

Queen Creek Unified School District

Eastmark High School



7th and 8th Grade

**Course Description Catalog
2019/2020**

Queen Creek Unified School District

Course Description Catalog

Grades 7 & 8

2019-2020

Governing Board

Ken Brague, President
Bill Schultz, Vice President
Susan Leonard, Member
Samantha Davis, Member
Jennifer Revolt, Member

District Administration

Dr. Perry Berry, Superintendent
Dr. Matt Strom, Associate Superintendent
Dr. Cort Monroe, Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning
Erika Copeland, Executive Director of K-12 Educational Services
Crystal Korpan, Chief Financial Officer
Steven Ray, Director of Special Education
TBA, Director of Career and Technical Education

Table of Contents

Queen Creek Unified School District.....	1
School District Governing Board.....	2
District Administration.....	2
Table of Contents.....	3
Middle School Course Requirements.....	4
AzMERIT.....	4
Career Path Academies.....	5-6
Honors/Weighted Course Criteria.....	7
7 th Grade Course Descriptions.....	8-9
7 th Grade Electives.....	10-13
8 th Grade Course Descriptions.....	14-15
8 th Grade Electives.....	16-20
FERPA.....	21

Course Requirements

Grade 7		Grade 8	
Math		Math	
Science		Science	
Social Studies		Social Studies	
ELA		ELA	
Career Exploration	1 Semester	Electives	4 Semesters
Electives	3 Semesters		

AzMERIT

AzMERIT is a computer-based test which provides engaging questions and measures critical thinking skills for college and career readiness. It is aligned to Arizona's state learning standards which detail what students should be able to do at each grade level. The test is designed to measure student learning and progress towards readiness for college or career. AzMERIT is administered during a testing window in the spring semester.

Writing: The writing portion will require students to read a few passages and then write about them. This type of task requires students to think deeper about topics and use evidence to support their thinking.

Reading: The reading portion will be administered in two parts. This will ensure students have ample time to read and answer questions. The test will also contain editing tasks to measure student awareness of fundamental skills like spelling and grammar.

Math: The math portion will be administered in two parts. This will ensure students have ample time to read and answer questions. The test will ask questions that check a student's conceptual understanding of math as well as their procedural skills.

Career Path Academies

A Career Academy is a school within a high school that ties what you're learning in class to the high demand careers that interest you. Career Academies bring what you're learning to life by infusing your core academic studies with career related lessons and hands-on projects and by teaming you up with other students who share the same interests as you. At Eastmark High School, we are using the wall-to-wall career path academy model meaning that every 9th or 10th grade student will choose a Career Academy in which to take part. They will provide you with interesting, unique, and fun experiences whether you're headed off to college after high school or if you plan to begin employment right away. When you enroll in a Career Academy, you'll have the opportunity to earn college credit and even earn industry certification that will make you more employable once you begin your career. Additionally, Career Academies:

- Make you more competitive for college and careers
- Provide you with valuable mentoring and internship opportunities with partner businesses
- Connect you with key employers
- Help you in choosing a major early

Career Academies are open for enrollment the following year to all students. New students can apply in 9th and 10th grade. Each student can be successful in a Career Academy by:

- Improving their academic performance
- Earning college credits during high school (dual enrollment)
- Meeting future employers
- Learning job specific skills

Career Academies prepare students to earn industry certification during high school. Industry recognized credentials such as Microsoft Office Specialist, Premier Pro, AutoCAD, etc. can equate to increased earning potential upon graduation. Many certifications equate to free college credit, if the student pursues training in a related state college programs.

Eastmark High School 7th and 8th Grade Pathway Prep Options

The career prospects for someone with a STEM certification or degree are greater compared to those in non-STEM fields. There are many unfilled, high paying jobs in STEM related industry.

The medical field is projected to grow exponentially as the United States continues to age. Are you ready for a challenge?

- Robotics

- Future Health Professionals



- Student Leadership
WEB

- Media Interactions in the 21st Century

Do you have knack for leadership and selling items to others? Then, BLIS is for you!

Students will run our Spirit Store on campus as an opportunity to gain real life experience.

Do you have an interest in the creative arts? Are you artistically gifted?

Students in our Film and TV pathway will produce a student broadcast and broadcast other EHS events.

