

Hallsville Jr. High School

Grades 7-8



HALLSVILLE

JUNIOR HIGH

Course Guide

2025-2026

Excellence in Education



HALLSVILLE JR. HIGH

1 Bobcat Lane
Hallsville, TX 75650

Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Hallsville Jr. High!

This course selection guide has been developed to provide you with information that will help in making decisions that affect your high school career. At HJH you can begin taking classes that will be recorded on your high school transcript and classes that will influence the courses you take in 9th Grade. We are here to help guide you as you discover new attributes about yourself and your talents.

We are extremely excited to share this journey with you and your family. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We want to ensure you and your child have a successful junior high experience.

Sincerely,

Clayton Farrell, Principal

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HJH Contact Information

~Campus Administration~

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------------|
| Principal | Clayton Farrell | Ext. 2053 | cfarrell2@hisd.com |
| Dean of Instruction | Hollie Strickland | Ext. 2126 | hstrickland@hisd.com |
| Assistant Principal A-L | Deke Dillard | Ext. 2127 | ddillard2@hisd.com |
| Assistant Principal M-Z | Lauree Oberthier | Ext. 2013 | loberthier@hisd.com |

~Campus Counselors~

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Counselor A-L | Carolyn Cole | Ext. 2014 | ccole@hisd.com |
| Counselor M-Z | Jennifer Roberts | Ext. 2063 | jroberts2@hisd.com |

~Office Staff~

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Principal Secretary | Denise Hill | Ext. 2053 | dhill@hisd.com |
| Registrar/Counselor's Secretary/Attendance | Barbara Dorsey | Ext. 2073 | bdorsey@hisd.com |
| Testing Secretary | Shelley Clyburn | Ext. 2124 | sclyburn@hisd.com |
| AP's Secretary | Maria Martinez | Ext. 2005 | mmartinez@hisd.com |
| Nurse | Amber Holt | Ext. 2042 | aholt@hisd.com |
| Receptionist | Dalana Grebe | Ext. 2132 | dgrebe@hisd.com |



@HallsvilleJH



@hallsvillejuniorhigh



@HallsvilleJH

GENERAL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

Under House Bill 5 all students in kindergarten through grade 12 must be in attendance 90% of the days a class is offered to receive credit for that class.

Both excused and unexcused absences count against the 90%.

Students missing more than 10% of the days a class is offered will not receive credit and may not be promoted to the next grade level.

CREDITS

At HJH our school year is divided into two semesters.

All students are required to have 7 credits per year.

- A course that lasts 1 semester is worth 0.5 credit.
- A course that lasts 2 semesters (full year) is worth 1.0 credit.

Courses that transfer as a high school credit (and are calculated in the GPA) are:

- Honors Algebra I
- Honors Spanish I

Courses that transfer as a high school credit (but are not calculated in the GPA) are:

- Health
- Touch Systems/Data Entry

DATA MANAGEMENT

SKYWARD

Information about your student's attendance, tardies, grades, and current schedule can be accessed through our student data management system, Skyward. A link can be found at family.hisd.com.

TALKING POINTS

An education technology platform designed to facilitate two-way communication between teachers and families. Talking Points allows teachers to share important academic updates and student progress/concerns and parents can respond directly to teacher messages using their mobile devices for increased accessibility.

ADVANCED COURSES

Through Advanced courses, advanced instruction is provided for students who have demonstrated a desire to experience more rigorous course content. Enrollment in these classes is open to students who meet the criteria of enrollment (see prerequisites) and will commit to do the advanced work and study that is required. Students in Advanced/Honors classes that are **NOT** passing the course at the end of the first semester may be subject to removal pending a meeting with the Advanced Placement Committee.

SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUESTS

Students and parents are given an opportunity to make change requests in elective course selections the first week of school and the first week of the second semester (for new electives only). Please contact your student's counselor. There will be no changes after that time. Teacher requests/changes are not accepted.

CTE REQUIREMENT

Students will take Touch Systems Data Entry or College and Career Explorations either in their 7th or 8th grade year if their schedule allows in order to meet TEA's College and Career Readiness requirements.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS FOR ADVANCED/HONORS COURSES

The following expectations are required for a student in the rigorous Advanced courses offered at Hallsville Jr. High School. They are:

- Please see pages 7 and 8 in this guide for advanced and honors placement criteria.
- It is recommended that students achieve "Master" level on STAAR in the content area of Advanced interest.
- If a student is moving from an "on-level" class to an Advanced class, a minimum grade of 85-90 is required depending on the subject. This grade will help ensure success at a more rigorous pace and content.
- A high degree of academic rigor is expected in every Advanced course. Consequently, grades are affected. Students must recognize that challenging coursework can result in lower grades if class expectations are not met.
- A parent and student signed advanced/honors contract must be on file in each advanced/honors course taken.
- Advanced courses offered at HJH are:
 - ELA 7, 8
 - Math 7
 - Science 7, 8
 - History 7, 8
- Honors courses offered for High School Credit are:
 - Honors Algebra I*
 - Honors Spanish I*

When deciding on the level of mathematics your child should take, consider the following pathway. Please be sure your student can handle the extra demands of these courses.

