

SHAKOPEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PEARSON 6th GRADE CENTER
EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
WEST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Registration Guide 2016-2017



PEARSON	917 Dakota Street South, Shakopee, MN 55379	(952) 496-5862
EAST JH	1137 Marschall Road, Shakopee, MN 55379	(952) 496-5702
WEST JH	200 - 10 th Avenue West, Shakopee, MN 55379	(952) 496-5752

Pearson 6GC, East Junior High, & West Junior High
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MESSAGE TO STUDENTS & PARENTS

To Students and Parents of Pearson Sixth Grade Center and East and West Junior High Schools:

This course registration guide is one tool for you to use as you plan for the 2016-2017 school year. In addition to the course descriptions offered here, your counselors, teachers and parents will have guidance for you during this important process.

As you begin this process, you should be focusing on two questions:

- What are the courses that I need to take in order to assure that I continue to make progress toward fulfilling the school district's graduation requirements?
- What are the courses that I should take in order to best prepare for my future?

In grades 6-8, students begin their transition from the elementary model of education, where the student has a primary teacher they meet with most of the day, to the secondary model, where students generally have a different teacher each of their classes.

At Pearson Sixth Grade Center, students have a safe and caring environment to begin this transition. Students' schedules are mostly set, but there are opportunities to join band and/or choir, music production, and for students who meet qualifying criteria can take advance courses in math, language arts and science.

The middle school years offer students greater choice to begin exploring other areas of interest through elective classes. These opportunities place great responsibilities on both parents and students to plan wisely. Carefully read the information in the next few pages and browse through the course offerings. Before registration, decide on a schedule of courses for your middle school year. Serious thought about an overall plan will provide a sense of purpose and direction. Therefore, it is important that course selections for next year are made very carefully. We will tally all course selections and make critical decisions regarding staffing, room use and dollar allocation. Once those decisions are made, ***it will be very difficult to change course selections.***

If you have questions regarding registration processes or a specific class, please contact your (or your student's) advisor. Thank you for planning wisely for your future!

Our goal is to have the registration process completed by the end of February for the majority of students. Course requests will determine our staffing needs for next year, so it is essential that you take every opportunity to make an informed decision.

We are here to assist you; please contact us with any questions.

PEARSON 6th GRADE CENTER

Principal | *Angela Turry*
Asst. Principal | *Adam Dittberner*

Phone | (952) 496-5862

EAST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal | *Jim Miklausich*
Asst. Principals | *Matt Headrick*
Asst. Principals | *Mandy Hainline*
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WEST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Principal | *Lori Link*
Asst. Principals | *Kevin Bjerken*
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Counselor | *Erin Richter (7-8)*
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CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

SUMMARY OF PEARSON 6th GRADE & JUNIOR HIGH CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

The school year is divided into two semesters, each with 2 quarters.

In sixth grade students are required to take year-long courses in Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Students will also take a year-long Physical Education course that alternates with either Band, Choir, or Music Production. In addition to these year-long courses, students will take a one quarter Health class and three one-quarter "Gateway to the Areas of Interest" courses.

GRADE 6				
1	Language Arts (full year)			
2	Social Studies (full year)			
3	Mathematics (full year)			
4	Science (full year)			
5	Reading (full year)			
6	Area of Interest Gateway Courses (one quarter each)			Health (quarter)
	Arts & Communication	Human Services	Science & Technology	
7	Band, Choir, or Music Production (every other day)			
	Physical Education or second Music course (every other day)			

NOTE | Students taking Band **AND** Choir will be required to participate in one quarter of physical education which will replace one of their one quarter gateway courses.

Students may take:

- Band every-other-day opposite of PE.
- Choir every-other-day opposite of PE.
- Band and Choir every-other-day (Students will take a one quarter PE class in replacement of a Gateway course).
- Music Production every-other-day opposite of PE.

NOTE | In some situations, based on academic need, a student may be limited to one music course and other academic support classes.

In seventh grade students are required to take year-long courses in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. Students will take one quarter of Health and three one-quarter "Gateway to the Areas of Interest" courses. Students NOT in Band or Choir will take a one-semester Physical Education class and have their choice of three one-semester elective classes. Students electing to take band or choir will take a year-long physical education course that will alternate with Band or Choir.

Students **NOT** in Band or Choir

OR

Students **IN** Band or Choir

GRADE 7			
1	English (full year)		
2	Social Studies (full year)		
3	Mathematics (full year)		
4	Life Science (full year)		
5	Area of Interest Gateway Courses (one quarter each)		Health (quarter)
	Business & Entrepreneurship	Engineering & Manufacturing	
6	Elective (semester)		Elective (semester)
7	Physical Ed. (semester)		Elective (semester)

GRADE 7			
1	English (full year)		
2	Social Studies (full year)		
3	Mathematics (full year)		
4	Life Science (full year)		
5	Area of Interest Gateway Courses (one quarter each)		Health (quarter)
	Business & Entrepreneurship	Engineering & Manufacturing	
6	Elective (semester)		Elective (semester)
7	Band or Choir (every other day)		
	Physical Ed. or second Music (every other day)		

NOTE | Students taking Band **AND** Choir will have physical education during an elective period.

In eighth grade students are required to take year-long courses in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, semester-long courses in Physical Education and several electives courses. Students electing to take Band or Choir will have a year-long alternating Physical Education and Band/Choir class.

Students **NOT** in Band or Choir

OR

Students **IN** Band or Choir

GRADE 8		
1	English (full year)	
2	Social Studies (full year)	
3	Mathematics (full year)	
4	Earth Science (full year)	
5	Elective (semester)	Elective (semester)
6	Elective (semester)	Elective (semester)
7	Physical Ed. (semester)	Elective (semester)

GRADE 8		
1	English (full year)	
2	Social Studies (full year)	
3	Mathematics (full year)	
4	Earth Science (full year)	
5	Elective (semester)	Elective (semester)
6	Elective (semester)	Elective (semester)
7	Band or Choir (every other day)	
	Physical Ed. or second Music (every other day)	

NOTE | Students taking Band **AND** Choir will have physical education during an elective period.

