

HICKMAN MILLS C-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2017-2018

Grades 7-8

Smith-Hale Middle School
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*“Providing a Foundation for a Proudly Diverse and
Historic Community”*



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The Course Descriptions Guide for Grades 7-8 has been designed to provide an overview of the academic offerings in the Hickman Mills School District middle school programs. The information provided will help maximize your student's transition to high school and beyond. Students explore a variety of core courses as well as elective courses which will help your student explore his/her post-secondary interests. Students and parents should be able to combine the information in the guidebook with advice received from teachers, counselors, and administrators in order to make decisions about pathways they may want to pursue at the secondary level. Students and parents are encouraged to keep this guidebook as a handy reference to use throughout the school year. The guidebook may also be viewed on the district web site.

Students work on developing a working four-year personal plan of study in their 8th grade year. This plan is designed to help the student, parent, and counselor develop a rigorous and relevant pathway to graduation. Hickman Mills School District is proud to partner with you and your student and we look forward to working with you.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hickman Mills C-1 School District, a proudly diverse and historic community, is to provide a foundation for our students that maximizes academic success and fosters civic engagement, as distinguished by:

- Highly effective teaching focused on rigor and individual student needs
- Building strong family, community and school partnerships
- Collaborative and data-driven decision making
- The integration of technology across the curriculum and the district
- Commitment to early childhood and ongoing college and/or career preparation



HICKMAN MILLS C-1 SCHOOL DISTRICT OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES

Objectives:

- All students pass local, state and national assessments at levels which exceed established standards.
- All students graduate and succeed in higher education and/or the workplace, and the community.
- All students are responsible citizens who demonstrate good character and the highest ethical standards.
- All students attend school at a rate that exceeds state and national expectations.

Strategies:

- We will guarantee a challenging learning environment for all students to become successful members of the community.
- We will foster an environment of highly effective faculty and staff.
- We will actively engage in positive partnerships with all stakeholders.
- We will collaboratively foster a safe, culturally-diverse and responsive school and community.

GENERAL SCHOOL POLICIES

1. A standard 4.0 grading scale grading scale is used by all teachers:

Grade Percent	
A	100-95
A-	94-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
F	59-00

2. Grade Reports

Students are provided mid-quarter as well as quarterly grade reports. The semester grade will be recorded on the student's final grade report. Grade reports are issued to the student to take home.

3. Attendance

Attendance is extremely important in the Hickman Mills School District. Students are encouraged to be on time to school each day in order to maximize instructional time. Parents are requested to contact their student's school office to notify staff of excused absences.

INTRODUCTION TO CAREER PATHWAYS

The world of work is rapidly changing, as existing jobs become more complex and new jobs demand increased levels of education. Students must acquire increased academic competencies, advanced technical skills and greater problem-solving abilities in order to become productive citizens in a highly competitive global economy. It is the goal of the Hickman Mills School District to create an environment where students are academically, technically, and socially prepared for the careers of the future. This is done through career exploration classes and activities at the middle levels. Examples of these opportunities include: College Summit, Career Jumping, Advisement, Missouri Connections, and much, much more.

Small Learning Communities

All students in grades 9 – 12 select a Small Learning Community (SLC) to help guide their four year planning process. These Small Learning Communities are based off of the Missouri Career Pathways. Career paths help students identify a career focus without being locked into a specific occupation. The career pathways that students may select from include:

- Arts & Communication
- Business & Finance
- Engineering Technology
- Health & Human Services

Additional information regarding secondary career pathways can be found in the 9-12 Career and Educational Planning Guide in the opposite side of this book.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT CAREER PATHS

What steps are involved in choosing a career path?

- Identify your interests, abilities and talents.
- Consider the possible careers in each path in relationship to those interests, abilities and talents.
- Decide which career path seems to fit you best.
- Select courses that are related to the career path you've chosen.

How can parents and other interested adults help?

- Help students identify interests, abilities, and talents by discussing strengths with them.
- Share information about careers and work experiences.
- Arrange for students to talk with people about careers that are of interest.

What if a student changes his or her mind?

- A career path choice is not a permanent commitment.
- As students have new experiences, they will learn new things about themselves and may change career paths.
- If a student decides on a new career path, he or she can discuss it with a counselor and adjust future course selections accordingly.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE 7 – REQUIRED COURSES

COMMUNICATION ARTS-7: CA0700
Students will develop reading and writing skills. Students will implement the elements of the writing process, including grammar, short stories; participate in class discussions; read culturally diverse literature, essays and poetry for enjoyment and enrichment. Students will keep a portfolio of their work showing their progress throughout the year.

READING CA0705/CA0704
Students take Reading, Read 180, or Systems 44 based upon reading assessment scores. This course will focus on improving literacy skills and reading comprehension.