Queen Creek Unified School District Honors/Weighted Course Criteria

Honors/weighted courses must be designed and implemented to demand more challenging involvement on the part of the students. The coursework must be significantly more rigorous (higher levels of quality student thinking) than their standard course counterpart and must provide students multiple opportunities to take greater ownership of their learning. These courses should be distinguished by differences in the quality and composition of their coursework, not by the quantity of the work required. Honors/weighted courses should be designed for students who have demonstrated a high level of interest and academic achievement in a given subject area.

Accordingly, students and parents should understand that honors/weighted courses are more demanding and have requirements beyond those of non-honors courses.

All honors/weighted courses must contain:

- Significant academic rigor requiring additional effort and perseverance on the part of the student
- Additional depth and breadth of content compared to a non-honors section
- Relevant learning to students
- Critical and reflective thinking emphasis
- Greater amount of class discussion, using the Socratic method, with opportunities to defend ideas and positions
- Alignment to Arizona College and Career Ready standards
- Technology integration
- Evidence of various types of writing tasks including argumentative, informational, and persuasive components
- Novel/creative approach to instruction
- Provide a foundation for success in AP classes and college success
- Requirement of prior mastery of prerequisite skills
- Multi-purpose assessments that include peer evaluation, risk taking, critical thinking and creativity

Honors/weighted courses should also exhibit two or more of the following:

- Independent research
- Summer reading or other outside summer activities
- Inquiry learning
- Integration of two or more content areas
- Leadership components
- Service learning opportunities

7th Grade Course Descriptions

Math 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course addresses number sense and operations with an emphasis on integers, data analysis, probability/ discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure, and logic.

Honors Pre-Algebra 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

This is an accelerated course that addresses number sense and operations with an emphasis on rational numbers and solving equations, data analysis, probability/ discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure, and logic.

Science 7 – Earth & Environmental

One Year = 2 Semesters

Earth Science is the focus of this course in which students will classify rocks and minerals, describe the properties and composition of major layers of the earth and explain the processes of erosion, deposition, plate tectonics and volcanism. Students will use the rock and fossil record show that environmental conditions change over geologic and recent time. Students will also explore the relationships of the Earth and other objects in the solar system, including the relative positions of the Earth, Sun and Moon in and their interrelationships in moon phases, tides and seasons. The relationships among common objects in the solar system, galaxy, and universe will also be investigated.

Students will analyze the relationships among various organisms and their environment including food chains and webs, how organisms obtain and use resources in niches and predator/prey relationships. Students will evaluate data related to problems and possible solutions associated with population growth, as well as predict how environmental factors affect survival rates in living organisms.

Honors Science 7 - Earth & Environmental

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

In addition to the topics covered in 7th grade Science; this course will include more in depth study of all the science state standards focusing on critical thinking skills and collaborative work.

Social Studies 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course covers the study of Westward movement; the Civil War and Reconstruction; Progressive Reforms; the Industrial Revolution; key figures and events of social and political change; U.S. involvement in WWI; Economic policies and factors leading to the Great Depression; Imperialism; basic foundation, structures, and functions of Government; comparing world governments; highlights of global economics; the importance of rights, responsibilities, and roles of citizenship; human and environmental interactions. Additionally, geography, mapping, note-taking, and research skills as well as current events are incorporated throughout the year

Honors Social Studies 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

This is an accelerated course that will study the following topics: Current events; the Civil War and Reconstruction; Progressive reforms; the Industrial revolution; key figures of social and political change; U.S. involvement in WWI; Economic policies and factors leading to the Great Depression; basic functions of government; comparing world governments; the importance of citizenship; human and environmental interactions; basic economic systems. Additionally, geography, mapping, note taking, critical thinking and research skills are incorporated throughout the year.

Language Arts 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study composition techniques relating to narrative and argumentative writing, literary elements, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

Honors Language Arts 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study composition techniques relating to advanced narrative, argumentative, and expository writing, literary elements, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

In honors class, a greater emphasis is placed on independent reading, analyzing, developing, and demonstrating critical and reflective thinking skills. A greater amount of class discussion, using the Socratic Method, with opportunities to defend ideas and positions is a cornerstone of all honors classes. Honors classes may include independent research projects, summer reading lists, and possible service learning opportunities.