ADVANCED COURSES INFORMATION

The Shakopee school district offers a variety of advanced courses intended to provide appropriate challenge for students who demonstrate need for a more rigorous curriculum. Students are identified for these courses in the middle levels.

GRADE	DISCIPLINE CATEGORY REQUIREMENTS	TYPICAL	HONORS	ACCELERATED	TWICE-ACCELERATED
6	Reading Language Arts	Reading Language Arts 6		Accelerated Reading LA 6	
	Mathematics	Math 6		Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1
	Science	Physical Science 6		Accelerated Physical Sci 6	
7	English Language Arts	English 7	Honors English 7		
	Mathematics	Pre-Algebra		Algebra 1	Geometry
8	English Language Arts	English 8	Honors English 8		
	Science	Earth Science	Honors Earth Science		
	Mathematics	Algebra 1		Geometry	Accelerated Algebra 2

IDENTIFICATION | Common Identification Criteria (District-wide)

Identification criteria for each District Honors or Accelerated Sequence within a Discipline

- **Honors / Acceleration Sequence** | To be identified for Honors or Accelerated courses, students average scores on MAP and MCA data over the previous two years must be at or above the 85th percentile, or other comparable test data.
- **Twice-Accelerated Sequence** | To be identified for Twice-Accelerated courses, students average scores on MAP and MCA data over the previous two years must be at or above the Dep't Recommendation (greater than the 90th percentile).

APPEALS PROCESS | Uniform process for Appeals across content areas, except Math

MATH Appeals | Students must test out of the pre-requisite course using an end of course assessment in order to advance.

Appeals in ALL Other Disciplines | If not initially invited into the course by initial identification, the student and parent(S) must...

1. Complete written Appeal Request Form (available from the building administration or counselors)
 2. Building Administrator(s) reviews student's file (with the HP Coordinator, as needed), including...
 - Core Data (as described above in Identification)
 - Other Supplementary Data, such as...
 - ♦ Subject-specific Grades and GPA (i.e. Math GPA, Science GPA, etc., NOT overall GPA)
 - ♦ Work samples
 3. Building Administrator(s) reviews student's file and supplementary data with parents
- The Building Administrator will be the final authority on ALL appeals

EXIT CRITERIA | Common District Exit Criteria

Methods of Exiting

1. **Request by student and/or parent** | When students and/or their parents request to be dropped from an advanced course, the following process must be followed:
 1. The student and/or parent(s) discuss ongoing concerns with teacher as the course progresses.
 2. Teacher makes sure that Parent(s) are included in on discussion of concerns about the student.
 3. In normal circumstances, if a parent requests his/her student be exited from the course, that request will be honored at the end of the current grading period (The student's grade for that grading period will count in the student's GPA.)
2. **Recommendation by Teacher** | Process for exit
 1. The teacher begins and maintains an ongoing discussion of concerns with student throughout the course.
 2. The teacher discusses the concerns with Parent/Guardians as soon as appropriate.
 3. The parties agree to a performance contract, signed by student and parent/guardian(s) and shared with the Building Administration.
 4. If the performance contract does not alleviate the concerns, the teacher shares the results with the student's counselor and Building Administration.
3. **Student Failure** | If a student fails the course, s/he will be removed from that discipline's advanced course sequence. The Building Administrator will be the final authority on ALL student exits from advanced courses.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | **REQUIRED COURSES**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

STUDENT PATHWAYS THROUGH THE ENGLISH CURRICULUM

GRADE	REGULAR	HONORS	ACCELERATED
6	Reading & Language Arts 6		Accelerated Reading LA 6
7	English 7	Honors English 7	
8	English 8	Honors English 8	

6TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

LANGUAGE ARTS 6

Grade: 6
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year

The sixth grade language arts curriculum consists of word study and various modes of writing. Each language arts class focuses on all of the 6+1 Traits of writing in student journals, essays, poetry and reports. Major writing projects include argumentative, descriptive, and informative papers. The language arts class also provides a foundation for writing in other content areas. Grammar, spelling and writing conventions are taught in the context of students' own reading and writing.

READING 6

Grade: 6
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year

The sixth grade reading course places an emphasis on the development of reading comprehension skills, interaction with literature, and the development of rich vocabulary. Students are involved in literature circles, reading workshop, read-alouds and independent reading. Reading units are based on reading strategies and are aligned with the MN state standards to prepare students for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment. Differentiated instruction is provided through a leveled literature library and through student reading response journals. The goal is to provide students the necessary skills for success in the classroom and for a lifelong love of reading.

ACCELERATED READING AND LANGUAGE ARTS 6

Grade: 6
Credits: 4 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year (2 Periods)
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria

The Accelerated English 6 is the first of a two course (grades 6 & 7) accelerated Language Arts sequence. This course will compact and address critical 6th and 7th grade standards in one year. Accelerated students will work at a rigorous pace with complex texts in a variety of fictional genres, including modern & classic poetry, biographies & autobiographies, and classic novels. A heavy emphasis will also be placed on the critical analysis of nonfiction texts. Additionally, students will be expected to demonstrate high-level critical thinking of both fiction and nonfiction through writing.

7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

ENGLISH 7

Grade: 7
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year

The English 7 course is a comprehensive study of literature, writing, and speaking/listening skills. Students will have the opportunity to learn through group activity as well as individual expression, thus providing experience in self-motivation, problem solving, and group responsibility.

HONORS ENGLISH 7

Grade: 7
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Schedule: Full-Year

The Honors English course is an expanded curriculum stressing an in-depth study of literature, prose and poetry writing, and speaking/listening skills. A high level of individual motivation (as well as cooperative group skills) is needed for success. Students will also be required to read novels outside the regular class content.

8TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

ENGLISH 8

Grade: 8
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year

The English 8 course is designed to include the Language Arts core requirement for 8th grade. Literature, grammar, punctuation, writing, and speaking/listening skills will be studied throughout this course.