Advanced Math Track

| | 6th | 7th | 8th | 9th | 10th | 11th | 12th |
|------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Course | Advanced | Advanced | Honors Algebra I | Geometry | Algebra II | Pre-Cal | Calculus AB, Calculus BC or Stats |
| Curriculum | all 6th & most of 7th | Review of 7th & all 8th | Algebra I (High School Credit) | Geometry | Algebra II | Pre-Cal | Calculus AB, Calculus BC or Stats |
| Testing | 6th STAAR | 7th STAAR | Algebra 1 EOC (must pass to graduate) | --- | --- | --- | AP Exams |

MATH: STUDENTS MUST MEET 2 OUT OF THE 3 PLACEMENT CRITERIA

| | | PLACEMENT CRITERIA | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Current Course | Placement | STAAR Assessment | | Math Cumulative Average | EOY iReady Math |
| | | Current Level | Outcome | | |
| Grade 6 Advanced Math | Grade 7 Advanced Math | Grade 6 | Meets or Masters | 80 + | 512 or above |
| Grade 7 Advanced Math | Grade 8 Algebra I | Grade 8 | Meets or Masters | 85 + | 520 or above |

SCIENCE: STUDENTS MUST MEET 2 OUT OF 3 PLACEMENT CRITERIA

| | | PLACEMENT CRITERIA | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Current Course | Placement | Science Cumulative Average | Math & Reading STAAR Test | EOY iReady Math |
| Grade 6 Science | Grade 7 Advanced Science | 85+ | Meets or Masters | 512 or above |
| Grade 6 Advanced Science | Grade 7 Advanced Science | 80+ | Meets or Masters | 512 or above |
| Grade 7 Science | Grade 8 Advanced Science | 85+ | Meets or Masters | 520 or above |
| Grade 7 Advanced Science | Grade 8 Advanced Science | 80+ | Meets or Masters | 520 or above |

READING LANGUAGE ARTS (RLA): STUDENTS MUST MEET 2 OUT OF THE 3 PLACEMENT CRITERIA

| Current Course | Placement | PLACEMENT CRITERIA | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------------|
| | | STAAR Assessment | | RLA Cumulative Average | EOY iReady Reading |
| | | Current Level | Outcome | | |
| Grade 6 RLA | Grade 7 Advanced RLA | Grade 6 | 80% + | 90 + | 632 or higher |
| Grade 6 Advanced RLA | Grade 7 Advanced RLA | Grade 6 | 70% + | 80 + | 609 or higher |
| Grade 7 RLA | Grade 8 Advanced RLA | Grade 7 | 80% + | 90+ | 642 or higher |
| Grade 7 Advanced RLA | Grade 8 Advanced RLA | Grade 7 | 70% + | 80+ | 620 or higher |

SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY: STUDENTS MUST MEET 2 OUT OF THE 3 PLACEMENT CRITERIA

| Current Course | Placement | PLACEMENT CRITERIA | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | | Social Studies Cumulative Average | STAAR Reading | EOY iReady Reading |
| Grade 6 Social Studies | Grade 7 Advanced TX History | 85 + | Meets or Masters | 632 or higher |
| Grade 6 Advanced Social Studies | Grade 7 Advanced TX History | 85+ | Meets or Masters | 609 or higher |
| Grade 7 History | Grade 8 Advanced US History | 85+ | Meets or Masters | 642 or higher |
| Grade 7 Advanced History | Grade 8 Advanced US History | 85+ | Meets or Masters | 620 or higher |

Hallsville Junior High

SAMPLE Advanced/Honors Contract 2025-2026

HALLSVILLE ISD

2025-2026 Advanced Consent Form

Student Name _____

Grade: _____ School: _____ Teacher: _____

Parents please discuss each statement below with your child and initial each statement.

_____ **I have reviewed the district's recommendation.**

_____ **I understand that additional work outside of the regular classroom will be expected.**

_____ **I understand that this class is rigorous.**

_____ **I understand that I will not be allowed to drop this course unless I meet the following requirements:**

- **score 73 or below for the first nine weeks,**
- **attend 3 or more tutorial sessions, and**
- **have a parent/teacher conference to discuss progress**

_____ **I understand that failure to meet these 3 requirements is subject to removal from the Advanced class.**

_____ **I understand that if I drop this course I will not be allowed to get back into the advanced class until the following school year and a recommendation from the teacher must be provided.**

_____ **I understand that if I do not pass with a 70+ for Semester 1, I will be subject to removal from the class pending a meeting with the Advanced placement committee.**

Teacher Signature: _____

Campus Principal: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Additional Comments: _____

7th Grade



7th Grade Schedules

High school credit courses are shown by an asterisk (*).

