

# **ANACORTES MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **EIGHTH GRADE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION 2008 - 2009**

**Two-Period Bloc:** Consists of two periods of communication arts, made up of English and Reading & Speech. The application of technology to writing is emphasized.

- **English** includes spelling, vocabulary, journal writing, essay writing, the study of grammar and mechanics and usage. Emphasis is placed on helping students to reach Washington State writing standards. Projects such as the Personality Project are also included in various forms.
- **Reading & Speech** consists of a wide variety of reading and speaking experiences. Students read a range of materials including short stories, poetry, drama, novels and non-fiction. Students will perform a number of speeches, utilizing a variety of topics, purposes and formats.

**Three-Period Bloc:** Consists of three periods of English, Reading & Speech, and U. S. History. U. S. History is described below.

**Challenge Bloc:** (three periods daily) Offered to eligible students coming from 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Challenge class and to those who have been tested and qualify to enter at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level.

### **UNITED STATES HISTORY** (one period daily)

United States History includes units on the Native Americans, Exploration, Colonization, U. S. Constitution, Conquering the West, Slavery, Civil War, Reconstruction, U. S. Possessions, World War I, the Roaring Twenties, the Depression, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Revolution, and America Today.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH** (one period daily; PE, 3 quarters and Health, 1 quarter)

**Physical Education:** Students learn the fundamental skills, rules and strategies associated with various games and sports. There is opportunity for participation in these activities so that each individual will develop strength, endurance and coordination. Desirable social behavior, good sportsmanship and leadership are emphasized. In addition, it is hoped that exposure to a wide variety of recreational activities will serve to enrich the leisure time of the student in school and in later life.

*Students have the option of selecting to receive either a Pass/Fail grade or the standard letter grade for PE/Health. This decision must be made at the time of registration. **Mark your choice on the Course Selection Form.***

**Health:** Learning experiences are directed toward the needs of students growing up in today's world. Five major units will be instructed:

1. Mental Health and Positive Self Concept
2. First Aid

3. Nutrition
  4. Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs
  5. AIDS Prevention Education
- (Parents may exclude students from participation after reviewing learning/teaching materials.)

## **MATHEMATICS** (one period daily)

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math:** Instruction in math stresses computation skill building and mathematical concept development. Content includes: whole number operations, place value system of base ten and other number bases, prime numbers, prime factoring, LCM, GCF, the operations of fractions, fractional and decimal equivalents, the operations of decimals, ratio, proportion and percent

**Pre-Algebra:** Offered for students whose performance indicates mastery of regular 8th grade math. This pre-algebra course is designed to learn applied arithmetic skills as well as to provide a strong foundation in algebra and geometry. Eighth grade students who successfully complete this course will enroll in Algebra I for their ninth grade year.

**ALGEBRA I:** Offered for students whose performance indicates mastery of Transition Math/Pre-Algebra. The course includes topics about algebraic operations, solving equations, proportions, linear functions, inequalities, systems of equations, exponential functions, polynomial functions, quadratic functions, and rational functions. Those who successfully complete this course with a C or better may enroll in Geometry for next year. **When the student enrolls at the High School he/she is eligible to receive a HS credit for this math class. If the student/parent elects to receive the credit, that grade will be included in the student's cumulative high school GPA.**

**GEOMETRY: Prerequisite of a "C" or better in Algebra I.** This course provides hands-on practice to develop geometric concepts. Topics included in the course are art in geometry, inductive and deductive reasoning, constructions, and properties of lines, angles, parallel lines, triangles, polygons, and circles. Other topics included are tessellation, area and volume, the Pythagorean theorem, similarity and an introduction to trigonometry. Those who successfully complete this course with a C or better may enroll in Algebra II for next year. **When the student enrolls at the High School he/she is eligible to receive a HS credit for this math class. Please note that if the student/parent elects to receive the credit, the grade earned at Anacortes Middle School will be reflected in the student's Anacortes High School cumulative GPA.**

## **SCIENCE** (one period daily)

Science is a seventh and eighth grade class that is taught over the two year period that students are enrolled at AMS. Three basic areas of science are introduced: earth, life, and physical. Life science involves the study of living things and their environment. Earth science is the study of the earth and its place in space. Physical science explores the physical laws that govern our universe.

