

# Queen Creek Unified School District



EXCELLENCE THROUGH LEADERSHIP

## Junior High Course Description Catalog

# 2021/2022

# Queen Creek Unified School District

## Course Description Catalog

### Grades 7-8

### 2021-2022

#### Governing Board

Ken Brague, President  
Jennifer Revolt, Vice President  
Samantha Davis, Member  
Matt Riffey, Member  
Patty Campbell, Member

#### District Administration

Dr. Perry Berry, Superintendent  
Dr. Matt Strom, Associate Superintendent of Business and Operations  
Erika Copeland, Executive Director K-12 Educational Services  
Dr. Patty Rogers, Director Human Resources

#### Newell Barney Middle School

**(480) 474-6700**

Lucas Pugh, Principal  
Carl Holgerson, Assistant Principal  
[Newell Barney Junior High website](#)

#### Queen Creek Middle School

**(480) 987-5940**

Dr. Adam Wolfe, Principal  
Beverly Nichols, Assistant Principal  
[Queen Creek Junior High Website](#)

#### Eastmark High School

**(480) 474-6950**

Paul D. Gagnon, Principal  
Kraig Leuschner, Assistant Principal  
Derek Petersen, Assistant Principal  
[Eastmark High School website](#)

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# Junior High School Course Requirements

Grade 7	Grade 8
Math	Math
Language Arts	Language Arts
Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies
Career Exploration (1 semester)	Electives (4 semesters)
Electives (3 semesters)	

1 Semester = ½ Year

## Arizona State Assessments

### AASA

Arizona's Academic Standards Assessment (formally AzM2), measures student proficiency on English Language Arts (including both Reading and Writing) and Mathematics. It is aligned to Arizona's state learning standards which detail what students should be able to do at each grade level. It is also designed to measure student learning and progress towards readiness for college and career. AASA is a computer-based test given to students each Spring in Grades 3-8.

### AzSCI

The Arizona statewide test to measure Science is the AzSCI (formerly the AIMS Science test) and is administered to students in Grades 5, 8, and 11 in the Spring. The AzSCI is a computer-based assessment that allows for the use of a variety of innovative item types, all aligned to the Arizona Science Standards adopted in 2018

# Honors Courses

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

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

All honors/weighted courses contain:

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

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

- Independent research
- Inquiry learning
- Integration of two or more content areas
- Leadership components
- Service learning opportunities

## Junior High Homework Guidelines:

In QCUSD, we believe that homework is an important part of the educational process for our students. Homework can be a powerful tool to help parents become more involved in their child's learning. It can provide insights into a child's strengths and interests, and can also encourage conversations about a child's life at school. We also recognize the importance of family and recreational time for our students outside of school.

Homework is intended to reinforce what students are learning, can be completed independently, and should deepen our student's understanding of key standards.

In order to support a balance of home/school activities on any given night, the following guidelines will be put in place:

1. Homework may be assigned Monday through Thursday. *Generally*, homework assignments will consist of approximately 20 minutes of practice. A student should not work on any given subject for more than 20-30 minutes a night. If a student is spending *significantly* more time than this, they should document the cause and share with the teacher the next day.
  - a. It is important that the student communicates exactly what aspect of the homework is creating a challenge. This helps build advocacy and gives the teacher guidance on how to best support the student.
2. Teachers will collaborate to increase awareness of what other content teachers are assigning and plan accordingly in order to support this balance. The general guideline will be 60 minutes of homework maximum per night, but this may fluctuate depending on upcoming projects, assessments, etc.
3. Teachers will consider the time needed to work on projects when assigning homework as part of the recommended minutes per subject. Parents should support students with pacing work on projects throughout the quarter to avoid excessive homework time spent completing projects right before the due date.

# 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selections

## **MAT700 Math 7**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

Students will develop an understanding of proportional relationships to solve single- and multi-step problems. Students will develop a unified understanding of numbers by recognizing fractions, decimals, and percents as different representations of rational numbers. The course includes the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of rational numbers. Students will use variables to represent quantities and construct simple equations and inequalities to solve problems. Topics in geometry, statistics and probability will also be explored. The standards of mathematical practices and modeling with mathematics are embedded into this course.