Career Exploration

One Semester

This required 7th grade course introduces students to a variety of career fields, including business, information technology, cyber-safety, and sales and marketing. Students also explore their interests, aptitudes, and skills to compete in the workplace as well as learn about their individual learning styles to find possible career matches. Students will explore a variety of career options and use the steps in the decision-making process to develop their career plan through ECAP via AZCIS website. This will guide them to make appropriate decisions about high school level courses, post-secondary education and training, and career fields.

7th Grade Electives

Craft & Applied Art

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

In this course, students learn about the development of this overlap through a brief history of applied arts and crafts. They create individual and group projects which are made artistically, but that also serve a functional purpose (for example: a decorative, woven basket to hold objects). In lessons aligned to State and National Core Visual Arts Standards, they make usable art objects with skills, techniques, and materials which include fibers, paper, beading, weaving, assemblage, macramé, recycled/repurposed materials, mixed media, and printmaking. In contemporary times, the distinction between ‘art’ and ‘craft’ has become blurred and definitions overlap.

Drawing & Painting

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

In this course, basic skills and techniques are learned through engaging, hands-on experiences as students express their creativity while making 2-dimensional artworks using graphite and colored pencils, technical pens, charcoal, art markers, pastels, watercolors and acrylic paints. These studio projects are inspired by a brief study of the history of painting and drawing, and an exploration of artists and artworks spanning time and cultures. Lessons align with State and National Core Visual Arts Standards and often include cross-curricular connections with core academic areas.

Sculpture & Ceramics

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

In this course, basic skills and techniques are learned through engaging, hands-on experiences as students express their creativity while making 3-dimensional artworks. In the Ceramics Unit lessons, students explore the characteristics of clay, practice hand-building techniques, and then learn to apply glazes and use the ceramic kiln. Depending on equipment availability, exposure to throwing on a potter’s wheel may be included in classroom activities. In the Sculpture Unit, students create projects working in various media, such as paper mache, wire, plaster, and found objects. Both Units include a brief history of the art form from a world-cultures perspective, and an exploration of traditional and contemporary artists and artwork. All lessons are aligned with State and National Core Visual Arts Standards and often include cross-curricular connections with core academic areas.

AVID

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

*Subject to acceptance into the AVID program

AVID is a teacher approved elective course. In the AVID elective class, students learn organizational study skills, work on critical thinking, asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college/adult tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Students in AVID will be enrolled in one or more rigorous classes, such as honors math, science, social studies, reading or writing. As students’ progress in AVID, their self-images improve, and they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students.

Future Health Professionals

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

Students will be exposed to the technical skills and soft skills associated with a broad range of occupations relating to the Health Science career cluster, including job requirements and tasks performed, to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals. The course includes, but is not limited to, relevant history, medical terminology, applied technologies, and career opportunities. Students enrolled in this course will be able to apply skills learned in the student organization, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). Students will learn the following through HOSA: collaboration with peers, leadership, speaking and listening skills such as presenting in front of a panel of judges, medical terminology, reading, annotating, and responding to rigorous medical reading comprehension materials.

Media Interactions in the 21st Century

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of communications and technology experience. Students will work on maintaining school social media pages, learn how to develop their own website, explore the world of blogging, and work on relaying school and community events in a variety of mediums! This course is perfect for anyone interested in communication and technology.

Robotics

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

Students will be introduced to STEM concepts and how these concepts relate to the real world. Each lesson is aligned to current Arizona Standards in science, technology, engineering and math, offering hands on activities to promote critical thinking and collaboration. The class is designed for students to be scientifically aware, engaged in exploration, and experience the world around them. Students will have opportunities to put knowledge into practice through lab settings where robots are created with teams.

Student Leadership - Student Council

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

**Requires teacher recommendation and application

** Limited positions available per grade level

Students choosing to be involved in student leadership and developing strong skills do not want to pass up this opportunity to get involved! Sixth, seventh and eighth graders will work together to study famous leaders, develop leadership and communication skills, provide community service opportunities, run school events, and implement projects from beginning to end! Students interested in being student council class ambassadors, class representatives or officers must register for this course!