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#### **MUSIC or EXPLORATORY** (one period daily)

Eighth graders may select one of the following: Intermediate Band, Advanced Band, Chorus or Exploratory. Both Band and Chorus are performing groups; regular practices and occasional evening performances are required. **Mark your choice on the Course Selection Form.** (Please note that placement in Advanced Band is determined by the instructor.)

##### **1. Beginning Band:** (year course, no experience required.)

This is a performance-oriented course designed for the beginning band student. The student is started at the beginning level and progression is at each individual's capability.

##### **2. Intermediate Band:** (year course, experience in 6<sup>th</sup> grade band or lessons is required.)

This is a performance-oriented course designed for persons who need additional training before joining the Advanced Band. Performances at concerts (possible evening), special school and community events, and contests are a part of the class activity. Examples of learning objectives are demonstration of:

- A. Effective ensemble performance through good habits, responsible membership, practice techniques and discipline.
- B. The ability to improve on the following elements of effective ensemble performance:
  1. Intonation - proper note placement
  2. Tone quality
  3. Rhythmic accuracy
  4. Clarity of articulation (separation of notes)
  5. Control of tempo
  6. Interpretation - phrasing and style.

##### **3. Chorus** (year course)

Open to all 7th and 8th grade students who like to sing; no experience required. Music skill development is achieved through rehearsal and performance experiences. Music appreciation and enjoyment are also major goals. The chorus will perform at evening concerts, contests and special school events.

**Exploratory** (year course) Semester-long classes in Art, Food Science, Technology, Music Appreciation and Drama are offered, depending on student enrollment and staffing. Students will rotate to a different course at the end of each semester grading period. Students choosing exploratory are scheduled into classes randomly. When taking an Exploratory class for the second time, the course activities will be different. If Technology was taken as a seventh grader it will not be repeated as an eighth grader.

#### **ART**

Exploratory Art is a course designed to give students the broadest possible exposure to the concepts, materials, and techniques used to create visual imagery. Students will improve design, layout, color-mixing, rendering, and conceptual skills through their responses to assignments that specify subject, medium, and format while targeting one of the Elements or Principles of Art, which are: space, balance, form, emphasis, contrast, unity, value, line, movement, color, shape, repetition, and texture.

Students will expand and be able to use their Art vocabulary in assignments or discussions pertaining to the aesthetic, historical, and cultural aspects of Arts.

### **FOOD SCIENCE**

Exploratory Food Science is a course that explores the Science and Art of culinary preparation. The purpose of Food Science is to present the basic knowledge needed to understand and become skillful in the food preparation. At the same time we will also explore the physical, biological and chemical nature of the ingredients and procedures used to prepare food. The class will analyze the FDA's required Nutrition Facts Label and determine the nutritional significance of different foods. Students will practice the Art of Food presentation by carving apple birds and using a wide variety of edible textures and colors on their plates.

### **TECHNOLOGY EXPLORATION**

The course is designed for helping students master the tools of technology, not just computers, as an aid to getting the job done in an increasingly complex technological society. While the emphasis is on the field of education, these skills will be needed in work places throughout our economy. It is not intended so much as computer specialist class as it is a broad expansion of technology skills for all students. Since many of the projects are based in independent learning, previous computer expertise is not a requirement. Any student who works for good organization and progress will be successful in this course.

### **READING**

The course is designed to help improve the reading competencies of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. This will be accomplished by interacting with a variety of tests while addressing several essential reading skills. By reading fiction and non-fiction selections in the form of novels, short stories, articles, etc., students will develop confidence in comprehension, fluency, retention and vocabulary usage. This course will also help to support grade level learning across all content areas and offer students the necessary tools to achieve higher WASL scores in the spring.

ANACORTES MIDDLE SCHOOL  
**EIGHTH GRADE COURSE SELECTION FORM**  
**2008-2009**

**STUDENT NAME** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please Print)*

There are 7 subject periods in the Middle School academic day. There are no study halls.

**REQUIRED COURSES: THE FOLLOWING 6 SUBJECTS ARE REQUIRED:**

Three period Bloc (includes U. S. History) or

Two period Bloc

United States History

Math

Physical Ed./Health                      PASS/FAIL \_\_\_\_\_ LETTER GRADE \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Place an "X" on your choice.)**

Uniforms are now required at a cost of \$15.00.

Science

**MUSIC or EXPLORATORY COURSE: PLACE AN "X" IN FRONT OF YOUR ONE CHOICE.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Intermediate Band                      \_\_\_\_\_ Chorus

\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Band                      \_\_\_\_\_ Exploratory

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_