writing and creating at his or her age-appropriate level using both vocal and instrumental genres. In addition, the studies of styles of music, composers of music, art in music, and the pure love of music are all stressed.

2ND GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course is designed to provide high quality learning experiences so that students may lead a healthier life. Healthy behaviors, the most important predictors of current and future health status, are influenced by a variety of factors that include awareness and knowledge of health issues, skills necessary to develop healthy behaviors, and opportunities to practice these behaviors. The Elementary Health curriculum is comprised of 10 content areas: Body System; Social and Emotional and Mental Health; Health and Wellness; Nutrition; Consumer Health and Safety; Life Management Skills; Diseases; Injury Prevention and Safety; Alcohol and Tobacco and other Drugs; Environmental Health.

2ND GRADE SCIENCE

In this course, students will participate in an integrated model of scientific inquiry to actively engage in science and engineering practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of the core ideas in Earth, Life, and Physical Science. The standards describe important scientific ideas which allow for student learning to be scaffolded throughout their school career.

2ND GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In Grade 2 students engage in the study of Geography as it relates to the cultural, economic, and political characteristics of the regions of both Missouri and the United States.

3RD GRADE ART

Students will explore “Art as Communication” through: Subject Matter and Theme; Historical and Cultural Contexts; Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions; Understanding and Applying Media Techniques and Processes; and Evaluating merits of Personal and shared artwork. Using these techniques focused on higher level thinking skills will give elementary age students a solid foundation of art techniques and processes and will foster a life long appreciation for art.

3RD GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In this English Language Arts course, third grade students will build upon the foundational skills taught in second grade: phonics, word recognition, and fluency. In addition, students will obtain a fundamental understanding of skills and strategies needed for reading a broad range of high-quality increasingly challenging literature and informational texts in all content areas. Students will also gain experience in effectively writing a variety of text types, emphasizing narrative, informative, and opinion with research embedded throughout all genres.

3RD GRADE MATH

In Grade 3, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of multiplication and division and strategies for multiplication and division within 100; (2) developing understanding of fractions, especially unit fractions (fractions with numerator 1); (3) developing understanding of the structure of rectangular arrays and of area; and (4) describing and analyzing two-dimensional shapes.

3RD GRADE MUSIC

K-6 General Music emphasizes the tools with which to make music happen. Along with perfecting the use of "every ones' natural instrument," - the voice, students gain thorough knowledge of reading, writing and creating at his or her age-appropriate level using both vocal and instrumental genres.

3RD GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The elementary physical education course is designed to be a systematic program of sequential learning experiences and developmentally appropriate activities designed to impact the psychomotor, cognitive and affective learning domains, all of which will enhance student's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for

healthy, active living and overall health and wellness, now and in the future. Students in elementary physical education in the St. Joseph School District will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop competence in locomotor and non-locomotor skills, fundamental and manipulative skills, sport-specific skills, tumbling skills, dance skills, and cooperative and team building skills.

3RD GRADE SCIENCE

In this course, students will participate in an integrated model of scientific inquiry to actively engage in science and engineering practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of the core ideas in Earth, Life, and Physical Science. The standards describe important scientific ideas which allow for student learning to be scaffolded throughout their school career.

3RD GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In third grade, students will engage in a yearlong study of our state of Missouri. They will analyze the impact of geography economics, and governmental structures to study both the history and contemporary society of Missouri. The study of Missouri requires that students generate and research compelling questions.

4TH GRADE ART

Students will explore “Art as Communication” through: Subject Matter and Theme; Historical and Cultural Contexts; Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions; Understanding and Applying Media Techniques and Processes; and Evaluating merits of Personal and shared artwork. Using these techniques focused on higher level thinking skills will give elementary age students a solid foundation of art techniques and processes and will foster a life long appreciation for art.

4TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In this English Language Arts course, fourth grade students will build upon the foundational skills taught in third grade: phonics, word recognition, and fluency. In addition, students will obtain a fundamental understanding of skills and strategies needed for reading a broad range of high-quality increasingly challenging literature and informational texts in all content areas. Students will also gain experience in effectively writing a variety of text types, emphasizing narrative, informative, and opinion with research embedded throughout all genres.

4TH GRADE MATH

In Grade 4, instructional time should focus on three critical areas: (1) developing understanding and fluency with multi-digit multiplication, and developing understanding of dividing to find quotients involving multi-digit dividends; (2) developing an understanding of fraction equivalence, addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators, and multiplication of fractions by whole numbers; (3) understanding that geometric figures can be analyzed and classified based on their properties, such as having parallel sides, perpendicular sides, particular angle measures, and symmetry.