HONORS ENGLISH 8

Grade: 8
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Schedule: Full-Year

The Honors English 8 course is designed for highly motivated students eager for a challenging curriculum of literature, writing, grammar, punctuation, and speaking/listening skills. A literature-based research project requiring critical thinking skills will be assigned.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | **REQUIRED COURSES**

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

6TH GRADE HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

HEALTH 6

Grade: 6
Credits: ½ Credit - Required
Schedule: One quarter

Topics covered in the sixth grade health curriculum include units of Steps to Respect Anti-Bullying, Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases, Taking Responsibility for your Health, and Human Growth and Development.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 Semester)

Grade: 6
Credits: 1 Credit - Required
Schedule: One semester

Sixth grade physical education includes fitness concepts for life, plus opportunities to participate in individual and team sports.

7TH GRADE HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

HEALTH 7

Grade: 7
Credits: ½ Credit - Required
Schedule: One quarter

Health 7 is the study of various current health issues. Students will study decision making/refusal skills that help them make good decisions when faced with peer pressure. Personal Body Care will help students address the many issues that face teenagers during adolescent years. Drugs and medicines will be discussed along with inhalants, anabolic steroid and prescription drug abuse. Students will learn good nutrition practices as they relate to overall body wellness and how it relates to self-image.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 7

Grade: 7
Credits: 1 Credit - Required
Schedule: One semester

Students in Physical Education 7 will explore personal fitness through their understanding of the rules and skills of team and individual sports. Pedometers and heart rate monitors are used to assist students in assessing their own fitness levels. Activities may include, but not be limited to football, fitness testing, soccer, softball, swimming, basketball, Frisbee, golf, badminton, and the fitness center.

8TH GRADE HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION 8

Grade: 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Required
Schedule: One semester

Students in Physical Education 8 will explore personal fitness through their understanding of the rules and skills of team and individual sports. Pedometers and heart rate monitors are used to assist students in assessing their own fitness levels. Activities may include, but not be limited to track & field, swimming, lacrosse, tennis, dance, golf, basketball, flag football, and fitness testing. Students will also evaluate the risks and consequences associated with age appropriate sexuality, including factual information regarding abstinence, adolescent pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | **REQUIRED COURSES**

MATHEMATICS

STUDENT PATHWAYS THROUGH THE MATHEMATICS CURRICULUM

GRADE	REGULAR	ACCELERATED	TWICE-ACCELERATED
6	Math 6	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1
7	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1	Geometry
8	Algebra 1	Geometry	Accelerated Algebra 2

6TH GRADE MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

MATH 6

Grade: 6
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Pre-requisite: None
Schedule: Full-Year

Math 6 is the math course taken by most students. The Math 6 curriculum includes key mathematical concepts such as exploring problem solving, decimals, fractions, percents, measurement, probability, ratios, proportions, equations, algebra, integers, coordinating graphs and geometry in two and three dimensions.

PRE-ALGEBRA (ACCELERATED)

Grade: 6
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Schedule: Full-Year

Pre-Algebra builds on the skills and knowledge taught in Math 6. Students who register for this course will be expected to have above average mathematical knowledge and skill as well as greater motivation, as it is more rigorous and moves at a faster pace.

The Pre-Algebra curriculum includes key mathematical concepts such as exploring problem solving, decimals, statistics, integers, coordinate graphs, factors, fractions, rational numbers, ratios, proportions, percent, polynomials, equations, and geometry in two-and three-dimensions.

ALGEBRA 1 (TWICE ACCELERATED)

Grade: 6
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Pre-requisite: Testing out of 6th Grade Pre-Algebra
Schedule: Full-Year

Algebra I continues to build on the skills and knowledge taught in Pre-Algebra. Students who register for this course will be expected to have even greater mathematical knowledge, skill and motivation, since it is even more rigorous and moves at a faster pace than Pre-Algebra.

Algebra I students will be starting a sequential series of math courses. Algebra I is followed by Geometry, Accelerated Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and Calculus. Algebra I students learn the traditional topics of an Algebra course along with real-world application, meaningful projects and integration of technology.

7TH GRADE MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

PRE-ALGEBRA

Grade: 7
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Pre-requisite: Math 6
Schedule: Full-Year

Successful completion of 6th grade Math Pre-Algebra provides the opportunity to explore problem solving, decimals, statistics, integers, coordinate graphs, factors, fractions, rational numbers, ratios, proportions, percent, polynomials, equations, and geometry in two-and three-dimensions.

ALGEBRA 1 (ACCELERATED)

Grade: 7
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Pre-requisite: Pre-Algebra
Schedule: Full-Year

7th grade Algebra I students will begin a sequential series of math, followed by Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and Calculus. Algebra I students learn the traditional topics of an Algebra course along with real-world application, meaningful projects and integration of technology. Students will be expected to have above average motivation and ability in the class as it is more rigorous and moves at a faster pace.

GEOMETRY (TWICE ACCELERATED)

Grade: 7 (these classes will have a mix of twice accelerated 7th graders and accelerated 8th graders)
Credits: 2 Credits - Required (Successful completion of this course will also result in 2 High School Math credits that will be considered a “Pass” and not impact a student’s high school grade point average.)
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Pre-requisite: Algebra I
Schedule: Full-Year

Geometry students will continue in a sequential series of math, followed by Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and Calculus. Students in Geometry learn the traditional topics of a Geometry course along with real-world applications, meaningful projects, and integration of technology. Students will be expected to have above average motivation and ability in the class as it is more rigorous and moves at a faster pace.

8TH GRADE MATHEMATICS REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

ALGEBRA I

Grade: 8
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Pre-requisite: Pre-Algebra
Schedule: Full-Year
Fee: None

Students will learn the traditional topics of a Linear Algebra course along with real-world application, meaningful projects and integration of technology.