## **MAT710 Honors Math 7**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is intended to be taken after completing Honors Math 6. It is an accelerated course that includes the 2nd portion of the Math 7 standards and all of the Math 8 standards. The course is designed for a student preparing to take Algebra 1 during their 8th grade year. Students will develop an understanding of expressions, equations and inequalities, including modeling bivariate data with linear equations and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students will explore the concept of functions and use them to describe quantitative relationships. Students will analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, congruence, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Topics in statistics and probability will also be explored. The standards of mathematical practices and modeling with mathematics are embedded into this course.

## **SCI700 Science 7**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

Earth Science is the focus of this course in which students will classify rocks and minerals, describe the properties and composition of major layers of the earth and explain the processes of erosion, deposition, plate tectonics and volcanism. Students will use the rock and fossil record show that environmental conditions change over geologic and recent time. Students will also explore how cause and effect take place within and between a wide variety of force and motion systems including forces that shape our Earth.

Students will develop an understanding of the structure and function of cells within all living organisms, that cells come from existing cells and cells are the basic structural and functional unit of all living things. Students will further understand the relationship between major cell structures and cell functions and explain how cells, tissues, and organ systems maintain life.

## **SCI710 Honors Science 7**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

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

## **SOC700 Social Studies 7**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

The content focus will be viewed through historical and geographic lenses. Seventh grade students will understand the relationships and interactions between societies and cultures in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. United States history will be taught as it intersects with global issues. Students will begin with the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment through present day.

**SOC710 Honors Social Studies 7****One Year = 2 Semesters**

In honors class, a greater emphasis is placed on independent reading, analyzing, developing, and demonstrating critical and reflective thinking skills. A greater amount of class discussion, using the Socratic Method, with opportunities to defend ideas and positions is a cornerstone of all honors classes.

**ENG700 Language Arts 7****One Year = 2 Semesters**

Language Arts 7 is an integrated reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study literary elements, vocabulary in context, and text structures by reading texts from literary genres including, but not limited to: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, students will begin honing skills in the areas of research, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, grammatical structures of writing, and the steps of the writing process.

**ENG710 Honors Language Arts 7****One Year = 2 Semesters**

Honors Language Arts 7 is an integrated reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study literary elements, vocabulary in context, and text structures by reading texts from literary genres including, but not limited to: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, students will begin honing skills in the areas of research, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, grammatical structures of writing, and the steps of the writing process.

**CEP 700 Career Exploration****One Semester**

This required 7th grade course exposes students to academic success strategies, financial literacy, and college & career exploration. While utilizing best practice academic strategies, students will explore their interests, aptitudes, and skills to compete in the workplace as well as learn about their individual learning styles to find possible career matches. Students will explore a variety of college and career options, engage in numerous research projects, and use the steps in the decision-making process to develop their college and career plan through the MajorClarity Platform. This will guide them to make appropriate decisions about high school level courses, post-secondary education and training, and career fields.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives

**ART700 Art I****One semester \$ 15 fee**

Art I is a prerequisite for the other art classes, which can be taken in any order. Art I course includes basic instruction in painting, drawing, ceramics and various media (printmaking, paper mache, repurposed art, etc). Students gain knowledge and learn new skills through engaging, hands-on experiences as they express individual creativity and make original works of art. Each studio project is inspired by a brief study of specific artists or artworks (past and present), art styles, aesthetics, and/or processes and techniques. Lessons align with State and National Core Visual Arts Standards and often include cross-curricular connections with core academic areas. *No prerequisites or skill/experience levels required.*

**ART705 Art II****One semester \$ 15 Fee**

Art II course offers students a learning experience similar to the Art I course (see description), with increased levels of artistic and academic expectations. Lessons provide an in depth progression into drawing, painting and printmaking. Art II students are challenged to build on current artistic knowledge and skill levels. *Art I is a prerequisite.*

**AVD700 AVID 7****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

The 7th grade AVID Elective course builds upon the foundational components of the AVID philosophy. Students will refine short-and long-term goals and, as a result, begin to understand the value in taking charge of their actions. They will start working on intrapersonal and interpersonal skills as well as formal and informal speech. Students will complete self-evaluations and peer evaluations related to reading, writing, organization, and speaking. In broadening their writing practice, students will begin considering audience, purpose, and form in their writing. Students will take an active role in their learning, understanding the roles of all members in assignments and collaborative lessons. They will expand their knowledge base regarding note-taking in relation to studying and test preparation. Students will be exposed to various field trips, guest speakers, and research to increase their knowledge of college and career options.

