

**Odem Junior High**  
**Course Catalog**  
**2018-2019**



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## Course Descriptions and the Scheduling Process

In the course description section that follows, you will find a brief description of each course offered at Odem Junior High listed under the appropriate grade level. The course descriptions include which specified courses may be taken and any prerequisites and recommendations. Elective courses are offered to meet student interest. Students are urged to plan carefully. Although students will receive specific instructions and assistance from the junior high school counselor during the pre-registration process, the responsibility for selecting appropriate career and graduation choices rests with students and parents. Students will choose specific courses with parent approval and counselors will verify that those choices will meet preparation for graduation requirement

- **Pre Advanced Placement (Pre-AP):** These courses provide opportunities for the capable and/or highly motivated student to build readiness for Advanced Placement high school courses. The pre advanced placement courses have prerequisites that must be completed by due date. If a student receives a grade under 70 for any six weeks, he/she may voluntarily exit the program with parent permission. If he/she chooses to stay in the program he/she will be placed on a three week probationary period. If the grade is not raised to passing during the probationary time, the student will automatically be exited from the class. The student will be allowed only one probationary period per semester.
- **Fine Arts Requirement for Middle School:** Beginning with students who enter Grade 6 in the 2010-2011 school year, each student must complete one TEKS-based fine arts course in Grade 6, Grade 7, or Grade 8 to meet the new state middle school course requirement as established in House Bill 3, (81st Texas Legislature). The fine arts TEKS include courses in Art, Music, and Theatre Arts.
- **Physical Education:** Students enrolled in Grades 6, 7, and 8 are required to participate in moderate or vigorous daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes for at least four (4) semesters during those grade levels as part of the District's physical education curriculum.
- **Special Education:** Middle school students who qualify for the special education program through the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) Committee on each campus may be placed in classes in the regular program with or without modifications. Course content and descriptions are provided in the special education section of this catalog. Modifications of required courses to meet a student's diagnosed special need(s) may be found in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). For more information, the parent should contact the school's Guidance and Counseling staff or the Office of Special Education staff

# Sixth Grade

## English Language Arts Grade 6

Grade 6 ELA provides opportunities for students to increase and refine their communication and literary skills by engaging in meaningful activities in five key areas. Reading: Students read a wide variety of literary and informative texts. Writing: Students compose a variety of well organized and detailed texts. Listening and Speaking: Students listen to others and contribute their own ideas in groups. Oral and Written Conventions: Students learn and apply the standards of English in speaking and writing.

### Pre-AP English Language Arts Grade 6

***Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation, Pre-AP project***

Grade 6 ELA Pre-AP is a rigorous course recommended for students who achieve commended scores on STAAR Reading, have a love of reading and writing and a strong work ethic. Students will experience the 6th grade ELA curriculum with an emphasis on developing critical thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams.

## Math Grade 6

This course expands the study of basic operations of whole numbers, fractions and decimals. The curriculum includes the study of ratio, proportion and percent, with an emphasis on problem solving. Units in geometry, metric and customary measurement, graphing, probability and statistics provide opportunities for application.

### Pre-AP Math Grade 6

***Pre-requisite: Strong 5th grade mathematics skills; Teacher recommendation, Pre-AP project***

6th Grade Pre-AP Math is an accelerated program designed to prepare the student to study algebra in the 8th grade and to continue their high school math education to AP Calculus. The course will cover the entire 6th grade curriculum and half of the 7th grade curriculum. This course encompasses the use of integers, fractions and decimals, ratios, proportions, percents, probability and statistics, and geometry. Problem-solving is integrated throughout the course.

## **Science Grade 6**

6th Grade Science is interdisciplinary; however, much of the content focus is on physical science. Students will be engaged in many hands-on lab activities each week. As students learn science skills, they study topics such as properties of matter, energy transformations, organisms and their environments, forces and motion, Earth processes and the solar system. Recurring themes such as change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models and scale are highlighted throughout.

## **Social Studies Grade 6**

Students study people, culture, economics, and geography of the contemporary world within broad regions, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, South America, and East Asia. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies. Students identify locations and geographic characteristics as well as different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. Students also describe the nature of citizenship in various societies and compare institutions common to all societies such as education and religious institutions. Students will compare and contrast the government structures of different regions and countries. Students will explain how the level of technology affects the development of selected societies and identify different points of view. Students will analyze the economics of different regions of the world. Students will also study Freedom Week in the United States.

## **Introduction to Computer Science**

Students will learn basic data entry, storage, and retrieval of information. Students will develop psychomotor skills in operating the keyboard as well as achieving acceptable speed and accuracy levels; provide instruction in the formatting of basic documents for both personal and business use; provide opportunities for students to apply keyboarding skills in real-life situations; emphasize mastery of touch control of keyboard characters; and also includes skill development in proofreading, spelling, word division, punctuation, and correction techniques. Students will be introduced to the coding language.