Student Leadership – WEB – Where Everybody Belongs

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

**Requires teacher recommendation and application

** This course includes attendance at 2 summer training days and 1 summer day for 6th grade orientation

As WEB leaders, seventh and eighth graders will work to provide a quality experience for sixth graders transitioning into the middle school environment. WEB leaders will learn various leadership skills, explore their strengths and weaknesses, mentor 6th graders, and work on events that improve the overall school culture. As WEB leaders, students will learn and practice real-world communication skills as they are required to reach out to their assigned sixth graders throughout the school year. It is essential that WEB leaders mark the required summer days for their personal leadership development as well as creating bonds with their assigned sixth graders.

Physical Education

One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee

Lockers and locks are provided by the school. There is a \$5.00 lock replacement fee for lost locks.

This course covers basic skills which are taught through individual and team activities. Emphasis is placed on lifetime physical fitness through a daily exercise and fitness program. Areas of emphasis include: responsibility, sportsmanship, character, socialization, rule knowledge and more. Active participation and appropriate dress is required daily.

PE uniform is mandatory.

Fitness/Weights

One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee

This course is designed to teach students the knowledge and skills that are necessary to create and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Students will explore a variety of activities including weight-training, aerobic activities, and team sports that will promote fitness and can be used in achieving life-long wellness.

PE uniform is mandatory.

Dance/Fitness

One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee

In this course, students will be taught different dance techniques, including eight counts to a variety of music. Areas of emphasis include: choreography, cooperation, teamwork, leadership, character development, responsibility, and more. Students will also be involved in Fitness units that will show how to incorporate fitness into their daily life. We will work on muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility.

PE uniform is mandatory.

Math Lab**One Year = 2 Semesters**

Math Lab is a required course for students who are not mastering grade level math skills. Placement determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation.

This course is designed to be paired with and support the assigned math class. This course will strengthen prerequisite skills, support and maintain grade level concepts, as well as address study skills. Successful completion of this course will provide students with an elective credit.

Reading Lab**One Year = 2 Semesters**

In this course, students will gain foundational skills necessary to be successful in Language Arts. Student placement is determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation. This course will provide students with strategies and skills that proficient, critical, and close readers bring to any text. Areas of focus include but are not limited to reading fluently, summarizing main ideas, engaging in discussion, developing vocabulary, and making connections. Students will read and discuss fiction and non-fiction texts from multiple genres. An emphasis will also be placed on finding textual evidence to support claims made within a text.

Cadet Band**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

A training oriented performance ensemble made up of standard band and percussion instruments. This ensemble is recommended for students that are still new to an instrument or students who would like to learn a new instrument. Fundamental playing and technical skills and music theory will be studied. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be outside school hours. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire. Attendance is required at all scheduled performances.

Symphonic Band**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

Advanced band is a performance oriented ensemble made up of a select group of 8th grade band students. Rehearsals focus on advanced musical concepts and playing techniques to meet the needs of the advanced band student. The Advanced Band will perform at several concerts, community functions and festival performances throughout the year. Attendance for these performances is mandatory. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire.

Concert Band**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

A training-oriented performance ensemble for middle school students with at least one year experience playing a band instrument. Fundamental playing and technical skills specific to instrument families (brass, woodwind, percussion) and music theory will be studied. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be outside of school hours. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire. Attendance is required at all scheduled performances.

Concert Percussion**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Concert Percussion is an intermediate level class for the middle school student with at least one year of playing a percussion instrument. Fundamental playing and technical skills and music theory will be studied. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be other than during school hours. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire. Attendance is required at all scheduled performances.

Advanced Percussion**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

Advanced band is a performance oriented ensemble made up of a select group of 8th grade percussion students. Rehearsals focus on advanced musical concepts and playing techniques to meet the needs of the advanced percussion student. The Advanced Band will perform at several concerts, community functions and festival performances throughout the year. Attendance for these performances is mandatory. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire.

Choir**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

This ensemble is open to all singers. Students will learn basic vocal technique, music reading skills and performance techniques while studying a variety of choral repertoire. Participation in concerts and performances outside of the school day will be required.

Cadet Orchestra**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

This course is designed for students who would have very little or no experience in orchestra. This course will cover note reading, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context to today. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. Performances will be twice a semester, with occasional rehearsals outside of the school day. All students are required to be at rehearsals and performances.