REQUIRED - 5 Credits

| Course | Credits | Level(s) Available |
|--------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| RLA | 1 | On Level or Advanced |
| Math | 1 | On Level or Advanced |
| Science | 1 | On Level or Advanced |
| Texas History | 1 | On Level or Advanced |
| Physical Education | 1 | PE, Athletics, Tennis, Dance |

ELECTIVES - Choose 2 Credits

| Course | Credits |
|---|---------|
| Agricultural Business | 0.5 |
| Art | 0.5 |
| Outdoor Adventure | 0.5 |
| Spanish | 0.5 |
| College & Career Explorations | 0.5 |
| Intro to Theater | 0.5 |
| Choir (Girls or Boys) | 1 |
| Band | 1 |
| Yearbook (Student Data Sheet Required) | 1 |
| Advanced Theater (Student Data Sheet/Audition Required) | 1 |
| Advanced Art (Student Data Sheet Required) | 1 |
| UIL Math Team (Student Data Sheet Required) | 1 |
| For High School Credit - Not Calculated in GPA* | |
| Touch Systems Data Entry* | 0.5 |
| Health* | 0.5 |

7th Grade

Course Descriptions

Required Courses

Choose a level for each subject

READING LANGUAGE ARTS – 1 CREDIT

On Level RLA 7

Students are provided opportunities to increase and refine their literary skills through: reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Throughout the year, special emphasis is placed on vocabulary building, critical thinking, and reading comprehension. Students will continue to improve reading skills as they are exposed to a wide variety of literary and informative texts. Students cultivate their skills in oral and written communication in order to create a variety of detailed, well organized compositions using conventions in conjunction with revising and editing processes. Critical thinking skills are developed as reading and writing align to strengthen both areas of development in reading and writing comprehension.

Advanced RLA 7

-See Prerequisite

These rigorous courses are recommended for students who achieve advanced scores on STAAR reading tests, have a love of reading and writing, and a strong work ethic. Students will experience the 7th grade ELA curriculum with an emphasis on developing critical thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams. In addition, these courses include summer reading/writing components. This course in English Language and Composition is used and designed to support and prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams.

MATH – 1 CREDIT

On Level Math 7

The primary focal areas in Grade 7 are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Advanced Math 7

-See Prerequisite

Advanced 7 Math provides capable students with a course designed to prepare them for Honors Algebra I and other rigorous advanced coursework in the future. In addition to the primary focal points of using direct proportional relationships in number, geometry, measurement, and probability; applying addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals, fractions, and integers; and using statistical measures to describe data, the curriculum will include a rigorous problem solving component. Students should expect an additional time requirement and be willing to work independently. Students will review 7th grade curriculum and complete any remaining 7th grade curriculum not completed in Advanced 6th grade math in addition to **ALL** 8th grade coursework. Students will be responsible for taking the 8th grade math STAAR.

SCIENCE – 1 CREDIT

On Level Science 7

The strands for Grade 7 include:

- *Scientific investigation and reasoning– allows students to develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes of scientific inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world.
- *Matter and energy– students concentrate on developing an understanding of how matter and energy are conserved throughout living systems.
- *Force, motion, and energy– students will investigate the ways in which force, motion, and energy are observed in living systems and the environment.
- *Earth and space– students will explore the ways in which both natural events and human activities can impact Earth systems and the characteristics of Earth and relationships to objects in our solar system that allow life to exist.
- *Organisms and environments– students will understand that living organisms are made up of smaller units called cells, the relationship between living organisms and their environment, and how all organisms obtain energy, get rid of wastes, grow, and reproduce.

Advanced Science 7

–See Prerequisite

Advanced Science provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigor and depth of an advanced program. In addition to the strand outlined in on level courses, advanced courses are differentiated through a combination of the following:

- *the depth of content presentation
- *greater student responsibility for his/her learning
- *slightly faster pacing
- *greater complexity of thought
- *development of higher-level cognitive understanding, as demonstrated through discussion and essay writing. Advanced Science 7 curriculum also includes a wide variety of content-focused laboratory investigations as well as a strong emphasis on expository writing in the form of lab reports.

TEXAS HISTORY – 1 CREDIT

On Level Texas History 7

In Grade 7, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Content is presented with more depth and breadth than in Grade 4. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including Natural Texas and its People; Age of Contact; Spanish Colonial; Mexican National; Revolution and Republic; Early Statehood; Texas in the Civil War and Reconstruction; Cotton, Cattle, and Railroads; Age of Oil; Texas in the Great Depression and World War II; Civil Rights and Conservatism; and Contemporary Texas eras. The focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues and their impact.