4TH GRADE MUSIC

K-6 General Music emphasizes the tools with which to make music happen. Along with perfecting the use of "every ones' natural instrument," - the voice, students gain thorough knowledge of reading, writing and creating at his or her age-appropriate level using both vocal and instrumental genres.

4TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The elementary physical education course is designed to be a systematic program of sequential learning experiences and developmentally appropriate activities designed to impact the psychomotor, cognitive and affective learning domains, all of which will enhance student's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for healthy, active living and overall health and wellness, now and in the future. Students in elementary physical education in the St. Joseph School District will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop competence in locomotor and non-locomotor skills, fundamental and manipulative skills, sport-specific skills, tumbling skills, dance skills, and cooperative and team building skills.

4TH GRADE SCIENCE

In this course, students will participate in an integrated model of scientific inquiry to actively engage in science and engineering practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of the core ideas in Earth, Life, and Physical Science. The standards describe important scientific ideas which allow for student learning to be scaffolded throughout their school career.

4TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In grade 4, students engage in the study of events early in United States history ranging from indigenous peoples here prior to colonization through the American Revolution. An emphasis is placed on analyzing and evaluating a variety of documents, sources, and perspectives.

5TH GRADE ART

Students will explore “Art as Communication” through: Subject Matter and Theme; Historical and Cultural Contexts; Using Knowledge of Structures and Functions; Understanding and Applying Media Techniques and Processes; and Evaluating merits of Personal and shared artwork. Using these techniques focused on higher level thinking skills will give elementary age students a solid foundation of art techniques and processes and will foster a life long appreciation for art.

5TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In this English Language Arts course, fifth grade students will build upon the foundational skills taught in fourth grade: phonics, word recognition, and fluency. In addition, students will obtain a fundamental understanding of skills and strategies needed for reading a broad range of high-quality increasingly challenging literature and informational texts in all content areas. Students will also gain experience in effectively writing a variety of text types, emphasizing narrative, informative, and opinion with research embedded throughout all genres.

5TH GRADE MATH

In Grade 5, instructional time should focus on three critical areas: (1) developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases (unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions); (2) extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system and developing understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths, and developing fluency with whole number and decimal operations; and (3) developing understanding of volume.

5TH GRADE MUSIC

K-6 General Music emphasizes the tools with which to make music happen. Along with perfecting the use of "every ones' natural instrument," - the voice, students gain thorough knowledge of reading, writing and creating at his or her age-appropriate level using both vocal and instrumental genres.

5TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The elementary physical education course is designed to be a systematic program of sequential learning experiences and developmentally appropriate activities designed to impact the psychomotor, cognitive and affective learning domains, all of which will enhance student's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for healthy, active living and overall health and wellness, now and in the future. Students in elementary physical education in the St. Joseph School District will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop competence in locomotor and non-locomotor skills, fundamental and manipulative skills, sport-specific skills, tumbling skills, dance skills, and cooperative and team building skills.

5TH GRADE SCIENCE

In this course, students will participate in an integrated model of scientific inquiry to actively engage in science and engineering practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of the core ideas in Earth, Life, and Physical Science. The standards describe important scientific ideas which allow for student learning to be scaffolded throughout their school career.

5TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In fifth grade, students engage in the study of events, documents, movements, and people emphasizing the time period between 1800 and 2000 in America with a focus on inquiry into the continuing development of the United States as a nation.

3RD AND 4TH GRADE GIFTED AND TALENTED

Throughout your time in the elementary Gifted and Talented program, we will work with many different topics using problem based-learning. Our course topics may include lessons in robotics, science, engineering, literature, and math.

Students will complete a 30-week integrated, interdisciplinary, problem-solving unit in which students progress through a series of recurring phases, which include Discovery (inquiry, information processing), Creativity (developing solutions, vetting solutions), and Innovation & Action (prototyping & testing solutions, civic planning, or marketing/public relations). Within this class, students will work on teams that best match their strength, collaborating within their group and among other groups.

To help gifted learners develop social and emotional needs, leadership, and collaborative skills, students will engage in small group discussions and team-building activities during their online meetings.

In order to increase student variety, a gifted math unit designed and tested by the College of William and Mary, Center for Gifted Education will be offered throughout the school year.

5TH GRADE GIFTED AND TALENTED

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In order to increase student variety, a gifted math unit designed and tested by the College of William and Mary, Center for Gifted Education will be offered throughout the school year.

6TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In this English Language Arts course, students will obtain a fundamental understanding of skills and strategies needed for reading a broad range of high-quality increasingly challenging literature and informational texts in all content areas. Students will also gain experience in effectively writing a variety of text types, emphasizing narrative, informative, and opinion with research embedded throughout all genres.

6TH GRADE HEALTH

This course is designed to provide high quality learning experiences so that students may lead a healthier life. Healthy behaviors, the most important predictors of current and future health status, are influenced by a variety of factors that include awareness and knowledge of health issues, skills necessary to develop healthy behaviors, and opportunities to practice these behaviors.

6TH GRADE MATH

In grade 6, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (2) writing, interpreting, and using expressions, equations and inequalities; (3) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; and (4) developing understanding of the Cartesian coordinate plane. Other topics include concepts of geometry, measurement and statistical reasoning.

6TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education course is designed to be a systematic program of sequential learning experiences and developmentally appropriate activities designed to impact the psychomotor, cognitive and affective learning domains, all of which will enhance student's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for healthy, active living and overall health and wellness, now and in the future. Students in elementary physical education in the St. Joseph School District will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop competence in locomotor and non-locomotor skills, fundamental and manipulative skills, sport-specific skills, tumbling skills, dance skills, and cooperative and team building skills.

6TH GRADE SCIENCE

In this Elementary Science Course, students will participate in an integrated model of scientific inquiry to actively engage in science and engineering practices and apply crosscutting concepts to deepen their understanding of the core ideas in Earth, Life, and Physical Science. The standards describe important scientific ideas which allow for student learning to be scaffolded throughout their school career. This

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

In grade 6, students will focus on two themes. Theme 1: Tools of Social Science Inquiry, in order to investigate and draw conclusions about the past, students need to think critically about information as well as evaluate multiple sources of evidence. Theme 2: World Geography and Cultures, the study of world geography and cultures focus on human and physical systems of the world's regions.

7TH GRADE ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In this English Language Arts course, students will obtain a fundamental understanding of skills and strategies needed for analyzing literary and informational texts. Students will also gain experience in effectively writing a variety of text types, emphasizing argumentative, expository, and narrative. The courses are differentiated in the complexity of texts, tasks, and time constraints in which students are asked to engage.

7TH GRADE ADVANCED MATH

Advanced 7th grade math is a compacted version of priority concepts taken from both the 7th and 8th grade Missouri Learning Standards which include the following seven critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples; (5) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (6) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (7) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

7TH GRADE ADVANCE SCIENCE

Builds understanding of science and engineering practices (asking questions and defining problems, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using math and computational thinking, developing and using models, obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information, and constructing explanations and designing solutions, and engaging in argument from evidence) while learning disciplinary core ideas about climate change, interactions of organisms in their environment, structures and functions of life, and changes in populations over time. Higher expectations and projects differentiate this course from Science 7.

7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

In this English Language Arts course, students will obtain a fundamental understanding of skills and strategies needed for analyzing literary and informational texts. Students will also gain experience in effectively writing a variety of text types, emphasizing argumentative, expository, and narrative.

7TH GRADE HEALTH

The course is designed to prepare students in meeting state standards in health education and to provide high quality learning experiences so that students may become health-literate individuals. Healthy behaviors, the most important predictors of current and future health status, are influenced by a variety of factors that include awareness and knowledge of health issues, skills necessary to develop healthy behaviors, and opportunities to practice these behaviors.

7TH GRADE MATH

In grade 7, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two-and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

7TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The middle school physical education course is designed to be a systematic program of developmentally appropriate activities designed to impact the psychomotor, cognitive and affective learning domains, all of which will enhance student's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for healthy, active living and overall health and wellness, now and in the future. Students in middle school physical education in the St. Joseph School District will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop competence in the fundamental skills and strategies of a variety of team, individual and dual, and lifetime sports, as well as dance and rhythmic activities, team building activities, and low-organized games.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE

Builds understanding of science and engineering practices (asking questions and defining problems, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using math and computational thinking, developing and using models, obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information, and constructing explanations and designing solutions, and engaging in argument from evidence) while learning disciplinary core ideas about climate change, interactions of organisms in their environment, structures and functions of life, and changes in populations over time.