Intermediate Orchestra**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Prerequisite: One Year of school orchestra and/or audition required

This course is designed for students who would have one to two years of experience in orchestra. Students should be able to fluently read their notes on the A and D Strings. This course will cover note reading, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context to today. In addition, this course will involve shifting and scales that are one and two octaves. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. Performances will be at least twice a semester, with occasional rehearsals outside of the school day. All students are required to be at rehearsals and performances.

Advanced Orchestra**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Prerequisite: Must pass intermediate orchestra with a B or better, or by audition

This course is designed for students with two to three years of playing experience. This orchestra is the showcase orchestra for the school. They will travel and perform at festival and at the high school. Students in this course will be expected to perform their music with high quality and in a shorter amount of time than that of the intermediate orchestra. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. There will be four to five concerts per year. All students are required to be at rehearsals and every performing opportunity.

Online Extension**One Semester \$100 Course Fee (Course Fee Summer School Only)**

The online intervention program is designed to be completed *independently* by students. The program has all the tools necessary for your child's success and advancement. Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Writing lessons contain vocabulary, lectures, assignments, quizzes, and tests. These lessons introduce and reinforce state standards and concepts taught within the semester. Students must complete an online course for each 'F' they received in these subject areas. If completed successfully, a "D" will replace the failing grade.

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Math 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course addresses number sense and operations with an emphasis on rational numbers and solving equations, data analysis, probability/ discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure, and logic.

Honors Algebra I 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. Eastmark High School, Newell Barney and Queen Creek Middle School students may receive high school credit for Algebra I by successfully completing both semesters with a “C” or higher. Credits will be recorded onto the students’ high school transcript with EHS, NBMS & QCMS letter grades attached. These grades will be counted into the students’ cumulative grade point average.

This course will explore the relationships between linear, exponential and quadratic functions through real world modeling. Other major areas of study will include expressions, solving equations and inequalities, properties of exponents, system of equations, matrices, analyzing functions using different representations, descriptive statistics, perform arithmetic operations on polynomials, use properties of rational and irrational numbers through problem solving and applications. A graphing calculator is highly recommended and a specific model will be suggested by the instructor. The course uses the common core state standards as a guideline for its curriculum.

Science 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course emphasizes scientific processes including investigation, data collection, and analysis. The physical science portion of this course will explore the properties, classification, and structure of matter, the periodic table and how transfer of energy can affect the properties of matter. The relationship between force and motion will be explored in terms of Newton’s Laws of Motion.

The life science portion includes the basic principles of heredity including the dominant and recessive traits in humans including hair color and blood type. Students will analyze competitive relationships of organisms as well as the structural and behavioral adaptations of organisms that could change over several generations and allow for their survival within an ecosystem.

Honors Science 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

This course addresses the same physical science standards as 8th grade science with the addition of additional high school standards. These inclusions provide for a more in depth understanding of these concepts as well as a contextual framework for the math skills learned in algebra. Emphasis is placed on developing analytical, critical thinking, and hypothetical-deductive reasoning skills.

Social Studies 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

In this course, students will study the following topics: The American Revolution and the creation of a unifying form of government for the new American Nation; the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution; the branches of government and their functions; Landmark Supreme Court cases. Students will also review WWI and the Great Depression. Eighth grade students will also study in depth, WWII, including Fascism, Nazism, the Holocaust, and Nuremburg Trials; U.S. roles in the war, including U.S. internment camps, important battles, VE Day, and VJ Day, and the creation of the United Nations. Post War America; the Cold War Era and the spread of Communism. Other major wars that will be studied include the following: the Korean War; the Vietnam War, including the historical relationship between Vietnam and China, and the French-Indochina war; the Persian Gulf War, and the Iraq War. Students will study current events in respect to civil rights in America and around the world. Economic studies will include Adam Smith's ideas of Market economy, the function of relationships among various institutions, the impact of government investment in human capital as well as physical capital, entrepreneurship; competition, and supply and demand, The Federal Reserve System; the Global Economy and Personal Finance.