Advanced Texas History 7

–See Prerequisite

Advanced Texas History provides students with a more rigorous and in-depth look into the history of our great state. In addition to what is outlined in regular Texas History, students will be challenged by:

- *the depth of content presentation
- *greater student responsibility for his/her learning
- *slightly faster pacing
- *greater complexity of thought
- *development of higher-level cognitive understanding Advanced Texas History students will participate in various projects, small group activities, and hands-on activities to further develop their critical thinking skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 1 CREDIT

Physical Education 7

Students understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. They learn to use technology such as heart rate monitors to assist in measuring and monitoring their own performance. Identifying the types of activities that provide them with enjoyment and challenge and that will encourage them to be physically active throughout life is reinforced during instruction in these grades.

Athletics 7

Prerequisite: Physical on file with the HJH nurse and athletic department

Both boys' and girls' athletic programs meet the state requirements for physical education. Practice time for all sports will be during the athletic period and either before or after school. Many games are out of town. Students should be prepared for a significant time commitment to sports. An annual U.I.L. physical form must be completed and on file in the coaches office prior to any student participation in athletics. Athletics is a year-long program for all participants. Students who participate in a fall-only or spring-only sport will participate in an "off season" conditioning program during other points of the year. Schedule changes will not be permitted at the end of a particular sport. Students are required to participate in at least one sport during the school year. Hallsville ISD offers the following competitive sports to junior high school students:

- Football
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Track

Participation in Cross Country will occur exclusively before or after the regular school day.

Tennis

Prerequisite: Physical on file with the HJH nurse and athletic department

Both boys' and girls' tennis meet the state requirements for physical education. Practice time for all sports will be during the athletic period and possibly after school. Many meets are out of town. Students should be prepared for a significant time commitment to sports. An annual U.I.L. physical form must be completed and on file in the coaches office prior to any student participation in athletics. Athletics is a year-long program for all participants.

Dance Foundation 1

Prerequisite: Physical on file with the HJH nurse and athletic department

Dance is a course that provides students with an exploration of movement. The student will explore basic elements of dance through the study of dance history and technique. Body awareness, injury prevention, dance history, cultural dance, social dance, jazz, ballet, tap, hip hop, musical theatre, modern, and choreography are a few examples of styles/topics that are emphasized throughout the year. Students in dance class will work on stretching, dance skills, and dance techniques that will increase their self-confidence, discipline, self-awareness and an appreciation for the art of dance.

Dance students may have possible public performance opportunities during the school year as designated by the instructor.

Performances will be scheduled in advance by the instructor.

In accordance with the TEKS, Dance Foundation levels are sequential and cannot be skipped based on outside or extracurricular dance/movement experience. JH dance programs are established to foster a love and appreciation of dance. They are not meant to serve as competitive dance teams, but rather a building block for vertical development for high school programs.

Dance Foundation 1 is for students in their first year of dance at the junior high level and is not dependent on outside training. Dance class is a full participation class and has a dress out/shoe requirement. Dance class can offer a fine arts credit or a PE credit for students at HJH. There will be a required fee not to exceed \$50.

Elective Courses

Choose Enough to Equal 2 Full Year Credits

FINE ARTS

Band (1 Credit):

Prerequisite: Beginner Band 6/7/8

This course is an extension of beginning band. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

Boys Choir (1 Credit):

Male singers will continue to develop and master vocal technique and sight reading skills learned in previous years. Students will learn to perform more advanced music and perform in concerts throughout the year. They may also have the opportunity to participate in UIL or other music competitions.

Girls Choir (1 Credit):

Female singers will continue to develop and master vocal technique and sight reading skills learned in previous years. Students will learn to perform more advanced music. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year, and may have the opportunity to participate in UIL or other music competitions.

Art (.5 Credit):

Four basic strands--foundations: observation and perception; creative expression; historical and cultural relevance; and critical evaluation and response--provide broad, unifying structures for organizing the knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. Each strand is of equal value and may be presented in any order throughout the year. Students rely on personal observations and perceptions, which are developed through increasing visual literacy and sensitivity to surroundings, communities, memories, imaginings, and life experiences, as sources for thinking about, planning, and creating original artworks. Students communicate their thoughts and ideas with innovation and creativity. Through art, students challenge their imaginations, foster critical thinking, collaborate with others, and build reflective skills. While exercising meaningful problem-solving skills, students develop the lifelong ability to make informed judgments.

Advanced Art (1 credit):**-Prerequisite: Student Data Sheet Required**

Four basic strands--foundations: observation and perception; creative expression; historical and cultural relevance; and critical evaluation and response--provide broad, unifying structures for organizing the knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. Each strand is of equal value and may be presented in any order throughout the year. Students rely on personal observations and perceptions, which are developed through increasing visual literacy and sensitivity to surroundings, communities, memories, imaginings, and life experiences, as sources for thinking about, planning, and creating original artworks. Students communicate their thoughts and ideas with innovation and creativity. Through art, students challenge their imaginations, foster critical thinking, collaborate with others, and build reflective skills. While exercising meaningful problem-solving skills, students develop the lifelong ability to make informed judgments.