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Seventh grade Ancient and Medieval History is a survey course that covers the economic, political, and social formation of human history through ancient and medieval times. Students will specifically focus on the evolution and achievements of major civilizations that formed in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

8TH GRADE ADVANCED ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This English Language Arts course is designed to develop the skills of literacy: reading, writing, speaking & listening, & language. Students will continue to build on the skills and strategies needed for analyzing literary and informational texts. Movement through thematic units will require students' thinking to move from the concrete to the abstract. Students will not only read and comprehend, but evaluate complex text. Writing instruction will include creation of a variety of texts focusing on the writing process. Students will develop writing with organization and style that are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. This course requires a basic understanding of grammar and language rules as well as an ability to communicate through writing and speaking.

8TH GRADE ADVANCED SCIENCE

Builds understanding of science and engineering practices (asking questions and defining problems, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using math and computational thinking, developing and using models, obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information, and constructing explanations and designing solutions, and engaging in argument from evidence) while learning disciplinary core ideas about the earth, how things move, the energy exchanges within mechanical and thermal systems, and molecular theory. Higher expectations and projects differentiate this course from Science 8.

8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This English Language Arts course is designed to develop the skills of literacy: reading, writing, speaking & listening, & language. Students will continue to build on the skills and strategies needed for analyzing literary and informational texts. Movement through thematic units will require students' thinking to move from the concrete to the abstract. Students will not only read and comprehend, but evaluate complex text. Writing instruction will include creation of a variety of texts focusing on the writing process. Students will develop writing with organization and style that are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. This course requires a basic understanding of grammar and language rules as well as an ability to communicate through writing and speaking.

8TH GRADE HEALTH

The course is designed to prepare students in meeting state standards in health education and to provide high quality learning experiences so that students may become health-literate individuals. Healthy behaviors, the most important predictors of current and future health status, are influenced by a variety of factors that include awareness and knowledge of health issues, skills necessary to develop health behaviors, and opportunities to practice these behaviors.

8TH GRADE MATH

In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling and association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

8TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The middle school physical education course is designed to be a systematic program of developmentally appropriate activities designed to impact the psychomotor, cognitive and affective learning domains, all of which will enhance student's knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for healthy, active living and overall health and wellness, now and in the future. Students in middle school physical education in the St. Joseph School District will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop competence in the fundamental skills and strategies of a variety of team, individual and dual, and lifetime sports, as well as dance and rhythmic activities, team building activities, and low-organized games.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE

Builds understanding of science and engineering practices (asking questions and defining problems, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using math and computational thinking, developing and using models, obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information, and constructing explanations and designing solutions, and engaging in argument from evidence) while learning disciplinary core ideas about the earth, how things move, the energy exchanges within mechanical and thermal systems, and molecular theory.

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Eighth grade Early American History is a course that covers the economic, political, and social formation of the United States. Students will specifically focus on the evolution of the United States from pre-colonial times through the Civil War and Reconstruction.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORATION-AGRICULTURE SCIENCE

This course is to expose students to agriculture.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORATION-ART

Teachers utilize a variety of instructional resources, refining students ability to compose and assess artwork inspired by investigation, and advanced reading and writing skills that are specific to Visual Arts. Course offerings are multicultural intensive promoting the highest level of Art at the introductory level. This class will give students tools for life long enjoyment of Art.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORATION-MUSIC

General Music emphasizes the tools with which to make music happen. Along with perfecting the use of "every ones' natural instrument," - the voice, students gain thorough knowledge of reading, writing and creating at his or her age-appropriate level using both vocal and instrumental genres.

In addition, the studies of styles of music, composers of music, art in music, and the pure love of music are all stressed.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPLORATION-SPANISH

During one semester of Spanish, students will learn basic expressions, vocabulary, grammar concepts, geography, and culture from the target language.

ACT PREP-ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

This course is to prepare students for taking the English Subtest of the ACT. This course is designed to give students practical strategies then real-time practice using past ACT English subtests. Within this course, there is in-depth practice, strategies, and analysis of common traps the ACT utilizes to trick students. There are modules to work on strategies for success on the grammar, punctuation, and rhetoric (word choice) sections of the English test.

ACT PREP-MATH

Math ACT prep is a semester course designed to help students overcome weaknesses in mathematics and prepare them with the content background, study skills, and learning strategies for taking the ACT. This semester course includes further practice and comprehension of topics such as linear equations and inequalities and their graphs, integer exponents, polynomials, and geometric problems, factoring polynomials, quadratic equations and their graphs, rational expressions, rational exponents, radicals, and systems of linear equations. This course is designed to prepare you with facts, and ways to prepare for the ACT.