Honors Social Studies 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a "B" or better for the course. All students must maintain a "C" (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a "C" could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

In this course, students will study the following topics: The American Revolution and the creation of a unifying form of government for the new American Nation; the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution; the branches of government and their functions; Landmark Supreme Court cases. Students will also review WWI and the Great Depression. Eighth grade students will also study in depth, WWII, including Fascism, Nazism, the Holocaust, and Nuremburg Trials; U.S. roles in the war, including U.S. internment camps, important battles, VE Day, and VJ Day, and the creation of the United Nations. Post War America; the Cold War Era and the spread of Communism. Other major wars that will be studied include the following: the Korean War; the Vietnam War, including the historical relationship between Vietnam and China, and the French-Indochina war; the Persian Gulf War, and the Iraq War. Students will study current events in respect to civil rights in America and around the world.

Language Arts 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study composition techniques relating to narrative and argumentative writing, literary elements, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

Honors Language Arts 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a "B" or better for the course. All students must maintain a "C" (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a "C" could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study composition techniques relating to advanced narrative and argumentative writing, literary elements, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

In honors class, a greater emphasis is placed on independent reading, analyzing, developing, and demonstrating critical and reflective thinking skills. A greater amount of class discussion, using the Socratic Method, with opportunities to defend ideas and positions is a cornerstone of all honors classes. Honors classes may include independent research projects, summer reading lists, and possible service learning opportunities.

8th Grade Electives

Craft & Applied Art

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

In this course, students learn about the development of this overlap through a brief history of applied arts and crafts. They create individual and group projects which are made artistically, but that also serve a functional purpose (for example: a decorative, woven basket to hold objects). In lessons aligned to State and National Core Visual Arts Standards, they make usable art objects with skills, techniques, and materials which include fibers, paper, beading, weaving, assemblage, macramé, recycled/repurposed materials, mixed media, and printmaking. In contemporary times, the distinction between ‘art’ and ‘craft’ has become blurred and definitions overlap. *Enrollment in 8th Grade Art courses does not require completion of 6th or 7th Grade Art classes; although there is increased academic rigor in 8th Grade lesson content with higher level student performance expectations and more challenging studio work.*

Drawing & Painting

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

In this course, basic skills and techniques are learned through engaging, hands-on experiences as students express their creativity while making 2-dimensional artworks using graphite and colored pencils, technical pens, charcoal, art markers, pastels, watercolors and acrylic paints. These studio projects are inspired by a brief study of the history of painting and drawing, and an exploration of artists and artworks spanning time and cultures. Lessons align with State and National Core Visual Arts Standards and often include cross-curricular connections with core academic areas. *Enrollment in 8th Grade Art courses does not require completion of 6th or 7th Grade Art classes; although there is increased academic rigor in 8th Grade lesson content with higher level student performance expectations and more challenging studio work.*

Sculpture & Ceramics

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

In this course, basic skills and techniques are learned through engaging, hands-on experiences as students express their creativity while making 3-dimensional artworks. In the Ceramics Unit lessons, students explore the characteristics of clay, practice hand-building techniques, and then learn to apply glazes and use the ceramic kiln. Depending on equipment availability, exposure to throwing on a potter’s wheel may be included in classroom activities. In the Sculpture Unit, students create projects working in various media, such as paper mache, wire, plaster, and found objects. Both Units include a brief history of the art form from a world-cultures perspective, and an exploration of traditional and contemporary artists and artwork. All lessons are aligned with State and National Core Visual Arts Standards and often include cross-curricular connections with core academic areas. *Enrollment in 8th Grade Art courses does not require completion of 6th or 7th Grade Art classes; although there is increased academic rigor in 8th Grade lesson content with higher level student performance expectations and more challenging studio work.*

AVID

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

*Subject to acceptance into the AVID program

AVID is a teacher approved elective course. In the AVID elective class, students learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college/adult tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Students in AVID are expected to enroll in rigorous classes, such as honors math, science, social studies, reading or writing. As students’ progress in AVID, their self-images improve, and they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students.

Drama I**One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

This course is designed to inspire the student who wishes to develop an appreciation of the theater. Students will be provided with basic theater skills, such as improvisation, pantomime, musical dance theater, basic acting and public speaking. Students will also be introduced to the mechanics of theater including, make-up, set design, costume design, lighting design and sound. The course includes two student performances. The goal for this course is to offer a creative outlet and produce well-rounded performers.