Advanced Art is a course for students who are passionate about the visual arts! Previous art class experience is highly recommended. The first semester is mainly focused on further adopting foundational artistic concepts. However, the second semester has a heavy emphasis on participating in the Jr. Visual Arts Scholastic Event(Jr. VASE). This event is in the same vein as the UIL competition, but for the visual arts. During this time, the instruction will be more independently driven to encourage students to further explore their own creativity and artistic voices.

Intro to Theater (.5 Credit):

Four basic strands--foundations: inquiry and understanding; creative expression; historical and cultural relevance; and critical evaluation and response--provide broad, unifying structures for organizing knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. No outside practice will be required.

Advanced Theater (1 credit):**-Prerequisite: Student Data Sheet Required/Audition required**

In this course, students will be participating in One Act Play, which is a competitive play. They will be required to attend some after school practices, travel for competition, and pay a \$25 fee that will cover their t-shirt, transportation, and food costs. Once One Act is over, they will continue to further work on their acting skills.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

College and Career Explorations (.5 Credit):

Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Spanish (.5 Credit):

Spanish begins the development of the basic language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. This is accomplished through the use of oral drills, vocabulary building, simple composition, reading assignments, dialogue, and creative writing. The course also stresses cultural awareness and understanding of the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on the United States. In this class, we cover the alphabet, greetings, goodbyes, polite words, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, seasons, writing dates, describing people, simple sentences and questions, describing classes, names of classes, and telling time. We also cover some of the history and culture of Spanish-speaking countries, especially Mexico.

Outdoor Adventure (.5 credit)

Outdoor Adventures is a fun and exciting physical education course. Students are taught life-long skills by using an integrated curriculum of science, math, writing, critical thinking skills, and computer technology. The focus is on outdoor activities such as archery, survival skills, first aid/CPR, trip planning, angling, hiking, backpacking, camping, outdoor cooking, conservation/ environmental issues and certifications through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Yearbook (1 Credit):**-Prerequisite: Student Data Sheet Required**

Students will use school designated software to design an all-digital, state-of-the-art yearbook for the upcoming school year. Combining journalism techniques, digital photography and desktop computers, students will learn skills they can use in their high school years. Access to a camera, such as a phone, is beneficial, but not required.

UIL Math Team (1 Credit):**-Prerequisite: Student Data Sheet Required**

The UIL Math/Science Team prepares students for competition in UIL number sense, calculator applications, general mathematics, and science. Students on the UIL Team are expected to compete at invitational meets held on Saturdays during the months of October through March. This class requires the recommendation and signature of the Math/Science coach.

Agricultural Business (.5 Credit):

This course will serve as a precursor to the much broader high school Agricultural Science program. Students will learn the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives and the basics of where our food and fiber actually come from. They will also be introduced to the highly diversified agricultural industry including animal science, wildlife ecology, veterinary medicine, welding, horticulture, and plant science. An emphasis will be placed on developing leadership abilities and possible involvement at the high school level that are associated with our local chapter of the National FFA Organization.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT ELECTIVES

***Health Education (.5 Credit):**

In Health, students develop skills that will make them health-literate adults. Students gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge and behaviors they use to safeguard their health, particularly pertaining to health risks. Students are taught how to access accurate information that they can use to promote health for themselves and others. Students use problem-solving, research, goal-setting and communication skills to protect their health and that of the community.

High school credit (.5) will be awarded.

This class is NOT calculated into high school GPA if taken at the junior high level.

***Touch Systems Data Entry (.5 Credit):**

In Touch System Data Entry, students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment. Students will need to apply touch system data entry for production of business documents. High school credit (.5) will be awarded.

This class is NOT calculated into high school GPA if taken at the junior high level.

***Course offerings in the elective areas are subject to change and/or omission due to an insufficient amount of student requests, lack of qualified personnel, or funding. The student will be placed in the next elective choice on the schedule sheet filled out by the student and parent.

8th Grade



8th Grade Schedules

High school credit courses are shown by an asterisk (*)

REQUIRED - 4 Credits

| Course | Credits | Level(s) Available |
|------------|---------|--------------------------------------|
| RLA | 1 | On Level or Advanced |
| Math | 1 | On Level or Honors Algebra 1*(w/GPA) |
| Science | 1 | On Level or Advanced |
| US History | 1 | On Level or Advanced |