ACT PREP-READING

This course is to prepare students for taking the Reading Subtest of the ACT. This course is designed to give students practical strategies then real-time practice using past ACT Reading subtests. Within this course, there is in-depth practice, strategies, and analysis of each genre of text included on the Reading ACT subtest. There are modules to work on strategies for success on the prose fiction, social science, humanities, and natural sciences passages.

ACT PREP-SCIENCE

This course will provide students an overview of the science portion of the ACT test. The Science ACT Academy will offer students the opportunity to learn the structure of the science test, the research principles included within the science test, the three types of subtests, general strategies that apply to all passage types within the test, pacing strategies for score range targets, and practice tests and problems from different subtest types within the science portion of the ACT. Lessons will be organized with first an overall introduction of the strategies to use on the science test, followed by modules of each science subtest.

AGRIBUSINESS

This course combines farm management, agribusiness management, and content based on agricultural economic principles. Computer applications are included to enhance student understanding and utilization of current technology. Units include human relations, verbal and written communication, microcomputers in agriculture,

economic principles, agribusiness management, agribusiness planning
and analysis, and retail agriculture. This course can be taken to meet the personal finance requirement needed for graduation.

ALGEBRA I

This is a full-year course which provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in subsequent math courses. In particular, the instructional program in this course provides for the use of algebraic skills in a wide range of real world problem-solving situations. The concept of function is emphasized throughout the course. Units include, Linear Equations and Functions, Inequalities and Systems of Equations, Exponentials, Polynomials, Data/Formulas/Patterns and Radicals.

ALGEBRA IA

This is the first year of a two year course designed to help students overcome weaknesses in mathematics and prepare them with the content background, study skills, and learning strategies for success in Algebra I. (This course is NOT intended for any student who has passed Algebra I.) The content standards for this course are the Missouri Learning Standards/ACT standards from middle school designed for students to be able to communicate number sense concepts using multiple representations to reason, solve problems, and make connections within mathematics and across disciplines through the incorporation of real-world problems. This course also contains Missouri Learning Standards from Algebra I which provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in subsequent math courses. The course consists of topics including expressions, solving equations and inequalities, functions (including linear), and systems.

ALGEBRA IB

This is the second year of a two-year course designed to help students overcome weaknesses in mathematics and prepare them with the content background, study skills, and learning strategies for success in Algebra I. (This course is NOT intended for any student who has passed Algebra I.) The content standards for this course are the Missouri Learning Standards from middle school designed for students to be able to communicate number sense concepts using multiple representations to reason, solve problems, and make connections within mathematics and across disciplines through the incorporation of real-world problems. This course also contains Missouri Learning Standards from Algebra I which provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in subsequent math courses. The course consists of topics including rules of exponents, polynomials, functions (quadratic, exponential & others), and statistics.

ALGEBRA II

This is a full-year course which includes the study of a variety of functions (linear, quadratic higher order polynomials, exponential, absolute value, logarithmic and rational) learning to graph, compare, perform operations and manipulate them in order to solve, analyze and apply to problems.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

American Government is the study of the American political system and its fundamental principles. Students study the historical significance and provisions: of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, of state and local governments, the American electoral process, and opportunities that citizens are

provided within our political system. An objective of this course is to lay the proper foundation for being an informed citizen. To meet the requirements for this course, students must: pass the course, pass the SJSD United States Constitution and Missouri Constitution tests.

AP BIOLOGY

Advanced Placement (AP) Biology topics are organized around a few underlying principles called the big ideas:
• Big idea 1: The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life.
• Big idea 2: Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis.
• Big idea 3: Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes.
• Big idea 4: Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties.
Each big idea encompasses the core scientific principles, theories and processes governing living organisms and biological systems. For each of the four big ideas, enduring understandings incorporate the core concepts that students should retain from the learning experiences. Each enduring understanding is followed by statements of the essential knowledge necessary to support it and are typically part of the AP Biology Exam given at the end of course.

The AP Biology course is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college biology course.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

The AP English Language course provides students with the opportunity to read rigorous texts from various eras and in different genres, analyzing the big ideas of rhetorical situation, claims/evidence, reasoning/organization, and style.2 Students use given texts to reach the goal of effective writing and analysis: they will read and annotate texts from a critical perspective in order to craft well-reasoned essays and personal reflections in response.
The course is structured both thematically and chronologically, based on course design and College Board's unit guide. The over-arching theme for the course is that of power. Students will extend and explore beyond the basic reading of students in the district's traditional ELA 11 course by working with nonfiction titles that expand on the ideas stated or implied in the traditional texts.