**FAC700 Family and Consumer Science - I/II****One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

In this course, FACS will be a semester elective. Students will learn cooking fundamentals, nutrition, hand sewing techniques which includes a sewing project, family dynamics, interior design and life skills. (QCJH and NBJH only)

**DRA700 Drama I****One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

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

**DRA710 Drama II****One Semester \$15 Course Fee****Prerequisite: Drama I**

This course is designed to encourage an appreciation of the theatre in students who have already been introduced to the performing arts. Students will first review skills learned in Drama I. Students will then move to the more advanced skill of monologue and debate. Students will practice the mechanics of theater, including, make-up, set design, costume design, lighting design and sound; in the production of a one act play. The course includes two student performances. The goals for this course is to offer a creative outlet and produce skilled and well-rounded performers.

**FHP700 Future Health Professionals****One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

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

**MIC700 Media Interactions in the 21st Century****One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

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

**SLC700 Student Leadership - Student Council****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

\*\*Requires teacher recommendation and application

\*\* Limited positions available per grade level

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

**PHE700 Physical Education****One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee**

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

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

**FIT700 Fitness/Weights****One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee**

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

**DFI700 Dance/Fitness****One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee**

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

**BND700 Cadet Band****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

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

**BND710 Symphonic Band****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

*Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.*

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

**BND720 Concert Band**

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

*Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.*

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

**BND725 Concert Percussion**

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

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

**BND730 Advanced Percussion**

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

*Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.*

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

**GUI700 Guitar I**

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

Intro to Guitar is a class for beginning instrumentalists with little to no experience playing an instrument. The course will cover basic note reading skills, music theory, chords and playing techniques associated with guitar. Students will be required to provide their own instrument.

**GUI715 Guitar II**

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

The course will build off instrumental skills learned in Guitar 1. The course will cover advanced note reading skills, music theory, chords and playing techniques associated with guitar. Students will be required to provide their own instrument. *Guitar I is a prerequisite.*

**CHR700 Choir**

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

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

**ORC700 Cadet Orchestra**

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

This course is designed for students who would have very little or no experience in orchestra. This course will cover note reading, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context to today. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to

practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. Performances will be twice a semester, with occasional rehearsals outside of the school day. All students are required to be at rehearsals and performances.

### **ORC715 Performance Orchestra**

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

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

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

### **ORC720 Symphonic Orchestra**

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

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

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

## **8th Grade Course Descriptions**

### **MAT800 Math 8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

Students will develop an understanding of expressions, equations and inequalities, including modeling bivariate data with linear equations and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students will explore the concept of functions and use them to describe quantitative relationships. Students will analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, congruence, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Topics in statistics and probability will also be explored. The standards of mathematical practices and modeling with mathematics are embedded into this course.

### **MAT810 Algebra I**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

Junior high students may receive high school credit by successfully completing both semesters with a “C” or higher. Credit will be recorded onto the students’ high school transcript with NBJH/QCJH/EHS letter grades attached. These grades will be counted into the student’s cumulative AP grade point average and will fulfill an elective credit requirement toward graduation. Accelerated math opportunities are intended to provide students access to higher levels of math in high school, not replace high school math instruction. All students are required to take math all four years of high school.

This course is an accelerated course in Algebra 1 for students who have proven their exceptional interest, ability, and industry in mathematics. It is designed to deepen and extend understanding of linear and non-linear relationships by comparing and contrasting them with each other. Students will apply models to data that exhibit a linear trend. In addition, students will engage in methods of analyzing, solving and using exponential and quadratic functions. Emphasis will be on the application of the functions studied. This accelerated course uses the state standards as a guideline for its curriculum and prepares students for advanced study in mathematics and science. A graphing calculator is recommended for this course.

