



8th grade Course Description 2025-2026



Physical Education 7018.R0000.X

This is a semester long course. Students will be provided with purposeful physical activity to teach them the skills and knowledge needed to establish and sustain an active lifestyle. The program is taught by a certified and trained Physical Education teacher who uses a variety of learning opportunities, appropriate and sequential instruction, with meaningful and challenging content for all children. Students should come prepared to move, play, and have fun!



Athletics 7038.R0000.X

Athletics are for the students who want to play sports competitively. We will compete against other middle schools in the Austin area. Our Fall sports include Girls Volleyball, Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Basketball and Boys/Girls Cross Country. Our Spring semester sports include Boys Basketball, Girls Soccer, Boys/Girls Track and Boys/Girls Tennis.

Participating in the athletic program is a privilege. Our athletes must be great students and teammates. They should be coachable and strive to get better each day. Our athletes should lead by example: Remember, whether on the field, in the classroom, at home or competing away, you represent Clint Small Middle School, your team, and your family.



Dance Wellness 7022.R0000.X

This is a semester course. Dance Wellness MS I is designed for students to demonstrate, create, and evaluate dance movement elements associated with the elements of dance, ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop, tap, and choreographic processes in cooperative groups or individually.



Dance MS 2 5022.R0000.Y

This course is for students who want to continue a yearlong dance in 7th grade. Prerequisite is Dance1. **Audition is required.** Dance 2 is designed for students to demonstrate, create, and evaluate dance movement elements associated with the elements of dance, ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop, tap, and choreographic processes in cooperative groups or individually.



Dance MS 3 "Cougar Dancers" 7023.R0000.Y

This is a year-long course that **requires an audition.** Dance MS 3 is designed as a continuation of Dance MS 2. This course requires participation in a camp, practice outside of the school day and after school performances.



Art History 9517.R0000.X

A semester long introductory art course for students taking art for the first time in middle school, and no previous experience is necessary. This course is available to any student interested in exploring art as an elective. Students will have the ability to develop their artistic skills by working in a variety of media.



Art 2 5002.R0000.Y

These courses are for students in their second year of middle school art class. Students will develop new skills and techniques through the use of a variety of art media while learning the elements and principles of art. Students will develop skills in perception, creative expression, and historical and cultural heritage.



Advanced ART 5003.R0000.Y

This course is for students in their 3rd year of middle school art class or students who demonstrated higher skills level in art 1. This class **requires an application/portfolio submission.** The class is aligned with ART MS 3 standards.



AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)

9219.R0000.Y


The AVID class addresses key elements in college preparation: academic success skills, college entry skills, tutorials (Socratic method), teambuilding activities, and career and college exploration. Additionally, students will improve their communication skills through presentations and Socratic Seminar, participate in writing to learn/reading to learn activities, including note-taking, reflection of learning, and essay writing. Structured collaboration supports these skills. Students will also prepare for college entrance examinations, including the PSAT and TSIA-2.



Artistic Imagination (Creative Writing)


9042.R0000.X

Open to 7th and 8th graders, creative writing allows students to explore genres of their choice while working in writing groups to hone their writing skills. The goal is to get more comfortable putting ideas on paper. Everyone is a writer. Creative Writing will prove it.

 Spanish 1


2015.RJ000.Y

Spanish 1 is a **high school credit** course. This course aims to build a foundational understanding of the Spanish Language and the cultures of the many people who speak it. This course will allow students to build skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening and improve their ability to make cultural connections that will deepen their understanding. Students who take Spanish 1 earn 1 high school credit. Students who take Spanish 1 in 6th grade can fulfill their high school language requirement completely by 7th grade. The rigor of this class is equivalent to that of Spanish 1 in 9th grade.


 Spanish 2

2025.RJ000.Y

Spanish 2 is a **high school credit** course. This course is a continuation of Spanish 1. It is an intermediate low level Spanish class that covers a number of familiar, everyday topics; understand the main idea; Series of simple sentences; short interactions. This is the equivalent of a 10th grade Spanish class and you will receive a full high school credit.


 Spanish 4 Ap Language & Culture
DL 2545.PJ0DL.Y

The Advanced Placement Program® has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn **college credit**, Advanced Placement, or both, while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus. The AP Spanish Language & Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness.

 Latin 1


2014.RJ000.Y

This is a **high school credit** course where you learn to read, write, listen to, and speak Latin while exploring ancient Roman cities, Roman emperors, food, clothes, gladiators, and Roman gods, goddesses, and heroes. Students who take Latin 1 in 6th grade can fulfill their high school language requirement completely by 7th grade. The rigor of this class is equivalent to that of Latin 1 in 9th grade.