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

This capstone English Language Arts course will prepare students for post secondary plans, focusing thematically around individual and group philosophical ideas and how ideas and differing opinions and roles impact society, and the responsibilities of a group to individuals as well as individuals to a group. Aligned to the Missouri Learning and ACT Standards, this course will concentrate on deeper sophistication of the skills of reading and analyzing literary and informational texts and using writing to communicate analysis. This course requires an advanced understanding of grammar and language rules as well as an ability to communicate through writing and speaking.

AP STATISTICS

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departure from patterns, Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study, Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, and Statistical Inference: Estimating population

parameters and testing hypotheses. This course is for students intending to pursue a college degree in business, biology, mathematics, education, computer information, marketing and management, psychology or sociology. This course is to be taken as preparation for the AP Statistics exam. A fee is required for the AP exam.

AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

AP United States Government and Politics is a college-level introduction to key political concepts, ideas, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students will read and analyze U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions between political institutions and behavior. They will read and interpret data, develop evidence-based arguments, and engage in an applied civics or politics research-based project. Students may choose to take the Advanced Placement exam for an additional fee to receive college credit. To meet the requirements for graduation, students must: pass the course, pass the SJSD United States Federal Constitution and Missouri Constitution tests, and take the state of Missouri End of Course Exam.

BIOLOGY

This course introduces the study of living organisms. It is a prerequisite for all other biology electives and is assessed by the State of Missouri in an End of Course (EOC) assessment. As such, all students must complete coursework in biology. It includes all theories relevant to biology, the basic physical and chemical structure and function of cells, reproduction of cells, and genetics. The course focuses on the unifying themes in biology of structure and function, energy transformation, change over time, and will help to establish a solid foundation in inquiry-based scientific exploration.

CHEMISTRY

This course is concerned with the nature of matter at the atomic and molecular level through the study of chemical elements and compounds. Studies include modern atomic theory, relationships within chemical reactions, stoichiometry, and will continue to encourage inquiry-based scientific exploration.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

The course provides instructions for content knowledge and skill required in the technology-based workplace. The demand will continue to expand for individuals to interact with the computer to create documents, gather information, and solve problems. The content of this class is vital for students planning to enter the workforce or post-secondary education.

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

This course is designed to equip the student with a background of computer operation concepts and an introduction to computer programming languages. Activities include: installing software programs, writing and applying simple programs to solve business problems, and operating business data processing systems.

ENGLISH I

This course focuses on the writing process with emphasis on the basic components of paragraphing. The use of technology including media center resources and word processing will be included. A variety of literature will be explored, highlighting the elements of the short story and novel.

ENGLISH II

This course focuses on the components of the essay and extends the practice of English Language Arts skills. This course, or its honors equivalent, is required for graduation. An emphasis will be placed on the use of technology including media center resources and word processing.

ENGLISH III

This course explores American Literature. The writing focus includes the mastery of the persuasive essay with the literature concentration on drama. This course, or its honors equivalent, is required for graduation. An emphasis will be placed on the use of technology including media center resources and word processing

ENGLISH IV

This course emphasizes literary analysis with an in-depth study of various types of literature, including the novel, the short story, drama, and poetry. It will focus on advanced composition, particularly the descriptive essay, and the use of technology including media center resources and word processing.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

This course investigates processes that operate on Earth, and also address Earth's place in the exosphere (solar system and the galaxy). It involves investigating and explaining phenomena that range in scale from the unimaginably large to the invisibly small. The majority of content in this course is interdisciplinary in nature and falls under the categories of astrophysics, geophysics, geochemistry, and geobiology.

FITNESS FOR LIFE

Students will learn and apply concepts and principles of physical fitness, health and wellness through lessons and accompanying activities. A key outcome of the Fitness for Life course is to develop a personal fitness plan based on personal physical fitness assessments, fitness goals and interests. Technological tools will be used to monitor and track exercise progress. In addition, students will participate in a variety of initiatives, cooperative activities, and team-building challenges. Mini-units of individual and dual sport activities, team sport activities, and aerobics and dance will complete this year long course.

FOUNDATIONS IN ART

This is an introductory course exploring many areas of the visual arts. In this course students will survey drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics, and art history. This course is a prerequisite for all other art courses.

This course satisfies the Fine Arts credit requirement. Students may test out with a written test and portfolio review if they have taken 7th and 8th Grade advanced Art

FRENCH I

This beginning study of French will teach students to talk about daily life and learn how the French language works. They will discover culture similarities and differences within the French-speaking areas of the world.