GEOMETRY (ACCELERATED)

Grade: 8
Credits: 2 Credits - Required (Successful completion of this course will also result in 2 High School Math credits that will be considered a “Pass” and not impact a student’s high school grade point average.)
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Pre-requisite: Algebra I
Schedule: Full-Year
Fee: None

8th grade Geometry students will continue in a sequential series of math, followed by Algebra II, Pre-Calculus and Calculus. Students in Geometry learn the traditional topics of a Geometry course along with real-world applications, meaningful projects, and integration of technology. Students will be expected to have above average motivation and ability in the class as it is more rigorous and moves at a faster pace.

ACCELERATED ALGEBRA 2 (TWICE ACCELERATED)

- Grades: 8 (Students may be bused to the high school for this course.)
Credits: 2 Credits - Required (Successful completion of this course will also result in 2 High School Math credits that will be considered a "Pass" and not impact a student's high school grade point average.)
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Prerequisite: Geometry
Schedule: Full-Year

Accelerated Algebra 2 is a one-year course incorporating the main concepts from Algebra 2 and Algebra 3 to prepare students for Pre-Calculus. Topics covered may include various functions (linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and rational), probability and statistics, sequences and series, and trigonometry.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | **REQUIRED COURSES**

SCIENCE

STUDENT PATHWAYS THROUGH THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM

GRADE	REGULAR	HONORS	ACCELERATED
6	Physical Science 6		Accelerated Physical Science 6
7	Life Science		
8	Earth Science	Honors Earth Science	

6TH GRADE SCIENCE REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 6

Grade: 6
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year

In Physical Science, students will develop scientific inquiry skills through problem solving. This is accomplished through the introduction to lab reports and the use of a Science Notebook. Students study chemistry, forces and motion, light and sound waves, and energy sources.

ACCELERATED PHYSICAL SCIENCE 6

Grade: 6
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Schedule: Full-Year

This course is designed to introduce students to chemistry, physics, and engineering. Throughout the year students will conduct investigations, write lab reports, read science related articles, and utilize the scientific method and the engineering design process in order to solve problems. This course will cover topics of the regular 6th grade curriculum, but incorporate high school standards.

7TH GRADE SCIENCE REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

LIFE SCIENCE

Grade: 7
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year

In Life Science students practice using scientific inquiry skill to solve problems. This is demonstrated by several lab reports through the year. Students study the structure and function of life, how living organisms interact with each other and their environment, and the systems of the human body.

8TH GRADE SCIENCE REQUIREMENT OPTIONS

EARTH SCIENCE

Grade: 8
Credits: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year

Earth Science students will use scientific inquiry skills, engineering concepts and metric measurements to solve problems concerning the earth and its place in space. Topics that are studied include rocks and minerals, weathering and erosion, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, oceanography, the solar system and stars, weather and geologic time.

HONORS EARTH SCIENCE

Grade: 8
Credit: 2 Credits - Required
Eligibility: Placement based on District identification criteria
Schedule: Full-Year

This course is designed for students who enjoy studying science. Students in this course will use scientific inquiry skills and metric measurements to solve problems concerning the earth and its place in space as well as advanced engineering applications. Topics that are studied include rocks and minerals, weathering and erosion, plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, oceanography, the solar system and stars, weather and geological time.

The course profile includes:

- Emphasis on in-depth projects and meaningful assignments that require dedication to learning
- Incorporates activities designed to stimulate a passion in the scientific process and
- Requires advanced inquiry skills, including the organization of data

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | **REQUIRED COURSES**

SOCIAL STUDIES

STUDENT PATHWAYS THROUGH THE SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM

GRADE	REGULAR
6	Minnesota Studies
7	U.S. Studies
8	Global Studies

6TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT

MINNESOTA STUDIES

Grade: 6
Credit: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year

In this introductory history course, students will investigate how the state of Minnesota has been shaped throughout the last few centuries. We will explore how Minnesota was involved in critical moments throughout U.S. History, study various groups of people who have lived here, discuss foundational elements of Minnesota government, and practice mapping skills with Minnesota geography. An emphasis will be placed on building informational reading comprehension and other literacy skills within the curriculum.

7TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT

U.S. STUDIES

Grade: 7
Credit: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-Year

Students in U.S. Studies will explore American History from the American Revolution to the Industrial Revolution. We will take a closer look at the foundations of the U.S. Government through this time period. An emphasis will be placed on building informational reading comprehension and writing skills within the curriculum.

8TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT

GLOBAL STUDIES

Grade: 8
Credit: 2 Credits - Required
Schedule: Full-year

Students in Global Studies will explore the seven continents of the world through the lens of the eight traits of culture: history, religion, economics, daily life, social groups, government, art, and language. This course will act as a foundation for students' upcoming Human Geography, Modern U.S. History, and Modern World History courses.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | GLOBAL ELECTIVES

World Language

For students looking ahead to a 4-year college, the minimum entrance requirement is often two years of the same language with some postsecondary institutions requiring up to four.

GERMAN 1

Grade: 7, 8

Credits: 2 Credits - Elective (Successful completion of this course will also result in 2 High School Elective credits that will be considered a "Pass" and not impact a student's high school grade point average.)

Schedule: Full-Year

This course introduces students to the German language, its structure, pronunciation, and the cultures of Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. We will learn various new words and phrases to be able to carry on simple conversations about ourselves and our world. Topics covered in level 1 include; family, friends, school, hobbies and clothing. The emphasis of German 1 is to gain a skill base of basic speaking and listening comprehension skills, and also read and write short dialogs, create skits, and complete other hands-on projects using our new language skills. German will be spoken whenever possible. This class requires a high degree of motivation and memory skills, along with good study habits. A good understanding of English grammar skills is a plus for this course. German I is a demanding course and will prepare the student to take German II. This course is recommended for students that are committed to multiple years of language study.

GERMAN 2

Grade: 8

Credits: 2 Credits - Elective (Successful completion of this course will also result in 2 High School Elective credits that will be considered a "Pass" and not impact a student's high school grade point average.)