**SCI800 Science 8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

In this course, students will explore stability and change to explore chemical properties of matter and chemical reactions to further understand energy and matter. Atomic theory, physical and chemical properties, energy transfer, and wave characteristics

The life science portion includes the basic principles of heredity including the dominant and recessive traits in humans including hair color and blood type. Students will also analyze Earth's geological column to understand relative ages of rocks and fossils. Natural disasters and geologic events along with human impact of the Earth's limited resources will also be explored.

**SCI810 Honors Science 8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

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

**SOC800 Social Studies 8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

The content focus will be viewed through civic and economic lenses. Citizenship and civic engagement will be taught through inquiry. Eighth grade students will make connections between historical and current/recent issues as a base for implementing change in society. Students will recognize and practice their roles and responsibilities as both American and global citizens. United States History will focus on the major events that have their roots in the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and subsequent amendments. Students will begin with the American Revolution and continue through present day.

**SOC810 Honors Social Studies 8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

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

**ENG800 Language Arts 8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

Language Arts 8 is an integrated reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will deeply study literary elements, vocabulary in context, and text structures by reading texts from literary genres including, but not limited to: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, students will continue honing skills in the areas of research, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, grammatical structures of writing, and the steps of the writing process.

**ENG810 Honors Language Arts 8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

Honors Language Arts 8 is an integrated reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will deeply study literary elements, vocabulary in context, and text structures by reading texts from literary genres including, but not limited to: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, students will continue honing skills in the areas of research, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, grammatical structures of writing, and the steps of the writing process.

# 8th Grade Electives

## **ART800 Art I**

**One semester \$ 15 Fee**

Art I is a prerequisite for the other art classes, which can be taken in any order. Art I course includes basic instruction in painting, drawing, ceramics and various media (printmaking, paper mache, repurposed art, etc). Students gain knowledge and learn new skills through engaging, hands-on experiences as they express individual creativity and make original works of art. Each studio project is inspired by a brief study of specific artists or artworks (past and present), art styles, aesthetics, and/or processes and techniques. Lessons align with State and National Core Visual Arts Standards and often include cross-curricular connections with core academic areas. *No prerequisites or skill/experience levels required.*

## **ART815 Art II**

**One semester \$ 15 Fee**

Art II course offers students a learning experience similar to the Art 7 course (see description), with increased levels of artistic and academic expectations appropriate for this grade level. Lessons provide an in depth progression into drawing, painting and printmaking. Art II students are challenged to build on current artistic knowledge and skill levels. *Art I is a prerequisite.*

## **AVD800 AVID 8**

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

The 8th grade AVID Elective course is the year of preparation for high school. Students will regularly exhibit and utilize the skills and strategies learned in the 7th grade AVID course. They will refine previous goals, focusing on their transition to high school as part of a college-preparatory path. Their writing will focus on completing all steps of the writing process and varying style, word choice, vocabulary, structure, and voice. Major writing assignments include persuasive, expository, descriptive, and timed writing. Students will transition from active learners to leaders. Other areas of focus include increasing the use of technology and building upon test-preparation and test-taking knowledge. Students will broaden their experience with analyzing text and utilizing appropriate reading strategies in various settings. They will become more involved in guest-speaker presentations and field trips, particularly as they relate to preparation and prior knowledge. Students will also participate in college-preparatory testing and build connections with the high school they will attend.

## **FCS815 Family and Consumer Science - I/II**

**One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

In this course, FACS will be a semester elective. Students will learn cooking fundamentals, nutrition, hand sewing techniques which includes a sewing project, family dynamics, interior design and life skills.

## **DRA800 Drama I**

**One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

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

## **DRA815 Drama II**

**One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

**Prerequisite: Drama I**

This course is designed to encourage an appreciation of the theatre in students who have already been introduced to the performing arts. Students will first review skills learned in Drama I. Students will then move to the more advanced skill of monologue and debate. Students will practice the mechanics of theater, including, make-up, set design, costume design, lighting design and sound; in the production of a one act play. The course includes two student performances. The goals for this course is to offer a creative outlet and produce skilled and well-rounded performers.