FRENCH II

The students will continue the study of basic vocabulary and structures, and will be able to describe past events and plans for the future. The history, culture and traditions of French-speaking countries will be explored.

GEOMETRY

This full-year course involves the integration of logical reasoning and spatial visualization skills. It includes a study of deductive proofs and applications from Algebra, an intense study of polygons, and an introduction to Trigonometry. Students will be required to “think visually” while transferring information to real life problems.

HEALTH

The H.S. Health curriculum is comprised of 10 content areas: Health and Wellness; Body Systems; First Aid and CPR; Diseases and Disorders (HIV, AIDS, and STI's); Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drugs; Nutrition; Life Management Skills; Environmental Health; Physical Activity-FITT Principles; and Consumer Health, Safety, and Careers This course will provide students with opportunities to explore concepts in depth, analyze and solve real-life problems, work cooperatively on tasks that develop and enhance their conceptual understanding, and develop physical and social skills necessary for a healthy, active lifestyle now and in the future.

HONORS ALGEBRA II

This is a full-year honors course which includes the study of a variety of functions (linear, quadratic higher order polynomials, exponential, absolute value, logarithmic and rational) learning to graph, compare, perform operations and manipulate them in order to solve, analyze and apply to problems. Students enrolled in honors courses will be expected to study each topic in broader depth and approach an understanding of algebra from an abstract viewpoint.

HONORS AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

American Government is the study of the American political system and its fundamental principles. Students study the historical significance and provisions: of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, Congress, the Presidency, the Supreme Court, of state and local governments, the American electoral process, and opportunities that citizens are provided within our political system. An objective of this course is to lay the proper foundation for being an informed citizen. To meet the requirements for this course, students must: pass the course, pass the SJSD United States Constitution and Missouri Constitution tests. Honors: Students enrolled in the honors sections will delve deeper into the topics addressed above.

Honors students may also be required to do further research and/or investigation both in class as well as outside of the classroom setting.

HONORS BIOLOGY

This course introduces the study of living organisms. It is a prerequisite for all other biology electives and is assessed by the State of Missouri in an End of Course (EOC) assessment. As such, all students must complete coursework in biology. It includes all theories relevant to biology, the basic physical and chemical structure and function of cells, reproduction of cells, and genetics. The course focuses on the unifying themes in biology of structure and function, energy transformation, change over time, and will help to establish a solid foundation in inquiry-based scientific exploration. Honors Biology will cover additional content and vocabulary, and therefore moves at a faster pace. Extensive laboratory experiences and projects will be expected in Honors Biology.

HONORS CHEMISTRY

This course is concerned with the nature of matter at the atomic and molecular level through the study of chemical elements and compounds. Studies include modern atomic theory, relationships within chemical reactions, stoichiometry, and will continue to encourage inquiry-based scientific exploration. This course is designed for sophomore students who plan to enter into higher level Chemistry classes, such as Chemistry II, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and/or Dual Credit. Honors Chemistry will cover additional content and vocabulary, integrate mathematical
principles, and therefore move at a faster pace. Extensive laboratory experiences and projects will be expected in Honors Chemistry.

HONORS ENGLISH I

This course prepares students for challenging careers. The genre-based course promotes analytical reading, critical thinking, and discussion about classical literature. The course promotes an advanced study of the short story and novel. An emphasis will be placed on the use of technology including media center resources and word processing.

HONORS ENGLISH II

This course provides students with intensive practice to improve writing and reading skills, in order that they may become confident and responsible communicators. To improve these skills, the course will emphasize works by professional writers as models for developing personal writing strengths. An emphasis will be placed on the use of technology including media center resources and word processing.

HONORS ENGLISH III

This course explores American Literature. The writing focus includes the mastery of persuasive and argumentative essays with a literature concentration on drama, fiction, and non-print texts. This course, or its non-honors equivalent, is required for graduation. An emphasis will be placed on the use of technology including word processing, researching digital resources, and the production of media created products. Students are expected to assume considerable responsibility for the reading and writing they do.

HONORS GEOMETRY

This full-year honors course involves the integration of logical reasoning and spatial visualization skills. It includes a study of deductive proofs and applications from Algebra, an intense study of polygons, and an introduction to Trigonometry. Students will be required to "think visually" while transferring information to real life problems. Students enrolled in honors courses will be expected to study each topic in broader depth and approach an understanding of algebra from an abstract viewpoint.