Prerequisite: German 1 or by placement test

Schedule: Full-Year

This course continues the development of the student's conversational skills in German. We will improve our communicative abilities by learning all the basic "building blocks" of grammar, and increase our vocabulary through reading, listening and writing. We will also learn more about the geography and culture of the German-speaking world, and learn how to express our own ideas, feelings and reactions. Dialogs, skits, videos and hands-on projects continue to be a major focus.

SPANISH 1

Grade: 7, 8

Credits: 2 Credits - Elective (Successful completion of this course will also result in 2 High School Elective credits that will be considered a "Pass" and not impact a student's high school grade point average.)

Schedule: Full-Year

Designed exclusively for students with no prior exposure to Spanish, Spanish I focuses on the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Relevant aspects of Hispanic culture are introduced. In addition, students watch movies, listen to cultural music, and play games that will add to the learning experience. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to express basic information about themselves. This class requires a high degree of motivation, memorization skills, and good study habits. This course is recommended for students that are committed to multiple years of language study into high school.

SPANISH 2

Grade: 8

Credits: 2 Credits - Elective (Successful completion of this course will also result in 2 High School Elective credits that will be considered a "Pass" and not impact a student's high school grade point average.)

Schedule: Full-Year

Prerequisite: Spanish I or by placement test

Designed for students who have successfully completed Spanish I, Spanish II focuses on the progressive development of the four basic skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The class focuses on the mastery of basic grammatical structures and extending vocabulary. Students explore the culture and language through projects, movies, music, and games. It is recommended students take this course the year following Spanish I.

SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS 1

Grade: 7, 8

Credits: 2 Credits - Elective (Successful completion of this course will also result in 2 High School Elective credits that will be considered a "Pass" and not impact a student's high school grade point average.)

Pre-requisite: This class is for students who speak Spanish at home as a primary or secondary language. Students should be conversational in Spanish, but not necessarily able to read and write.

Schedule: Full-Year

This course is designed for students that speak Spanish conversationally or fluently and want to improve their Spanish skills. The class will be taught exclusively in Spanish, but it is not assumed that students know academic Spanish; academic vocabulary will be taught. The emphasis will be placed on developing reading, writing, spelling, and grammar. The objective is to support the student with their linguistic skills and provide them with the necessary academic skills to use written and spoken language in a more sophisticated way, both in Spanish and by transferring these skills to English. The class will include literature from Spanish speaking countries, cultural analysis and activities to define and understand how cultures intersect.

Este curso ha sido diseñado para el estudiante que habla español y quiere mejorar sus habilidades lingüísticas. La clase será impartida estrictamente en español, pero no se supone que los alumnos entienden español académico. El énfasis será puesto en el desarrollo de las habilidades en la lectura, la redacción, la ortografía, y la gramática. El objetivo es el de proveer al estudiante con las habilidades académicas necesarias para manejar el lenguaje en el discurso escrito y oral, y para transmitir las habilidades lingüísticas a otras clases y lecturas en inglés. La clase enfocará en literatura de culturas hispanas y ofrecerá al estudiante la oportunidad de aprender sobre culturas hispanas por análisis cultural y un estudio de cómo y cuándo cruzan con otras culturas.

SPANISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS 2

Grade: 7, 8

Credits: 2 Credits - Elective (Successful completion of this course will also result in 2 High School Elective credits that will be considered a "Pass" and not impact a student's high school grade point average.)

Pre-requisite: Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 or by placement test

Schedule: Full-Year

This course is designed for the student who speaks Spanish conversationally or fluently, and wants to improve their linguistic skills. The class will be taught strictly in Spanish, but it will include instruction of academic vocabulary. The emphasis will be placed on building on skills in reading, writing composition, grammar, and will present more complex literature. The objective of this course is to support students in developing the academic skills necessary to use more sophisticated language in both reading and speaking. The class will also build on a study of Hispanic culture, with an emphasis on analysis of the historical forces that influence the development of Hispanic countries and cultures, and the implications on today's culture.

Este curso ha sido diseñado por el estudiante que habla español y quiere mejorar sus habilidades lingüísticas. La clase será impartida estrictamente en español, pero va a incluir enseñanza de vocabulario y español académico. El énfasis será puesto en el mejoramiento de las habilidades necesarias para manejar el lenguaje más complejo y sofisticado en el discurso escrito y oral. La clase también aumentará el estudio de la cultura hispana, con análisis profundo de las fuerzas históricas que han desarrollado la cultura y los países hispanos y las implicaciones en la cultura de hoy.

Find Your Passion at Shakopee Schools

“Exploring Areas of Interest”



To Shakopee Students and Families:

Our mission is to prepare all students to be college and career ready. A critical aspect of this mission is providing an opportunity for you to explore and find your interest and passion areas. Our district has begun a five-year planning process to re-imagine our secondary programs to ensure your success as you transition into high school and beyond. One of those key initiatives is to organize all elective courses into six areas of interest; Arts & Communications, Business & Entrepreneurship, Engineering & Manufacturing, Health Science, Human Services, Science and Technology.

In order for you to learn about each of these Areas of Interest, all students will participate in a one quarter “Gateway” course for each area during his or her 6th and 7th grade years. Along with their required classes, students will then have choices during their 7th and 8th grade years to select from a variety of elective courses to further pursue their interests.