Future Health Professionals**One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

Students will be exposed to the technical skills and soft skills associated with a broad range of occupations relating to the Health Science career cluster, including job requirements and tasks performed, to assist students in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals. The course includes, but is not limited to, relevant history, medical terminology, applied technologies, and career opportunities. Students enrolled in this course will be able to apply skills learned in the student organization, Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA). Students will learn the following through HOSA: collaboration with peers, leadership, speaking and listening skills such as presenting in front of a panel of judges, medical terminology, reading, annotating, and responding to rigorous medical reading comprehension materials.

Media (II) Interactions in the 21st Century**One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

In this course, students will be exposed to a variety of communications and technology experience. Media II students will review digital citizenship then work in a self-driven, project-based environment on school newsletters, videos, and other mediums as they explore the journalism and technological world! In order to take Media II, students must have had Media I.

Robotics**One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

Students will be introduced to STEM concepts and how these concepts relate to the real world. Each lesson is aligned to current Arizona Standards in science, technology, engineering and math, offering hands on activities to promote critical thinking and collaboration. The class is designed for students to be scientifically aware, engaged in exploration, and experience the world around them. Students will have opportunities to put knowledge into practice through lab settings where robots are created with teams.

Student Leadership - Student Council**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

**Requires teacher recommendation and application

** Limited positions available per grade level

Students choosing to be involved in student leadership and developing strong skills do not want to pass up this opportunity to get involved! Sixth, seventh and eighth graders will work together to study famous leaders, develop leadership and communication skills, provide community service opportunities, run school events, and implement projects from beginning to end! Students interested in being student council class ambassadors, class representatives or officers must register for this course!

Student Leadership – WEB – Where Everybody Belongs**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

**Requires teacher recommendation and application

** This course includes attendance at 2 summer training days and 1 summer day for 6th grade orientation

As WEB leaders, seventh and eighth graders will work to provide a quality experience for sixth graders transitioning into the middle school environment. WEB leaders will learn various leadership skills, explore their strengths and weaknesses, mentor 6th graders, and work on events that improve the overall school culture. As WEB leaders, students will learn and practice real-world communication skills as they are required to reach out to their assigned sixth graders throughout the school year. It is essential that WEB leaders mark the required summer days for their personal leadership development as well as creating bonds with their assigned sixth graders.

Spanish I

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. Newell Barney and Queen Creek Middle School students may receive high school credit for Spanish I by successfully completing both semesters with a “C” or higher. Credits will be recorded onto the students’ high school transcript with NBMS & QCMS letter grades attached. These grades will be counted into the students’ cumulative grade point average.

Students will learn basic vocabulary related to people, places, things and actions close to their own lives. They will express themselves in phrases, short sentences and memorized material exhibiting an emerging control of the most common basic grammatical forms and structures. Their written language will reflect what they can say. Students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of language and cultures.

Physical Education

One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee

Lockers and locks are provided by the school. There is a \$5.00 lock replacement fee for lost locks.

This course covers basic skills which are taught through individual and team activities. Emphasis is placed on lifetime physical fitness through a daily exercise and fitness program. Areas of emphasis include; responsibility, sportsmanship, character, socialization, rule knowledge, and more. Active participation and appropriate dress is required daily.

PE uniform is mandatory.

Fitness/Weights

One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee

This course is designed to teach students the knowledge and skills that are necessary to create and maintain a healthy lifestyle. Students will explore a variety of activities including weight-training, aerobic activities, and team sports that will promote fitness and can be used in achieving life-long wellness.

PE uniform is mandatory.

Dance/Fitness

One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee

In this course, students will be taught different dance techniques, including eight counts to a variety of music. Areas of emphasis include: choreography, cooperation, teamwork, leadership, character development, responsibility, and more. Students will also be involved in Fitness units that will show how to incorporate fitness into their daily life. We will work on muscular strength, endurance, and flexibility.

PE uniform is mandatory.

Math Lab

One Year = 2 Semesters

Math Lab is a required course for students who are not mastering grade level math skills. Placement determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation.

This course is designed to be paired with and support the assigned math class. This course will strengthen prerequisite skills, support and maintain grade level concepts, as well as address study skills. Successful completion of this course will provide students with an elective credit.