PRE-ALGEBRA-7: MA0701
This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra I in the eighth grade. This course will include studies of abstract ideas, use of patterns, generalizations, equations, radicals, and solving word problems. Students will use hands-on manipulatives to assist with concept development and performance. Student “readiness” for this course is determined by multiple criteria including: algebra readiness tests, class grades, teacher recommendation, student interest, and parent request.

MATH SUPPORT MA0703/MA0705
This course is designed to support students’ progress towards mathematics proficiency.

SCIENCE-7: SC0700
This course includes units in Space Science, Motion and forces, Atmosphere, Electricity and Magnetism. Scientific inquiry and scientific relevance are integrated into all of the course units. The science concepts learned at seventh grade will support the more advanced concepts at the later grades.

SOCIAL STUDIES-7: SS0700
This is a survey course of the history of the United States from the discovery to the reconstruction periods. The purpose of the course is to increase students’ knowledge and fundamental understanding of the American political institutions.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION/-7: PE0700 (Boys)/
HEALTH PE0701 (Girls)**
This course will emphasize in team sports, recreational sports, gymnastic activities, rhythms, and other individual and dual activities with more advanced instruction. An important element of this course is to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles through instruction in health and wellness. Areas will include ATOD, physical fitness; character education and first aid/safety.

GRADE 7 - EXPLORATORY COURSES

ALL YEAR COURSES

BAND-7: MU0701

Band meets every day, and may meet in two sections as needed. Seventh grade band rehearsals are devoted to continuing the developing of tone, technique, intonation, musical interpretation, various musical styles, and rhythms. The band performs as often as feasible throughout the school year. The student must successfully complete assigned material in the fifth and sixth grade band curriculum or demonstrate comparable skill level through an audition to gain the instructor's approval to enroll. Rehearsals and concerts outside of class time are a part of this course. Students enrolled are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. Students must gain approval of the director in order to begin playing a new instrument for class. Entrance into this course is by permission of the band director.

CHOIR-7: MU0702

This choir is training and performing group of singers. The course will stress improvement of vocal skills, note reading, part-singing, and performance skills. Rehearsals and concerts outside of class time are a part of this course. Students enrolled are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. Director approval required.

ORCHESTRA-7: MU0703

Students must have satisfactorily completed fifth and sixth grade orchestra or demonstrate comparable skill level through an audition to gain the instructor's approval to enroll. The student must be prepared to play Level 1 1/2 literature in the fall. Rehearsals and concerts outside of class time are a requirement of this course. Students enrolled are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. Entrance into this course is by permission of the orchestra director.

SEMESTER COURSES

GENERAL MUSIC-7: MU0700

This course will encompass the study of the elements of music including, Melody, Harmony, Dynamics, Tempo, Timbre, Style, Mood and Rhythm. Students will explore and define these musical terms and then dissect and explain a variety of styles/pieces using them. The course may also encompass the development of the adolescent voice, exploring various rhythms alone and in a group, and creating/composing simple pieces of music.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS-7: PA0701

Students will learn computer application skills that support the national and state technology competencies. Students will become familiar with keyboarding, Google Drive suite, Digital Citizenship, Microsoft Office, and more.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS-7: ST0700

This is an introductory speech class in which the student will participate in a variety of communication activities. Students will give speech presentations, become familiar with outlining, and appropriate audience etiquette.

ART EXPLORATION-7: AR0700

Exploratory Art II: Students will learn to see and think like an artist, and develop an appreciation for many art forms from earliest times to the present. Students will use a variety of materials and processes.

AUTOMATION & ROBOTICS: PA0703

The Automation & Robotics course is a pre-engineering course, one of the Gateway to Technology (GTT) courses that prepares students for the Project Lead The Way courses in high school. Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

DESIGN & MODELING PA0702

Design & Modeling is a Gateway to Technology (GTT) course that prepares students for the Project Lead the Way courses in high school. Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GRADE 8 – REQUIRED COURSES

COMMUNICATION ARTS-8: CA0800

Students will concentrate on strengthening their critical thinking skills through the processes of reading, writing and oral communications. They will extend their understanding of literature including a variety of culturally diverse fiction and nonfiction. Students will keep a portfolio of their work showing their progress throughout the year.

HONORS COMMUNICATION ARTS-8: CA0801

This course is taught at an accelerated and more rigorous pace than Communication Arts. Students are selected for Honors Communication Arts based on teacher recommendations and previous assessment scores.

READING CA0804/CA0805

Students take Reading, Read 180, or Systems 44 based upon reading assessment scores. This course will focus on improving literacy skills and reading comprehension.

ALGEBRA I: MA0801

This course is the same course as Algebra I in high school, and it is the first formalized course involving continuation of fundamental math. It deals with abstract ideas, use of patterns, generalizations, solving linear, quadratic and rational equations, simplifying radicals, and solving word problems. Students will use hands-on manipulatives and graphing calculators to assist with concept development and performance. Student readiness for this course is determined by multiple criteria including: algebra readiness tests, class grades, teacher recommendation, student interest, and parent request.