HONORS MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

The fundamental purpose of modern United States history is to examine the evolution of the United States in relation to its social, economic, and political institutions, and the causes and effects of events that contribute to the history of our nation. This course will analyze how the United States emerged as a global power and how our nation continues to interact with other nations throughout the modern world.
Students enrolled in the honors sections will delve deeper into the topics addressed above. Honors students may also be required to do further research and/or investigation both in class as well as outside of the classroom setting.

HONORS STATISTICS

This course will introduce students to data analysis and probability. Students will use their problem-solving skills while becoming familiar with statistical concepts of measures of central tendency and dispersion, hypothesis testing, and regression and correlation. Basic probability concepts will be introduced and used in relation to binomial experiments and normal probability distributions. This course is suggested for college bound students as it applies to a variety of majors (business, psychology, education, natural sciences, behavioral sciences, social science).

HONORS WORLD HISTORY

World History is a required year long course for high school students. This course will specifically focus on the development of the modern world by examining the late medieval period through present times. World History students will develop knowledge of cultural and technological changes, political and social revolutions, and the positive and negative impacts due to the interactions between various groups of peoples and nations. Students enrolled in the honors sections will delve deeper into the topics addressed above. Honors students may also be required to do further research and/or investigation both in class as well as outside of the classroom setting.

MODERN AMERICAN HISTORY

The fundamental purpose of modern United States history is to examine the evolution of the United States in relation to its social, economic, and political institutions, and the causes and effects of events that contribute to the history of our nation. This course will analyze how the United States emerged as a global power and how our nation continues to interact with other nations throughout the modern world.

PERSONAL FINANCE

The student will learn about careers, consumerism, economics, advertising, credit, budgeting and insurance. The course presents a realistic and practical approach to money management, and it provides related experiences necessary for becoming a capable employee and an efficient consumer

PRINCIPLES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Have you ever thought about starting your own business? Develop your entrepreneurial mindset by taking Principles of Entrepreneurship. This course will introduce students to the role of entrepreneurship in our economy, entrepreneurial discovery and preliminary start-up business planning. The capstone activity is the development of an innovation plan for students' start-up businesses.

PSYCHOLOGY

Based on recommendations from the American Psychological Association. Psychology is defined as the scientific study of the mind and behavior. Students are introduced to the scientific method and the core ideas and theories of psychology. As a result, students gain an understanding of the complexities and diversity of human thought and behavior. In order to investigate and draw conclusions about psychology, students will think critically and creatively, collaborate, and communicate while evaluating multiple sources of evidence. As part of this process, students will apply disciplinary and technological tools to answer questions, create and defend arguments, and solve problems.

SOCIOLOGY

Based on recommendations from the American Sociological Association, Sociology is the study of social life, social change, and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. Life is social whenever we interact with others. Over time, patterns of interaction become embedded in the structure of society. Sociologists investigate and seek to understand the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts. Since most human behavior is social, the subject matter of sociology ranges from the intimate family to the internet; from organized crime to religious traditions; and from the divisions of race, gender and social class to the shared beliefs of a common culture

SPANISH I

This is a beginning course for students who have had no previous Spanish, or who have had one semester in middle school. Students will learn to talk about situations in their daily lives. They will learn basic vocabulary, present-tense verbs, and study many aspects of Spanish culture.

SPANISH II

Students will continue study of basic vocabulary and structures and will be able to describe past events and plans for the future. The history, culture and traditions of Hispanic people, will be explored.

THEATRE ARTS

Theatre Arts (life skills) is a semester-long class that focuses on skills that an individual needs to acquire for an independent life. Using Theatre improv scenes, visual arts, and songs - skills, such as honesty, kindness, and being responsible will be lead by student assistants who will work and interact with the special needs students at a manageable pace. In addition, school is a microcosm of society that demands the acquisition of appropriate social skills. Theatre Life skills also includes the many tasks that make up daily living, such as shopping, saving money, travelling, or eating. Vocational skills are another component of what a special needs child will need to acquire—finding and maintaining an appropriate job.

WEB DESIGN

Web Design focuses on the design and management of web pages using HTML and WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get) software. The student will learn how to use the Web Development Phase to plan, analyze, design, test, implement, and maintain a successful website on the internet.

WORLD HISTORY

World History is a required year long course for high school students. This course will specifically focus on the development of the modern world by examining the late medieval period through present times. World History students will develop knowledge of cultural and technological changes, political and social revolutions, and the positive and negative impacts due to the interactions between various groups of peoples and nations.