ELECTIVES - Choose 3 Credits

| Course | Credits |
|--|---------|
| Agricultural Business | 0.5 |
| Art | 0.5 |
| Outdoor Adventures | 0.5 |
| Spanish | 0.5 |
| College & Career Explorations | 0.5 |
| Intro to Theater | 0.5 |
| Student Aide (Student Data Sheet Required) | 0.5 |
| PE (Girls or Boys) or Athletics (Girls or Boys), Tennis, Dance | 1 |
| Choir (Girls or Boys) | 1 |
| Band | 1 |
| Advanced Art (Student Data Sheet Required) | 1 |
| Advanced Theater (Student Data Sheet/Audition Required) | 1 |
| Yearbook (Student Data Sheet Required) | 1 |
| UIL Math Team (Student Data Sheet Required) | 1 |
| For High School Credit (no GPA)* | |
| Touch Systems Data Entry* | 0.5 |
| Health* | 0.5 |
| For High School Credit (with GPA)* | |
| Honors Spanish I* | 1 |

8th Grade
Course Descriptions

Required Courses
Choose a level for each subject

READING LANGUAGE ARTS – 1 CREDIT

On Level RLA 8

Students will continue to improve their skills in oral and written communication in four basic areas: grammar, spelling, composition and literature. This course is also designed to prepare students for high school English and advanced vocabulary development. Emphasis is placed on correctly using the writing process and using critical thinking skills.

Advanced RLA 8

-See Prerequisite

The advanced course in English Language Arts and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of non-fiction and prose written in a variety of periods, disciplines, and rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for a variety of purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects as well as the way generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effectiveness in writing. This course is used and designed to support and prepare students for high school AP English courses and the AP English Literature and Composition exams.

MATH – 1 CREDIT

On Level Math 8

The primary focal areas in Grade 8 are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

***Honors Algebra I**

-See Prerequisite and Advanced Math 7

In Honors Algebra I, students will build on the knowledge and skills for mathematics in Grades 6-8, which provide a foundation in linear relationships, number and operations, and proportionality. Students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Students will connect functions and their associated solutions in both mathematical and real-world situations. Students will use technology to collect and explore data and analyze statistical relationships. In addition, students will study polynomials of degree one and two, radical expressions, sequences, and laws of exponents. Students will generate and solve linear systems with two equations and two variables and will create new functions through transformations. Please note: This course will require students to take the Algebra 1 End of Course Exam in the Spring of their 8th grade year. In addition, this course will count for high school credit and the grade earned will be applied to high school GPA.

SCIENCE - 1 CREDIT

On Level Science 8

The strands for Grade 8 include:

*Scientific investigation and reasoning- allows students to develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes of scientific inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world.

*Matter and energy- students recognize that matter is composed of atoms and examine information on the Periodic Table to recognize that elements are grouped into families.

*Force, motion, and energy- students experiment with the relationship between forces and motion through the study of Newton's three laws and learn how these forces relate to geologic processes and astronomical phenomena.

*Earth and space- students identify the role of natural events in altering Earth systems, interpret land and erosional features, learn that stars and galaxies are part of the universe, use data to research scientific theories of the origin of the universe and learn how interactions in solar, weather, and ocean systems create changes in weather patterns and climate.

*Organisms and Environments-students will understand that interdependence occurs among living systems and the environment and that human systems can influence these.

Advanced Science 8

-See Prerequisite

Advanced Science 8 provides capable students with skills designed to prepare them for the rigor and depth of the Advanced Placement program. In addition to the material outlined in on level courses, Advanced courses are differentiated through a combination of the following:

- * the depth of content presentation
- * greater student responsibility for his/her learning
- * slightly faster pacing
- * greater complexity of thought
- * development of higher-level cognitive understanding, as demonstrated through discussion and essay writing.

Advanced Science 8 curriculum also includes a wide variety of content-focused laboratory investigations as well as a strong emphasis on expository writing in the form of lab reports.

US HISTORY - 1 CREDIT

On Level US History 8:

In Grade 8, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. The knowledge and skills in subsection (b) of this section comprise the first part of a two-year study of U.S. history. The second part, comprising U.S. history from Reconstruction to the present, is provided in §113.41 of this title (relating to United States History Studies Since 1877 (One Credit), Beginning with School Year 2011-2012). The content in Grade 8 builds upon that from Grade 5 but provides more depth and breadth. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, religious, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction.

Advanced U.S. History 8:

-See Prerequisite

This course is a journey through the early stages of American History. The years covered will be Early Exploration through the American Civil War, including an in depth look at European explorations, the Colonies, discontent with England, the American Revolution, the new Constitution, Jeffersonian and Jacksonian Democracy, Westward Expansion, Manifest Destiny, and Civil War. There will be a variety of projects and activities that will require the students to use higher order thinking skills.

Elective Courses
Choose Enough to Equal 3 Full Year Credits

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 1 CREDIT

Physical Education

Students understand in greater detail the function of the body, learn to measure their own performance more accurately, and develop plans for improvement. They learn to use technology such as heart rate monitors to assist in measuring and monitoring their own performance. Identifying the types of activities that provide them with enjoyment and challenge and that will encourage them to be physically active throughout life is reinforced during instruction in these grades.