## **Physical Education Grade 6**

Students will develop fitness knowledge and motor skills basic to efficient movement. Students will learn about decision making skills that promote healthy lifestyle choices and improve the quality of student's lives. Students are required to purchase a P.E. t-shirt and shorts identified by the campus P.E. Department.

## **Pre Athletics Grade 6**

Students interested in participating in 7<sup>th</sup> grade athletics. Participants will develop fundamental skills as well as learn strategies, rules and procedures used for each sport activity.

# Seventh Grade

## English Language Arts Course Grade 7

Grade 7 ELA provides opportunities for students to increase and refine their communication and literary skills by engaging in meaningful activities in key areas. Writing: Students compose a variety of well organized and detailed texts. Listening and Speaking: Students listen to others and contribute their own ideas in groups. Oral and Written Conventions: Students learn and apply the standards of English in speaking and writing.

## Pre-AP English Language Arts Course Grade 7

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, Pre-AP project***

Grade 7 ELA Pre-AP is a rigorous course recommended for students who achieve commended scores on STAAR Writing, have a love of writing and a strong work ethic. Students will experience the 7th grade ELA curriculum with an emphasis on developing critical thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required writing, essays and exams.

## Reading Course Grade 7

Grade 7 Reading provides opportunities for students to increase and refine their communication and literary skills by engaging in meaningful activities in five key areas. Reading: Students read a wide variety of literary and informative texts. Writing: Students compose a variety of well organized and detailed texts. Listening and Speaking: Students listen to others and contribute their own ideas in groups. Oral and Written Conventions: Students learn and apply the standards of English in speaking and writing

## Pre-AP Reading Course Grade 7

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, Pre-AP project***

Grade 7 READING Pre-AP is a rigorous course recommended for students who achieve commended scores on STAAR Reading, have a love of reading and writing and a strong work ethic. Students will experience the 7th grade ELA curriculum with an emphasis on developing critical thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, writing, essays and exams.

## **Math Grade 7**

This course encompasses the use of integers, fractions and decimals, ratios, proportions, percents, probability and statistics, and geometry. Problem-solving is integrated throughout the course. Emphasis is placed upon basic skills. Students are encouraged to solve problems by matching strategies to given equations. Measurement concepts and skills and the use of probability and statistics to collect and interpret data are also taught

## **Pre-AP Math Grade 7**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of 6th Grade Pre-AP Math***

7th Grade Pre-AP Math is an accelerated program designed to prepare the student to study algebra in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and to continue their high school math education to AP Calculus. . This course is for those students who show high academic ability for math. The course requires in-depth mastery of the 7th grade TEKS. Supplemental pre algebra work will be given.

## **Science Grade 7**

7th Grade Science is interdisciplinary; however, much of the content focus is on organisms and the environment. Students will be engaged in many hands-on lab activities each week. As students learn science skills, they study topics such as the chemical processes of life, energy transformations, the interrelationships between organisms and their environments, systems of the human body and natural and human processes that impact Earth systems. Recurring themes such as change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models and scale are highlighted throughout.

## **Texas History Grade 7**

Students study the full scope of Texas history from early times to the present, from the cultures of Native Americans prior to European exploration through the eras of mission building, colonization, revolution, republic and statehood, with a focus on individuals, events and issues and their impact. Students identify the regions of Texas, describe the structure and function of the government, examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens, identify the different ethnic groups who contributed to Texas culture and analyze the impact of science and technology on the lives of Texans.

# **Eighth Grade**

## **English Language Arts Course Grade 8**

Grade 8 ELA provides opportunities for students to increase and refine their communication and literary skills by engaging in meaningful activities in five key areas. Reading: Students read a wide variety of literary and informative texts. Writing: Students compose a variety of well organized and detailed texts. Listening and Speaking: Students listen to others and contribute their own ideas in groups. Oral and Written Conventions: Students learn and apply the standards of English in speaking and writing.

## **Pre-AP English Language Arts Course Grade 8**

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, Pre-AP project***

Grade 8 ELA Pre-AP is a rigorous course recommended for students who achieve commended scores on STAAR Reading, have a love of reading and writing and a strong work ethic. Students will experience the 8th grade ELA curriculum with an emphasis on developing critical thinking and analysis of the style of selected authors and works through required reading, discussions, essays, and exams.

## **Math Grade 8**

The primary focus of this course is to use algebraic thinking to analyze and represent proportional and non proportional relationships and to use probability to describe data and make predictions. This course prepares students for the future study of algebra. Problem-solving is integrated throughout the course.