HONORS ALGEBRA I: MA0807

This course is taught at an accelerated and more rigorous pace than Algebra I. Students are selected for Honors Algebra I based on teacher recommendations and previous assessment scores.

MATH SUPPORT MA0804/MA0805

This course is designed to support students' progress towards mathematics proficiency.

SCIENCE-8: SC0800

This course includes units in Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science, and Environmental Science. Scientific inquiry and scientific relevance are integrated into all of the course units. The science concepts learned at eighth grade will support the more advanced concepts at the later grades.

SOCIAL STUDIES-8: SS0800

This course is a full-year study of United States political, economic, and social institutions. Comparative government and the United States' role in the world will also be emphasized. The United States Constitution will be studied in depth in this class.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION-8: PE0800 (Boys)/ /HEALTH PE0801 (Girls)

This course emphasizes basic instruction in team sports, recreational sports, gymnastic activities, rhythms, and other individual and dual activities with more advanced instruction. An important element of this course is to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles through instruction in health and wellness. Areas included will be disease control, substance abuse, family relationships, nutrition, mental health and violence prevention.

GRADE 8 - EXPLORATORY COURSES

ALL YEAR COURSES

BAND-8: MU0801
Band meets every day, and may meet in two sections as needed. Band rehearsals are devoted to continuing the development of tone, technique, intonation, breath control, musical interpretation, various musical styles, rhythms, and preparing arrangements for performance. The band performs as often as feasible throughout the school year. The student must successfully complete assigned material in the fifth, sixth, and seventh grade band curriculum or demonstrate comparable skill level through an audition to gain the instructor's approval to enroll. Rehearsals and concerts outside of class time are a part of this course. Students enrolled are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. Students must gain approval of the director in order to begin playing a new instrument for class. Entrance into this course is by permission of the band director.

CHOIR-8: MU0802
This choir is training and performing group of singers. The course will stress improvement of vocal skills, note-reading, part-singing, and performance skills. It will provide at least four performance experiences during the year. Students need to understand that rehearsals, contests, and concerts are a part of the class and failure to attend these may be reflected in their grade. *PREREQUISITE: Director approval required.*

ORCHESTRA-8: MU0803
The orchestra meets every day. Students must have satisfactorily completed fifth, sixth, and seventh grade orchestra or demonstrate comparable skill level through an audition to gain the instructor's approval to enroll. The student must be prepared to play Level II literature in the fall. Rehearsals and concerts outside of class time are a requirement of this course. Students enrolled are expected to attend all rehearsals and concerts. Entrance into this course is by permission of the orchestra director.

SPANISH I FL 080
This course may be taken for high school credit. This is a beginner course in foreign language with an emphasis on vocabulary, culture, and basic speaking and writing.

SEMESTER COURSES

ART FROM MANY CULTURES-8: AR0800
This course is an opportunity for students to experience the direct influence of various world cultures through art. Students will use a variety of materials and processes as they learn artistic practices of many cultures and construct art projects that relate and reflect these cultures to contemporary life.

GENERAL MUSIC-8: MU0800
This course is open to all students who enjoy all types of music. It may encompass a study of piano and the keyboard, the basic elements of music, instruments of the orchestra, trends of American music and other diverse cultures, and various examples of composers and their works throughout history.

INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA ST0803
This course provides a foundation of experiences in drama. Students will learn about the history of theater and fundamental performance skills that apply to acting in the drama portions of the course.

INTRODUCTION TO DEBATE ST0804
This course provides a foundation of experiences in debate. Students will learn about research skills and public speaking. Students are eligible and strongly recommended to participate in local debate competitions.

INTRODUCTION TO FACS (FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES) ST0806
This course provides an introduction to the areas of human development and the family, consumer education, career exploration, foods and nutrition, clothing and textiles, and housing and living environments.

COMPUTER MEDIA-8: PA0801
Students will learn computer application skills that support the national and state technology competencies. Topics include: intro to web design, iMovie and other Google apps, intro to Business topics, and advertising.

MEDICAL DETECTIVES PA0805
Students play 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.

INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIENCE PA0803
Students will learn about programming for the physical world by blending hardware design and software development. They will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, or wearable and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life. The unit will expose students to computer science as a means of computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems, and will convey the positive impact of the application of computer science to other disciplines and to society.

4 YEAR PERSONAL PLAN OF STUDY

Name _____

CAREER PATHWAY/SMALL LEARNING COMMUNITY INTEREST:

Subject Area	Freshman	CR	Sophomore	CR	Junior	CR	Senior	CR
Communication Arts (4.0 credits)								
Mathematics (4.0 credits)								
Science (3.0 credits)								
Social Studies (3.0 credits)								
Speech & Theatre Arts (0.5 credit)								
Fine Arts (1.0 credit)								
Practical Arts (0.5 credit)								
Personal Finance (0.5 Credit)								
Physical Education (1.5 credit)								
Health (0.5 credit)								
Electives (7.5 credits)								