 Latin 2


2024.RJ000.Y

Students who complete Latin 2 will receive a full **high school credit**. Students will continue to build on their knowledge of Latin and the Ancient Roman world, including ancient hygiene, entertainment, infrastructure, politics, and the Roman conquest and occupation of the Mediterranean.

 French 1

2012.RJ000.Y

This **high school credit** course introduces the basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing across all three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Students learn common expressions to communicate about basic, everyday topics and are expected to actively participate in class. By the end of the first year of world language study, students should be able to understand and communicate in the target language using simple sentences and ask/answer questions about familiar topics.

 Mandarin 1

2017.RJ000.Y

This **high school credit** course introduces the basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing across all three modes of communication: interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational. Students learn common expressions to communicate about basic, everyday topics and are expected to actively participate in class. By the end of the first year of world language study, students should be able to understand and communicate in the target language using simple sentences and ask/answer questions about familiar topics.

 Ancient World Mythology


9929.R0000.X

World Mythology is a semester long course full of inquiry, reading, writing, and collaboration as we learn about the universal human need to tell stories! Students will encounter myths, gods, heroes, and monsters from Ancient Roman, Greece, Scandinavia, Egypt, and Japan. This course is **NOT** recommended for students who already took Mythology yearlong course in 6th grade.

 Choir MS 2 (Concert)

5042.R000.Y

Choir students in their second in middle school choir enroll in MS 2. These courses focus on the continued development of the choral voice, with opportunities for work on the solo voice. Students in Choir MS 2 have the opportunity to participate in All-Region, UIL, Solo and Ensemble contests, and various music festivals and concerts. Daily rehearsals include vocal production, sight reading and rhythm studies, and preparing choral literature for school performances. These courses require a full year commitment and participation in all concerts is required.

 Choir MS3 (Chamber)

5043.R000.Y

Choir students in their third year in middle school choir enroll in MS 3. These courses focus on the continued development of the choral voice, with opportunities for work on the solo voice. Students in Choir MS 3 have the opportunity to participate in All-Region, UIL, Solo and Ensemble contests, and various music festivals and concerts. Daily rehearsals include vocal production, sight reading and rhythm studies, and preparing choral literature for school performances. These courses require a full year commitment and participation in all concerts is required. **Audition required!**



Band MS 3

5033.R0000.Y



Beginning Theater 5011.R0000.X

Band students in their second year in middle school band enroll in MS 2 and are placed by audition into ability-based bands. Other factors that can affect band placement are experience, attitude/behavior, and director recommendation. MS 2 band students present concerts throughout the year for both the student body and the community and participate in several group and individual contests. Full band, small group, and individualized instruction are provided to ensure the success of the students. Weekly section rehearsals, either before or after school, and participation in concerts and contests are required.

Theatre MS 1 is an introductory one semester course for students taking theatre for the first time in middle school, and no previous experience is necessary. Theatre MS 1 meets daily and is available to any student interested in exploring theatre as an elective. The class meets during the school day; however, there may be some outside of class time requirements at various times through the year to perform and prepare for performances. Students will have opportunities to develop their performance skills through a variety of in-class and outside of class performances, as well as improve their public speaking skills..



Jazz Band (INST/VOC MS 3)

5073.R6000.Y



Theater ARTS 2 5012.R0000.Y

Jazz Band is a full year course. Students are required to also be in full year band and/or orchestra/choir to also be considered for jazz band. Acceptance into the jazz program involves an audition after spring break. This is not a course for beginners on any instrument. Also keep in mind there is a limit to how many drum set, guitar, piano, and bass students can be selected based on instrumentation and equipment.

Prerequisite 6th or 7th/8th Beginning Theatre Class
This class will cover the following TEKS and is a yearlong class:
Ensemble building, playwriting, auditioning, Group scene work, produce/design/perform in the Haunted House at Smalloween.
This class will perform a play for parents after school.



Advanced Theater (varsity)

9529.R0000.Y

Our current Jazz Ensemble has this instrumentation which is the maximum per group:
Alto Sax: 2, Tenor Sax: 2, Bari Sax: 2 Trumpet: 5,
Trombone: 4-5
Bass (Electric or acoustic): 1
Guitar: 1, Drum Set/Vibes: 1-2
Piano: 1
See Mrs Mathews in the band hall for more information.

BY AUDITION ONLY!

This Theatre class is yearlong course and engages in the study of acting, theatre production, and playwriting. Students will . . .
Produce, design, and perform in the Haunted House at Smalloween. Perform and present a one-act play for UIL One Act Play Contest. Produce and perform in the Spring Musical. Attend live performances. After school performances and rehearsal are required.