**FHP800 Future Health Professionals****One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

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

**MIC800 Media Interactions in the 21st Century****One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

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

**ARO800 Automation and Robotics****One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

**SLC800 Student Leadership - Student Council****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

\*\*Requires application

\*\* Limited positions available per grade level

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

**SLW800 Student Leadership (WEB)****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

\*\*Requires application

\*\* This course includes attendance at 2 summer training days and 1 summer day for 7<sup>th</sup> grade orientation

As WEB leaders, eighth graders will work to provide a quality experience for seventh graders transitioning into the middle school environment. WEB leaders will learn various leadership skills, explore their strengths and weaknesses, mentor 7<sup>th</sup> graders, and work on events that improve the overall school culture. As WEB leaders, students will learn and practice real-world communication skills as they are required to reach out to their assigned seventh graders throughout the school year. It is essential that WEB leaders mark the required summer days for their personal leadership development as well as creating bonds with their assigned seventh graders.

**SPA800 Spanish I****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

**Junior high students may receive high school credit for Spanish I by successfully completing both semesters with a "C" or higher. Credits will be recorded onto the students' high school transcript with NBJH/QCJH/EHS letter grades attached. These grades will be counted into the students' cumulative grade point average.**

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

**JOU800 Journalism****One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

This course creates a volume of student school memories. Students in this class are creative, original, and hardworking. Photographers, graphic artists, and budding writers are encouraged to apply. Competent writing skills and computer literacy are preferred. Students in this class will gain an understanding of layout and design.

**PED800 Physical Education****One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee**

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

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

**FIT800 Fitness/Weights****One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee**

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

**DFI800 Dance/Fitness****One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee**

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

**BND800 Cadet Band****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

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

**BND815 Concert Band****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

*Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.*

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

**BND820 Symphonic Band****One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

*Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.*

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

**BND825 Concert Percussion**

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

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

**BND830 Advanced Percussion**

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

*Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.*

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

**GUI800 Guitar I**

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

Intro to Guitar is a class for beginning instrumentalists with little to no experience playing an instrument. The course will cover basic note reading skills, music theory, chords and playing techniques associated with guitar. Students will be required to provide their own instrument.

**GUI815 Guitar II**

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

The course will build off instrumental skills learned in Guitar 1. The course will cover advanced note reading skills, music theory, chords and playing techniques associated with guitar. Students will be required to provide their own instrument. *Guitar I is a prerequisite.*

**CHR800 Choir**

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

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

**ORC800 Cadet Orchestra**

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

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

**ORC815 Concert Orchestra**

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

*Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and/or audition* This course is designed for students who would have one to two years of experience in orchestra. Students should be able to fluently read their notes on the A and D Strings. This course will cover note reading, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context

to today. In addition, this course will involve shifting and scales that are one and two octaves. Music played will be a wide variety, ranging from classical to pop contemporary music. Instruments played in orchestra are violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. There will be around four concerts per year. All students are expected to perform in every performing opportunity.

### **ORC820 Symphonic Orchestra**

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

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

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

## **Special Education**

### **Resource Program**

Special Education individualized programs and services are available to students identified with a disability. State and federal laws and guidelines regulate eligibility for special education programs. Multi-disciplinary teams, including administrators, teachers, counselors, psychologists, parents, and students participate in developing these individualized education programs (IEP's). Specialized accommodations in regular education classes are also developed for qualified students. Services in fourteen disability categories are available in a variety of environments, including inclusion, resource, and self-contained programs. Related services such as speech, OT, PT, Adaptive PE, counseling, transportation, hearing, vision is also available to students who qualify for these services.

### **RMT800 R Math 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is a study of individual instruction in basic math concepts, adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and development of higher math skills. Students work on modified grade level material in a classroom environment with a smaller student to teacher ratio. Curriculum and pace of instruction is individualized to meet each student's IEP needs.

### **RMT815 R Reading 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is designed for students with special needs to improve their reading skills as determined appropriately by the IEP team. The course is a study of reading skills and designed to meet state curriculum standards. The major areas are vocabulary and reading comprehension. Students work on grade level material in a classroom environment with a smaller student to teacher ratio. Curriculum and pace of instruction is individualized to meet each student's IEP needs.

### **RSO800 R Social Skills 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This program is designed to improve appropriate classroom behavior and responsibilities to a level where the student can complete regular or special education classes and interact appropriately with peers. The program is offered on a as needed basis. Curriculum and instruction is supported by other special education staff such as the school psychologist and/or speech and language pathologist. The class is developed to meet the unique needs of each student and to provide for their IEP needs.