Reading Lab

One Year = 2 Semesters

In this course, students will gain foundational skills necessary to be successful in Language Arts. Student placement is determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation. This course will provide students with strategies and skills that proficient, critical, and close readers bring to any text. Areas of focus include but are not limited to reading fluently, summarizing main ideas, engaging in discussion, developing vocabulary, and making connections. Students will read and discuss fiction and non-fiction texts from multiple genres. An emphasis will also be placed on finding textual evidence to support claims made within a text.

Cadet Band**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

A training oriented performance ensemble made up of standard band and percussion instruments. This ensemble is recommended for students that are still new to an instrument or students who would like to learn a new instrument. Fundamental playing and technical skills and music theory will be studied. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be outside school hours. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire. Attendance is required at all scheduled performances.

Concert Band**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

A training-oriented performance ensemble for middle school students with at least one year experience playing a band instrument. Fundamental playing and technical skills specific to instrument families (brass, woodwind, percussion) and music theory will be studied. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be outside of school hours. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire. Attendance is required at all scheduled performances.

Symphonic Band**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

Advanced band is a performance oriented ensemble made up of a select group of 8th grade band students. Rehearsals focus on advanced musical concepts and playing techniques to meet the needs of the advanced band student. The Advanced Band will perform at several concerts, community functions and festival performances throughout the year. Attendance for these performances is mandatory. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire.

Concert Percussion**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Concert Percussion is an intermediate level class for the middle school student with at least one year of playing a percussion instrument. Fundamental playing and technical skills and music theory will be studied. This ensemble will prepare and perform concerts each semester, some of which may be other than during school hours. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire. Attendance is required at all scheduled performances.

Advanced Percussion**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

Advanced band is a performance oriented ensemble made up of a select group of 8th grade percussion students. Rehearsals focus on advanced musical concepts and playing techniques to meet the needs of the advanced percussion student. The Advanced Band will perform at several concerts, community functions and festival performances throughout the year. Attendance for all of these performances is mandatory. Students will be required to provide their own instrument and concert attire.

Choir**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

This ensemble is open to all singers. Students will learn basic vocal technique, music reading skills and performance techniques while studying a variety of choral repertoire. Participation in concerts and performances outside of the school day will be mandatory.

Cadet Orchestra**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

This course is designed for students who would have very little or no experience in orchestra. This course will cover note reading, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context to today. Music played will be a wide variety, ranging from classical to pop contemporary music. Instruments played in orchestra are violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. There will be around four concerts per year. All students are expected to perform in every performing opportunity.

Intermediate Orchestra

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and/or audition

This course is designed for students who would have one to two years of experience in orchestra. Students should be able to fluently read their notes on the A and D Strings. This course will cover note reading, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context to today. In addition, this course will involve shifting and scales that are one and two octaves. Music played will be a wide variety, ranging from classical to pop contemporary music. Instruments played in orchestra are violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. There will be around four concerts per year. All students are expected to perform in every performing opportunity.

Advanced Orchestra

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Prerequisite: Must pass Intermediate Orchestra with a B or better, or by audition

This course is designed for students with two to three years of playing experience. This orchestra is the showcase orchestra for the school. They will travel and perform at festival and at the high school. Students in this course will be expected to perform their music with high quality and in a shorter amount of time. This course will cover advanced note reading, scales of two to three octaves, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context to today. Music played will be a wide variety, ranging from classical to pop contemporary music. Instruments played in orchestra are violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. There will be around four concerts per year. All students are expected to perform in every performing opportunity.

Online Extension

One Semester \$100 Course Fee (Course Fee Summer School Only)

The online intervention program is designed to be completed *independently* by students. The program has all the tools necessary for your child's success and advancement. Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Writing lessons contain vocabulary, lectures, assignments, quizzes, and tests. These lessons introduce and reinforce state standards and concepts taught within the semester. Students must complete an online course for each 'F' they received in these subject areas. If completed successfully, a "D" will replace the failing grade.

Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 45 days of a request made to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for copies;
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information;
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions;
- School officials with legitimate educational interest
 - A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles); a person serving on the school board; or a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
 - A legitimate educational interest means the review of records is necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;
- Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, sports participation (including height and weight of athletes) and dates of attendance unless notified by the parents or eligible student that the school is not to disclose the information without consent.

The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the Queen Creek Unified School District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-5901