****Only 8th grade students who have not earned 4 semesters of their PE credits will be allowed in this course.**

Athletics 8

-Prerequisite: Physical on file with the HJH nurse and athletic department

Both boys' and girls' athletic programs meet the state requirements for physical education. Practice time for all sports will be during the athletic period and either before or after school. Many games are out of town. Students should be prepared for a significant time commitment to sports. An annual U.I.L. physical form must be completed and on file in the coach's office prior to any student participation in athletics. Athletics is a year-long program for all participants. Students who participate in a fall-only or spring-only sport will participate in an "off season" conditioning program during other points of the year. Schedule changes will not be permitted at the end of a particular sport. Students are required to participate in at least one sport during the school year.

Hallsville ISD offers the following competitive sports to junior high school students:

- Football
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Track

Participation in Cross Country will occur exclusively before or after the regular school day.

Tennis

-Prerequisite: Physical on file with the HJH nurse and athletic department

Both boys' and girls' tennis meet the state requirements for physical education. Practice time for all sports will be during the athletic period and possibly after school. Many meets are out of town. Students should be prepared for a significant time commitment to sports. An annual U.I.L. physical form must be completed and on file in the coaches office prior to any student participation in athletics. Athletics is a year-long program for all participants.

Dance Foundation 1

Prerequisite: Physical on file with the HJH nurse and athletic department

Dance is a course that provides students with an exploration of movement. The student will explore basic elements of dance through the study of dance history and technique. Body awareness, injury prevention, dance history, cultural dance, social dance, jazz, ballet, tap, hip hop, musical theatre, modern, and choreography are a few examples of styles/topics that are emphasized throughout the year. Students in dance class will work on stretching, dance skills, and dance techniques that will increase their self-confidence, discipline, self-awareness and an appreciation for the art of dance.

Dance students may have possible public performance opportunities during the school year as designated by the instructor. Performances will be scheduled in advance by the instructor.

In accordance with the TEKS, Dance Foundation levels are sequential and cannot be skipped based on outside or extracurricular dance/movement experience. JH dance programs are established to foster a love and appreciation of dance. They are not meant to serve as competitive dance teams, but rather a building block for vertical development for high school programs.

Dance Foundation 1 is for students in their first year of dance at the junior high level and is not dependent on outside training. Dance class is a full participation class and has a dress out/shoe requirement. Dance class can offer a fine arts credit or a PE credit for students at HJH. There will be a required fee not to exceed \$50.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

College and Career Explorations (.5 Credit):

****Not allowed to repeat course if taken in 7th grade***

Students will use decision-making and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. Students will explore valid, reliable educational and career information to learn more about themselves and their interests and abilities. Students integrate skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to make informed decisions. This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and in the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. Students will use interest inventory software or other tools available to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths.

FINE ARTS

Band (1 Credit):

This course is an extension of beginning band. The course covers selection and care of instruments, correct playing position, reading music and awareness of rhythm and pitch. Weekly sectionals are also employed to strengthen instrument skills as music becomes increasingly more difficult.

Girls or Boys Choir (1 Credit):

Male singers will continue to develop and master vocal technique and sight reading skills learned in previous years. Students will learn to perform more advanced music. Students will perform in concerts throughout the year, and may have the opportunity to participate in UIL or other music competitions.

Art (.5 Credit):

****Not allowed to repeat course if taken in 7th grade***

Four basic strands--foundations: observation and perception; creative expression; historical and cultural relevance; and critical evaluation and response--provide broad, unifying structures for organizing the knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. Each strand is of equal value and may be presented in any order throughout the year. Students rely on personal observations and perceptions, which are developed through increasing visual literacy and sensitivity to surroundings, communities, memories, imaginings, and life experiences, as sources for thinking about, planning, and creating original artworks. Students communicate their thoughts and ideas with innovation and creativity. Through art, students challenge their imaginations, foster critical thinking, collaborate with others, and build reflective skills. While exercising meaningful problem-solving skills, students develop the lifelong ability to make informed judgments.

Advanced Art (1 credit):

-Prerequisite: Student Data Sheet Required

Four basic strands--foundations: observation and perception; creative expression; historical and cultural relevance; and critical evaluation and response--provide broad, unifying structures for organizing the knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. Each strand is of equal value and may be presented in any order throughout the year. Students rely on personal observations and perceptions, which are developed through increasing visual literacy and sensitivity to surroundings, communities, memories, imaginings, and life experiences, as sources for thinking about, planning, and creating original artworks. Students communicate their thoughts and ideas with innovation and creativity. Through art, students challenge their imaginations, foster critical thinking, collaborate with others, and build reflective skills. While exercising meaningful problem-solving skills, students develop the lifelong ability to make informed judgments.