Are you interested in learning more about areas such as publishing, arts, business, healthcare, public service, science, technology, and engineering? The next pages in the guide outline the variety of courses you can select from. **This will begin your journey towards discovering the types of courses you might want to pursue at the high school and how they relate to future education and career paths.**

We hope you find the course titles and descriptions exciting and intriguing – the courses were designed to help you **FIND YOUR PASSION!**

Nancy Thul

Director of Teaching and Learning
Shakopee Public Schools

Shakopee Public School’s Areas of Interest and Programs of Study

Arts & Communication

- Arts Production & Management
- Design
- Mass Communication
- Musical Arts
- Theatre Arts
- Visual Arts

Business & Entrepreneurship

- Business Management
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Hospitality, Entertainment, Tourism
- Marketing & Sales

Engineering & Manufacturing

- Architecture, Construction, and Civil Engineering
- Manufacturing, Fabrication, Chemical and Mechanical Engineering
- Robotics, Automation, Mechanical and Electrical Engineering
- Transportation and Aerospace Engineering

Health Sciences

- Biomedical Science
- Exercise Science
- Health and Wellness
- Healthcare

Human Services

- Education and Training
- Law and Legal
- Public Service and Administration
- Social & Mental Health Services

Science & Technology

- Applied Science and Technology
- Computer Science
- Human and Natural Resource Management
- Investigative Science and Mathematics

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | AREAS OF INTEREST

ARTS & COMMUNICATION

6TH GRADE REQUIRED GATEWAY COURSE

GATEWAY TO ARTS AND COMMUNICATION: HEROES

Grade: 6
Credits: ½ Credit - Required
Schedule: One quarter

Here comes Arts and Communication to save the day! Who's your hero? This class provides students with an introduction to the Arts and Communication Area of Interest through a visual art design process. Throughout the experience, students will explore different culture's heroes and incorporate their findings into their final product. Draw, Paint, Sculpt, and App your way through this action-packed course.

6TH GRADE REQUIRED MUSIC COURSE

NOTE | *Only one of these courses must be taken as a required course. Students may choose to take both band and choir, but students taking band or choir will not be able to take Music Production (a similar course called "Drop a Beat" is available as an elective in 7th and 8th Grade).*

BAND

Grade: 6
Credits: 1 Credit - Required (or Music Production or Choir)
Pre-requisite: Previous band experience
Schedule: Full-Year - every other day

This class is open to all 6th grade students who are interested in a band experience. 6th graders who wish to try band for the first time, or newcomers to the district, are asked to consult with the band instructor before registering for this course. 6th grade Band rehearses on opposite days from 6th grade Choir. Band students who are not in Choir have PE on non-Band days. Small group instrumental lessons are given during the day. Course requirements, grading and discipline procedures can be found in the Band Handbook online. Assignments and assessments will be given in this class to fulfill State and National Arts Standards. 6th grade Band performs three concerts per year: Fall, Winter, and Spring.

CHOIR

Grades: 6
Credits: 1 Credit – Required (or Music Production or Band)
Schedule: Full-Year - every other day

Choir is open to any 6th grade student who wishes to sing. Voices are tested each fall for range and part placement. 6th grade Choir rehearses on opposite days from 6th grade Band. Group lessons are given during the day. Choir students who are not in Band have PE on alternate, non-Choir days. Course requirements, grading and discipline procedures can be found in the Choir Handbook. Assignments and assessments will be given in this class to ensure students fulfill the State and National Arts Standards. 6th Grade Choir performs three concerts per year: Fall, Winter, and Spring.

MUSIC PRODUCTION

Grade: 6
Credits: 1 Credit - Required (6th grade only, if not in Band or Choir)
Schedule: Full-Year - every other day

In this class, students will analyze, examine and create all types of world music through the use of iPad technology and musical instruments. This class will also focus on applying a foundational understanding of music to the consumption and creation of 21st century music. Students will use apps such as GarageBand to experience digital music recording.

***This course is intended for students not choosing Band or Choir. Band or Choir students interested in a music production experience should register for the course "Drop a Beat" in 7th or 8th grade.*

7TH AND 8TH GRADE ELECTIVE OPTIONS

BAND

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Pre-requisite: Previous band experience
Schedule: Full-Year - every other day

This class is open to all students who have previous band experience. Band placement will be determined in the fall based on enrollment, instrumentation, ability, and program development. Band meets every other day and is scheduled as a class. Small group lessons are scheduled for each student, usually occurring on the alternate days. Occasional assignments and assessments are given to fulfill the National Arts Standards. Course requirements, grading and discipline procedures can be found in the Band Handbook online. Bands perform at least three concerts each year: Winter Concert, Mid-Winter concert, and the Spring Concert. Standard and new band literature is used for these performances.

CHOIR

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: Full-Year - every other day

Choir is open to any student who wishes to sing. Individual voices are heard each fall for range and choir/ part placement. Seventh grade students are grouped with both genders in each class. Eighth grade students are placed in gender specific choirs, allowing for more individual attention and differentiated instruction as voice changes occur. Course requirements, grading and discipline procedure can be found in the Choir Syllabus on our website. Assignments and assessments will be given in this class to insure students fulfill the National Arts Standards. Each choir performs 2 concerts per year and sings standard SATB, SSA and TB literature.

**Jazz Band and Chamber Choir groups meet before/after school and are offered as co-curricular extension activities. Students must try out for these activities in the fall*

DIGITAL ART!

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester
Fee: Materials fee will apply

Do you like to play around on your computer? What about Manga, video games, animation and photography? In this class you will create a variety of digital media artworks; animation, illustration, graphic design & photography. After exploring various digital tools and creative techniques you will create a digital design piece to be shown in a student produced art exhibition.

DIGITAL STORYTELLING

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

Do you tweet fifty times a day? Are you all over Instagram? Do you aspire to be a YouTube celebrity? Learn how to use your desire to tell stories and stay connected In Digital Storytelling, students with an interest in telling stories about their world and their school will learn how to move beyond social media and create publications in print, digital, and video formats. Make your voice be heard!

DRAW, PAINT, AND PRINT IT!

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester
Fee: Materials fee will apply

Hey you! Are you creative? Have you already figured out that you like to draw, paint or print? Draw, Paint and Print It! is the class for you! This is a studio centered class where you will create artwork using many types of art materials- including but not limited to; painting, drawing, collage and printmaking. After trying these out, you will choose your favorite material to create a piece that you will display in the end-of-semester art show.