Guitar MS

5061.R0000.Y



Career and College STEM Exploration

8050.R000.Y

In classical guitar class, students will learn how to hold the classical guitar with proper hand positioning, play relaxing/mellow classical guitar music, read standard music notation, and follow typical rehearsal etiquette. Only classical guitar techniques and repertoire will be taught in class. Outside rehearsals and performances will be required. Students do not need prior classical guitar knowledge or experience to register.

The Career and College Exploration course is designed as an introductory Career and Technical Education course. As part of the career development requirements for Texas students, the course intends to help students discover their individual interests and skills and the career pathways that best fit their abilities. Career and College Exploration is an early step on each student's journey toward selecting and pursuing a satisfying and rewarding career. Students learn about themselves through aptitude and interest inventory assessments. Students will review the Texas CTE Career Clusters to investigate a range of career paths and discover the education and training required to pursue their career goals



Orchestra MS 3

5053.R0000.Y

Perform beautiful music with your orchestra family! Through engaging activities and music, learn to play a string instrument (violin, viola, cello, or double bass) with a confident and beautiful sound. Outside of class, we will have performances at multiple venues, fun social activities, and field trips. Join CSMS Orchestra to make fun and lasting memories with a supportive and caring community! Experienced string players will be placed in the Philharmonic Orchestra. Advanced experienced string players can audition for the Chamber Orchestra.



Principles of Architecture (Green Architecture & Medical Detectives)

8404.RJ000.Y

Today's students have grown up in an age of "green" choices. Students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, and investigate disease outbreaks. Students will receive a full **high school credit**.



Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Technology

8500.RJ0000.Y

Principles of Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications is designed to provide students an opportunity to develop an understanding of the various and multifaceted career opportunities in this cluster and the knowledge, skills, and educational requirements for those opportunities. This course allows students to develop knowledge and skills related to information management, presentation, animation, video technology, printing and desktop publishing. Careers in the Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications Career Cluster require a creative aptitude, a strong background in computer and technology applications, a strong academic foundation, and a proficiency in oral and written communication. Students will receive a full **high school credit**.



Digital Communication in the 21st Century/ Yearbook

7009.RJ000.Y

High school credit class where all of your photojournalism, journalism, photography, and design courses all come together. You will love promoting the yearbook with posters, designing the theme and cover of the yearbook. Countless photoshoots with VIP access to football, basketball, volleyball, and soccer games, along with coverage of science labs and pep rally's. This strong Small tradition fills you with real world skills that our Small Yearbook Staffers have used to rise high as high school editors and going into the glitzy pro world of New York City! It all begins here. **APPLICATION REQUIRED!**



Digital Media

8807.RJ000.Y

Digital Media is designed to help students analyze and assess current and emerging technologies, while designing and creating multimedia projects that address customer needs and resolve a problem. Students will implement personal and interpersonal skills to prepare for a rapidly evolving workplace environment. The knowledge and skills acquired and practiced will enable students to successfully perform and interact in a technology-driven society. Students will enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and thinking and apply them to the IT environment. Students will receive a full **high school credit**.



Video Game Design

8503.RJ000.Y

Students in Video Game Design will participate in a real video game design team focused on developing coding and digital design skills as well as problem solving, collaboration, creativity, and other critical STEAM skills. Students will learn about the evolution of gaming, artistic aspects of perspective, design, animation, technical concepts of collision theory, and programming logic. Students will create games which will be entered in a national student game design challenge called Games for Change that celebrates creative solutions to social problems. **Prerequisite Digital Media - High school Credit**



Principles of Manufacturing (Construction)

8630.RJ000.Y

Principles of manufacturing is designed to provide an introduction and lay a solid foundation for those students entering the construction or craft skilled areas. The course provides a strong knowledge of construction safety, construction mathematics, and common hand and power tools. For safety and liability considerations, limiting course enrollment to 15 students is recommended. This course also provides communication and occupation skills to assist the student in obtaining and maintaining employment. Students will receive a full **high school credit**.



Fundamentals of Computer Science 7000.RJ000.Y

An introductory course to Computer Science that will explore beginner coding concepts through hands-on activities and projects. The first semester, you will create apps for phones and tablets. The second semester, you will program a tiny computer called a MicroBit to do all sorts of fun and interesting things. Students will receive a full **high school credit**.



Principles of Information Technology (Design and Modeling / Automation and Robotics (DMAR)

8800.RJ000.Y

Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy. Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy. Students will receive a full **high school credit**.



Robotics I

8715.RJ000.Y

In Robotics I, students will transfer academic skills to component designs in a project-based environment through implementation of the design process. Students will build prototypes or use simulation software to test their designs. Additionally, students will explore career opportunities, employer expectations, and educational needs in the robotic and automation industry.