**RSO815 R Study Skills 7-8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

This elective course will assist students in developing study skills, personal responsibility, and time management for success in their regular course work. Students are provided with direct assistance with study skills and school work completion. Curriculum is designed to meet the individual IEP needs of each student in the course at the time.

**RWT800 R Writing 7-8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is a study of individual instruction in basic sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, and development of ideas into a paragraph. The major topics covered will be paragraphs, letter writing, and spelling. Other features will include use of reference materials, and outlining. Students work on grade level material in a classroom environment with a smaller student to teacher ratio. Curriculum and pace of instruction is individualized to meet each student's IEP needs.

## Special Education

### Pathways Program

Pathways program affords students the opportunity to assess their academic and behavioral performance frequently so that there is time for error and recovery. Allowing students to make choices provides them with opportunities to learn through their successes and failures.

**PEL800 Pathways Elective 7-8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course allows students to participate in Study Skills. Study Skills is intended to enhance the behavioral/personal adjustment competencies necessary to provide a successful educational experience. Once the student achieves the academic goals they may choose a general education elective.

**PGR800 Pathways Group 7-8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to develop knowledge and skills in the areas of social/emotional development, communication, and classroom behavior. Students learn how to interact with both peers and adults appropriately. The classroom environment is designed to enhance the behavioral/personal adjustment competencies necessary to provide a successful educational experience.

**PMT800 Pathways Math 7-8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to develop knowledge and skills in the areas of numerical and algebraic concepts as described in a student's IEP and Arizona Academic Standards. The classroom environment is designed to enhance the behavioral/personal adjustment competencies necessary to provide a successful educational experience.

**PRG800 Pathways Reading 7-8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to develop knowledge and skills in the area of reading as described in a student's IEP and Arizona Academic Standards. The classroom environment is designed to enhance the behavioral/personal adjustment competencies necessary to provide a successful educational experience.

**PSC800 Pathways Science 7-8****One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to develop knowledge and skills in the areas of earth and life science as described in a student's IEP and Arizona Academic Standards. The classroom environment is designed to enhance the behavioral/personal adjustment competencies necessary to provide a successful educational experience.

**PSO800 Pathways Social Studies 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to develop knowledge and skills in the areas of United States, Arizona, and World History as described in a student's IEP and Arizona Academic Standards. The classroom environment is designed to enhance the behavioral/personal adjustment competencies necessary to provide a successful educational experience.

**PWT800 Pathways Writing 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to develop knowledge and skills in the area of writing as described in a student's IEP and Arizona Academic Standards. The classroom environment is designed to enhance the behavioral/personal adjustment competencies necessary to provide a successful educational experience.

## **SAILS Program**

Students Achieving Independent Life Skills. "SAILS" program has Life Skills classrooms for students with mild to moderate levels of disability. This classroom follows the same QCUSD objectives as all other classrooms. The classroom provides for hands-on learning as appropriate.

### **SMT800 SAILS Math 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is a study of individual instruction in basic math concepts, adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, and development of higher math skills. This course is taught in a self-contained environment to meet student needs.

### **SRG800 SAILS Reading 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is a study of reading skills. The major areas are vocabulary and reading comprehension. Other features will include use of reference materials, and outlining. This course is taught in a self-contained environment to meet student needs.

### **SSC800 SAILS Science 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

The major topics covered in this course will be life and earth sciences. This course is taught in a self-contained environment to meet student needs.

### **SSO800 SAILS Social Studies 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is designed to provide students with the social studies background needed for success in future social studies classes. This course is taught in a self-contained environment to meet student needs.

### **SWT800 SAILS Writing 7-8**

**One Year = 2 Semesters**

This course is a study in basic sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, and development of ideas into a paragraph. The major topics covered will be paragraphs, letter writing, and spelling. This course is taught in a self-contained environment to meet student needs.

## **Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools**

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

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 45 days of a request made to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for copies;
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information;
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions;
- School officials with legitimate educational interest

- A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles); a person serving on the school board; or a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
- A legitimate educational interest means the review of records is necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;
- Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

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

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

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