DROP A BEAT

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

In this class, students can expect to get "hands-on" experience with some of the latest technology, while learning how the technology operates. The class will also focus on learning how to plan and record a basic musical composition, while studying the components of most pieces of music. Students will gain some knowledge of recording techniques and will be able to share their creations on a live streaming radio cast at the end of the semester.

HOUSE OF STYLE

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester
Fee: Materials fee will apply

Is it your dream to be on Project Runway? Do you find yourself watching HGTV and wanting to design your own space? House of Style is the class for you! This class will introduce you to the world of fashion and interior design through hands-on projects from infinity scarves, up-cycling of clothing to designing your own space. Come explore your creative side.

SCULPT IT!

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester
Fee: Materials fee will apply

Do you like to work with clay? Have you ever thought of making art from wire, plaster, wood or recycled materials? Sculpt it! is the class for you! This is a studio-centered class where you will create artwork using many types of art materials. After trying these out, you will choose your favorite material to create a piece that you will display in the end-of-semester art show.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | **AREAS of INTEREST**

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

7TH GRADE REQUIRED GATEWAY COURSE

GATEWAY TO BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: THINK TANK

Grade: 7
Credits: ½ Credit - Required
Schedule: One quarter

Think Tank is a course that will challenge your imagination and innovation. Students will work in group and individual challenges to create, develop, and market a product. Using technology, creativity, and design, students will explore the exciting world of entrepreneurship.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

INNOVATION LAB

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester
Fee: Materials fee will apply

In this class, students will come up with a problem they will need to solve by designing a product and creating a business plan using the design process. In addition to designing a product, students will work on company branding using logo design, package design, and advertisement. Many aspects of being an entrepreneur will be addressed. If you are interested in starting your own business one day, this is the class for you!

MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

Grade: 7,8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: 1 semester

Life would be so much easier if money did indeed grow on trees, but don't worry! This class will teach you how to manage your money so that you can make good, sound financial decisions now and for the future through fun and interactive ways such as designing, baking and selling a product for Snack Shop, playing the Stock Market Game and other hands-on activities.

TEEN CHEF

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

Have you ever watched the hit TV shows "Master Chef Junior", "Chopped", or "Top Chef"? Do you want to learn how to plan and prepare delicious meals just like the Pros? If you answered yes, this class is for you. Teen Chef will teach you the skills you need to be a "Top Chef" for the rest of your life, and explore the exciting field of culinary arts.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | AREAS of INTEREST

ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING

7TH GRADE REQUIRED GATEWAY COURSE

GATEWAY TO ENGINEERING AND MANUFACTURING: TEEN ENGINEER

Grade: 7
Credits: ½ Credit - Required
Schedule: Quarter

Engineering and Manufacturing is a growing field that helps students understand how human made solutions can solve real-world problems. Through this gateway experience, students will learn skills using computer aided drafting, 3D printers, laser engraver/cutters, woodworking hand and power tools. Projects created in class that can be taken home include a wooden keep-sake box, catapult, personal name tag, and a selection of 3D printer projects.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

GTT: ARCHITECTURE (PLTW)

Grades: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: Semester

Gateway To Technology (GTT): Architecture is a creative Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering course that introduces students to the world of architecture and construction. Students take on the role of an architect as they design the floor plan and 3D model of their dream home. Students will learn about architectural design principles, 3D drafting, and construction materials and techniques through building a scale model of their home.

GTT: DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING (PLTW)

Grades: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: Semester

Gateway To Technology (GTT): Design and Manufacturing is an engaging Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering course that introduces students to the world of computer-aided design and manufacturing. Students will experience the world of engineering and manufacturing first hand while they design and model a variety of projects, such as a mechanical arm, iPad stand, laser cut clock, and a student designed 3D printer project. Students will then manufacture their designs using high-tech (3D printers, laser cutters) and traditional manufacturing techniques.

GTT: ROBOTICS (PLTW)

Grades: 7, 8

Credits: 1 Credit - Elective

Schedule: Semester

Gateway To Technology (GTT): Robotics is a hands-on Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Engineering course that introduces students to the world of robotics and automation. Students will learn how to design and build robotic systems and write computer programs to control them. Students will complete exciting projects such as: maze-solving vehicles, drag racers, robotic arms, elevators, and many more.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | AREAS OF INTEREST

HEALTH SCIENCES

7TH GRADE REQUIRED GATEWAY COURSE

GATEWAY TO HEALTH SCIENCES: SNACK ATTACK

Grade: 7
Credits: ½ Credit - Required
Schedule: One quarter

Are Hot Cheetos or Doritos your idea of a snack? Do you know that over ⅓ of your daily calories come from snacks? In this class you will explore the health sciences field through the lens of snacking by understanding nutritional concepts, preparing a variety of healthy snacks and analyzing nutritional needs.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

2 FIT 2 QUIT

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

Have you ever wondered how the contestants of the “Biggest Loser” get into better shape? How professional athletes like Serena Williams or LeBron James stay in the game? Whether or not you have stepped foot into the gym, open your eyes to the world of physical therapy, personal training, and athletic medicine. 2 Fit 2 Quit will teach you how to improve your health and performance, understand the human body, and help others stay in the game of life.

CODE RED

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

If not you, then who? The first few minutes after any emergency are the most important. In this course, you will learn how leadership and quick emergency response can help you manage life or death situations. Learn the skills needed for the exciting career fields in healthcare, leadership, and athletic training while earning First Aid, CPR and AED certification. It is time for YOU to be the Hero!

GTT: MEDICAL DETECTIVES (PLTW)

Grade: 7, 8
Credits: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

Students engage in the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health. Learning about the human body muscular and skeletal system the students will create prototype prosthetics by using the design process.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | AREAS OF INTEREST

HUMAN SERVICES

6TH GRADE REQUIRED GATEWAY COURSE

GATEWAY TO HUMAN SERVICES: BE THE CHANGE

Grade: 6
Credit: ½ Credit - Required
Schedule: One quarter

Students will investigate the areas of human services through self-exploration and understanding how their unique skills set can create positive change. Students will participate in hands on learning to increase their ability to communicate and solve problems in various environments. At the end of this course students will implement skills learned to address and resolve a real issue in their school and or community.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

LAW AND ORDER:

Grades: 7, 8
Credit: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

Have you ever thought about how the laws from the past affect us in today's society and what rights students, minorities, and adults have? Then this is the class for you. In this class we will explore the inner workings of the legal system through the eyes of judge, lawyer, jury, accused, victim, and society as a whole. After building foundational knowledge, students will actively take part in mock trials putting their skills to use in multiple roles.