Prerequisite DMAR - High school Credit



Principal of Applied Engineering

8716.RJ000.Y

Through hands-on projects, students explore electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, and sensing devices. They learn knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the impact of electricity on the world around them. Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. Students apply the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects, including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nano-materials.

Prerequisite DMAR - High school Credit



Environmental Science Food & Environmental Ethics (Farm to Table) 9151.R0000/9153.R000.X

This course allows students to develop knowledge and skills related to sustainable food production; students maintain organic vegetable and herb gardens, fruit and nut trees, aquaponics systems, bee hives and care for chickens, ducks, goats and sheep. The primary project requires students to work in small groups to create a meal plan which will guide them throughout the process of growing, tending, harvesting, cooking and serving seasonal food from a garden bed on campus. Mini-lessons on everything from soil science to basic nutrition and demonstrations of food fermentation and a field trip to a local grocery store will support student choices for the Meal Project.



Taste of Science & Environmental Ethics 9134.R0000.X/9151.R0000.X

An exploration of the reason why we install the gardens at school in the manner we have chosen. Students will follow a curriculum that focuses on species identification, species attraction, site survey and resources, presentation of design, and installation of the garden.



Roles and Responsibilities in Our Community & Environmental Ethics 9918.R0000.X /9153.R0000.X

This is a yearlong Green Academy course. An exploration of the reason why we install the gardens at school in the manner we have chosen. Students will follow a curriculum that focuses on species identification, species attraction, site survey and resources, presentation of design, and installation of the garden.



Environmental Science Ind. Studies & Environmental Ethics/ Capstone 9154.R0000.X /9153.R0000.X

This is an 8th grade class modeled after the Eagle Scout Project process. Students propose, research, design, fund, manage, build/create projects based on their own interests and skill-sets. Like the Eagle Scout process, the teacher will assume an advisory role, and the project must be of lasting benefit to the community.



Principles of Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources 8300.RJ000.Y

This green academy course provides a foundational understanding of the agricultural industry, covering topics like plant and animal science, soil management, crop production, environmental considerations, agricultural economics, and career pathways within the field, essentially laying the groundwork for further study in specific areas of agriculture. Students will receive a full **high school credit**.



Social Justice 9911.R0000.X

This middle school course will empower you to make a positive impact on the world around you! Uncover your unique qualities and harness the superpower of YOU! Dive into the art of effective communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution to become a rockstar in working with and understanding others.

Take an adventure through history and the present to learn about social justice movements, including African American civil rights, LGBTQ rights, Women's rights, and Disability rights, that have shaped our world. Discover the power you hold to make a difference, learning the tools of activism and advocacy.



Life Lab 9010.R0000.Y

"Life Lab" aims to provide students with practical skills and knowledge that they can apply in their daily lives, promoting a healthy, sustainable, and mindful lifestyle. Some of the topics are financial literacy, career preparation, household management, communication skills, time management and organization, civic responsibility



PALS (Peer Assisted Learning Strategies) 9926.R0000.Y

PALS is an 8th grade class that is only available by application and interview. Applications for next year's PALS class will be available to current 7th graders in January. PALS work to better our school and community through service projects, and also mentor younger students at Small and at Patton Elementary. We have class discussions regarding leadership, citizenship, and making our world a better place!



HEALTH EDUCATION

60000.RJ000.Y

This one semester **high school** course presents extensive coverage of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Health including: physical health and hygiene; mental health and wellness; eating healthy and physical activity; injury and violence prevention and safety; alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; and reproductive and sexual health (opt-in only). Students will learn both the information needed to understand the concepts and the skills needed to make decisions about their health now and in the future. This course covers the high school level health TEKS and therefore students who complete the course will earn 0.5 credit toward their graduation.



Office Skills (Office Aide) 9910.R0000.X

Office aide students can assist by performing clerical tasks such as delivering passes, school event assemblies, giving tour to new students, etc. Students applying for a Student Office Aide position should possess qualities that exhibit accountability, integrity, ethics, confidentiality & trustworthiness, a positive attitude, supportiveness, and respect for authority. Any student applying for a Student Aide position must have the following criteria:

1. Be an incoming 8th grader
2. Have no documented office referrals in file this school year.
3. Have an attendance rate of 90% this school year.
4. Pass all courses from this school year.

Students who are selected as an office aide will be placed randomly in positions such as Teacher's Aide, Front Office Aide, Counselor's Aide, Library Aide, ...

All student applications will be reviewed by a committee. Placement will be determined by the class schedule as well as availability by the committee.