Advanced Art is a course for students who are passionate about the visual arts! Previous art class experience is highly recommended. The first semester is mainly focused on further adopting foundational artistic concepts. However, the second semester has a heavy emphasis on participating in the Jr. Visual Arts Scholastic Event(Jr. VASE). This event is in the same vein as the UIL competition, but for the visual arts. During this time, the instruction will be more independently driven to encourage students to further explore their own creativity and artistic voices.

Intro to Theater (.5 Credit):

****Not allowed to repeat course if taken in 7th grade***

Four basic strands--foundations: inquiry and understanding; creative expression; historical and cultural relevance; and critical evaluation and response--provide broad, unifying structures for organizing knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. No outside time will be required for this course.

Advanced Theater (1 credit):

-Prerequisite: Student Data Sheet and Audition Required

In this course, students will be participating in One Act Play, which is a competitive play. They will be required to attend some after school practices, travel for competition, and pay a \$25 fee that will cover their t-shirt, transportation, and food costs. Once One Act is over, they will continue to further work on their acting skills.

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Agricultural Business (.5 Credit):

This course will serve as a precursor to the much broader high school Agricultural Science program. Students will learn the importance of agriculture in our everyday lives and the basics of where our food and fiber actually come from. They will also be introduced to the highly diversified agricultural industry including animal science, wildlife ecology, veterinary medicine, welding, horticulture, and plant science. An emphasis will be placed on developing leadership abilities and possible involvement at the high school level that are associated with our local chapter of the National FFA Organization.

Spanish (.5 Credit):

****Not allowed to repeat course if taken in 7th grade***

Spanish A begins the development of the basic language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. This is accomplished through the use of oral drills, vocabulary building, simple composition, reading assignments, dialogue, and creative writing. The course also stresses cultural awareness and understanding of the Spanish-speaking world and its impact on the United States. In this class, we cover the alphabet, greetings, goodbyes, polite words, numbers, days of the week, months of the year, seasons, writing dates, describing people, simple sentences and questions, describing classes, names of classes, and telling time. We also cover some of the history and culture of Spanish-speaking countries, especially Mexico.

Outdoor Adventure (.5 credit)

****Not allowed to repeat course if taken in 7th grade***

Outdoor Adventures is a fun and exciting physical education course. Students are taught life-long skills by using an integrated curriculum of science, math, writing, critical thinking skills, and computer technology. The focus is on outdoor activities such as archery, survival skills, first aid/CPR, trip planning, angling, hiking, backpacking, camping, outdoor cooking, conservation/ environmental issues and certifications through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD).

Student Aide (.5 Credit):**-Prerequisite: Student Data Sheet Required**

Student aides are responsible for completing tasks that are assigned to them. Some of these assignments could include delivering items to students/teachers, filing, stuffing envelopes, giving new students tours, making copies, sorting mail, shelving books, and other assigned tasks from the front office staff. Sign-ups for this elective will be in April/early May.

UIL Math Team (1 Credit):**-Prerequisite: Student Data Sheet Required**

The UIL Math/Science Team prepares students for competition in UIL number sense, calculator applications, general mathematics, and science. Students on the UIL Team are expected to compete at invitational meets held on Saturdays during the months of October through March. This class requires the recommendation and signature of the Math/Science coach.

Yearbook (1 Credit):**-Prerequisite: Student Data Sheet Required**

Students will use school designated software to design an all-digital, state-of-the-art yearbook for the upcoming school year. Combining journalism techniques, digital photography and desktop computers, students will learn skills they can use in their high school years. Access to a camera, such as a phone, is beneficial, but not required.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT ELECTIVES

Touch Systems Data Entry (.5 Credit):***Not allowed to repeat course if taken in 7th grade***

In Touch System Data Entry, students apply technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment. Students will need to apply touch system data entry for production of business documents. High school credit (.5) will be awarded.

This class is NOT calculated into high school GPA if taken at the junior high level.

Health Education (.5 Credit):***Not allowed to repeat course if taken in 7th grade***

In Health, students develop skills that will make them health-literate adults. Students gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge and behaviors they use to safeguard their health, particularly pertaining to health risks. Students are taught how to access accurate information that they can use to promote health for themselves and others. Students use problem-solving, research, goal-setting and communication skills to protect their health and that of the community.

This class is NOT calculated into high school GPA if taken at the junior high level.

Honors SPANISH I (1 Credit):*-See Advanced RLA Prerequisite**

Spanish I teaches basic grammar, verb conjugation (present tense) and basic vocabulary. Students will learn to read, write, speak and understand basic sentences and conversations. Also, students will become familiar with the culture of Spanish-speaking nations.

High school GPA points will be awarded.

***Course offerings in the elective areas are subject to change and/or omission due to an insufficient amount of student requests, lack of qualified personnel, or funding. The student will be placed in the next elective choice on the schedule sheet filled out by the student and parent.