STAND UP FOR SHAKO!

Grade: 7, 8
Credit: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

Are you happy with your community? In this course you will create and implement a service project and learn what it takes to be an effective leader. By applying needs assessment strategies, you will determine a community or global issue, collaborate with your peers, and utilize conflict resolution skills to lead your team in making a change. It's time to take a stand!

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS | AREAS OF INTEREST

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

6TH GRADE REQUIRED GATEWAY COURSE

GATEWAY TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: PROGRAMMING IS ELECTRIC

Grade: 6
Credit: ½ Credit - Required
Schedule: One quarter

We will explore the science of electricity, digital electronics and how they interact with computer programming. Students will develop electronic devices that will have to be programmed to solve a problem. We will acquire knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and examine the logic behind computer programming.

7TH AND 8TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSES

APP CREATIONS

Grades: 7, 8
Credit: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

Students will learn the basics of computer science through mobile app development (PLTW). Students will start with basic concepts of programming in “Blockly,” a simple drop-and-drag programming language using MIT’s App Inventor. Students will then progress to “Python” in which they learn introductory elements of text-based programming and language syntax. Students will explore the impact of computing in society and the application of computing across career paths.

THE INVISIBLE WORLD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Grade: 7, 8
Credit: 1 Credit - Elective
Schedule: One semester

Have you ever wondered how the unseen world affects your life? Scientists and engineers have unlocked the secrets of how science and technology can be used to identify and solve current real-world problems. Join us as we explore and discover the science and technology that encompasses the invisible components of the world we live in.

ALTERNATIVE PROGRAMMING

A variety of special programs are available to students who have special needs. Parents and students who are interested should contact their grade level dean or the school academic counselor for possible recommendation to any aspect of these programs. Each of these program options is located at the Junior High School. Placement is limited, so it is necessary that we prioritize students based on their needs. Placements in alternative programs are determined through program specific procedures.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

PROGRAMS

- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Emotional or Behavioral Disorder
- Developmental Cognitive Delay
- Physical Impairment
- Specific Learning Disability
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Vision Impairment
- Other Health Disability
- Speech or Language Impairment
- Severe Multiple Impairment

Students who move to Shakopee with an active IEP from another school district will be placed in Special Education programs in accordance with the law. A case manager will immediately be assigned, and s/he will contact the parent/guardian. *It is most helpful if parents of students moving to Shakopee with an IEP bring a copy of that IEP with them when they register the student.*

Students who do not receive special education services, but whose parents feel that an assessment is necessary, should contact an assistant principal, the academic counselor, or the school social worker. A referral will be made to the Evaluation Team. Specific procedural requirements must be met before a student can be taken through the assessment process. The academic counselor or dean will work with you and the Special Education team to determine if such an assessment is appropriate.

EL (ENGLISH LEARNER) SERVICES

EL courses are designed for students whose first language is one other than English. The focus is to assist students in listening, speaking, reading, and writing English in order to succeed in content area classes, and to improve social and academic language.

Students qualify for EL support according to their scores on the W-APT and/or ACCESS tests. The amount and type of EL services will vary depending on the English language development level of the student.

More information about English Learner (EL) Services is available at <http://www.shakopee.k12.mn.us/domain/52>.

HIGH POTENTIAL (HP) SERVICES

High Potential Services primarily support gifted learners and high-performing students by offering these kinds of opportunities: grade acceleration, subject acceleration, advanced courses (including Honors, Accelerated, and Twice-Accelerated) and co-curricular activities.

Identification

Students are identified for advanced opportunities on the basis of nationally-normed achievement and aptitude tests. Students who do not meet these criteria but are interested in these types of opportunities are encouraged to use the appeals process (described on page 4 of this book).

Co-Curricular Activities

Knowledge Bowl

- Interdisciplinary academic competition
- Teams of students work cooperatively to solve oral and written round questions

Mock Trial

- Students participate in rehearsed trials to learn about the legal system in a competitive manner
- MN State Bar Association helps to adjudicate

Rube Goldberg Machine Contest (RGMC)

- An annual international competition challenging teams of students from middle school to college age to compete in building the most elaborate and hilarious Rube Goldberg Machine
- A Rube Goldberg Machine is an overly complex contraption, designed with humor and a narrative, to accomplish a simple task

Science Olympiads

- Academic “track” meets
- Consists of a series of 23 team events in genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, astronomy, mechanical engineering and technology

More information about High Potential Services is available at <http://www.shakopee.k12.mn.us/domain/50>.

AVID PROGRAM

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is a college readiness program and elective class held five days a week during the school day. It is offered to students who would like to prepare to attend four-year colleges or universities. Students participate in AVID voluntarily.

The curriculum includes writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, reading, note-taking, study skills, test preparation and test taking skills, college/career/team building activities and visits to colleges and universities.

Students invited to AVID must complete an application and participate in an interview. If selected, they must sign an AVID Student Agreement and commit for a year to complete all of the required AVID work, take notes in all subject-area classes daily, use the AVID binder for all classes and participate in twice weekly small group tutorial sessions during the AVID elective class with AVID tutors.

Other requirements include good citizenship, appropriate classroom behavior, good attendance and 2.0 to 3.5 GPA. AVID students are required to take at least one honors/accelerated course. They must be able to complete honors-level work. Students must also demonstrate motivation, individual determination and take responsibility for their own learning and success.

More information about AVID is on the Shakopee AVID Web page at <http://www.shakopee.k12.mn.us/domain/163>.