## **Algebra I**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of 8<sup>th</sup> grade Math Standards, Pre- AP project***

This course covers Algebra I TEKS and other necessary prerequisite topics for high school mathematics courses. Students will study the development of the real number system and its applications. Included in this course are symbols and sets, variables and open sentences, axioms, number properties, negative numbers, equations and inequalities, problem solving, polynomials and special products and factoring. Included in the admission requirements to Algebra I is demonstrated mastery of 8th grade TEKS.

**Note: One high school credit is earned upon successful completion of this course.**



## **Science Grade 8**

8th Grade Science is interdisciplinary; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. Students will be engaged in many hands-on lab activities each week. As students learn science skills, they study topics such as the Periodic Table, chemical reactions, Newton's Laws of Motion, processes that have shaped the Earth, the interdependence of living systems and their environment and cycles within the Sun, Moon, and Earth system. Recurring themes such as change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models, and scale are highlighted throughout.

## **Pre-AP Science Grade 8**

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, Pre-Ap Project***

8th Grade Pre-AP Science is a rigorous course that emphasizes critical thinking and problem solving and is recommended for students who have demonstrated an interest in science. The course is interdisciplinary; however, much of the content focus is on earth and space science. Students will be engaged in many hands-on lab activities each week. As students learn science skills, they study topics such as the Periodic Table, chemical reactions, Newton's Laws of Motion, processes that have shaped the Earth, the interdependence of living systems and their environment and cycles within the Sun, Moon, and Earth system. Recurring themes such as change and constancy, patterns, cycles, systems, models and scale are highlighted throughout. Students in Pre-AP Science will extend their knowledge and apply their scientific skills by solving complex problems. All students in Pre-AP Science are expected to carry out an independent research project as part of their coursework.

## **American History Grade 8**

***Prerequisite: Successful completion of 7th Grade Texas History***

Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students analyze political, social and economic issues and events within the colonial and revolutionary eras, the development of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges of the early Republic, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction. Students examine the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on how and where Americans lived, the American beliefs and principles reflected in historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution, the effects of major Supreme Court cases and reform movements and the impact of science and technology on the development of the U.S. Students identify the origins of the free enterprise system and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizenship of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society.

## **Pre-AP American History Grade 8**

***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation, Pre-AP project***

Students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students analyze political, social and economic issues and events within the colonial and revolutionary eras, the development of the U.S. Constitution, the challenges of the early Republic, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War and Reconstruction. Students examine the physical characteristics of the U.S. and their impact on how and where Americans lived, the American beliefs and principles reflected in historical documents such as the U.S. Constitution, the effects of major Supreme Court cases and reform movements and the impact of science and technology on the development of the U.S. Students identify the origins of the free enterprise system and examine the rights and responsibilities of citizenship of the United States as well as the importance of effective leadership in a democratic society with an emphasis on **OEISD**.

## **Fine Arts**

**Each student must complete one Fine Arts class by the end of their seventh grade year. Students may satisfy this requirement by successfully completing one of the courses listed:**

### **Beginning Band Grade 6**

Beginning Band is open to all students interested in learning to play a band instrument. No prior instrumental musical training is necessary. Students will be placed on an instrument after meeting with a band director at the beginning of the school year. Students will develop basic playing and music reading skills, practice habits and self discipline. Some practice outside of the school day is required. During the course of the year, students will participate in the following types of performances: Seasonal concerts, festival performances, and school/community events. In some cases, students provide their own instruments. However, in certain circumstances there are a limited number of school provided instruments available.

### **Band Grade 7/8**

The Junior High Band is a performing group that is open normally to 7/8 grade students that have successfully completed at least one year of band with a grade average of 70 or higher for the year. Students continue to develop ear training and listening skills, individual/ensemble playing skills, music reading, and musicianship. Band directors will place students in the appropriate performing group. Performance participation is required in order to be a member of these groups. Some practice outside of the school day is required. During the course of the year, all students will participate in the

following types of performances: Pep rallies, formal evening concerts, UIL band contest, music festivals, TMEA Region band auditions and other community performances. Concert Band is taken first, and then the second year is Symphonic Band. On occasion, seventh graders will be moved up to Symphonic Band.

## **Art**

The full year will consist of the students planning, and creating original artworks while combining their thoughts and ideas with innovation and creativity. Elements and principles of art will be examined and explored through in depth hands on activities such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Students who are interested in art for High School credit will benefit from their knowledge learned in this course to enhance their future work.

## **Physical Education**

**All students must complete four (4) semesters of the following physical education courses:**

### **Physical Education Grade 7**

Students will develop skills in a physically active environment which may include fitness concepts and a variety of individual sport, recreational or team sport models. Students will learn about health-related decision making skills that promote healthy lifestyle choices. Students are required to purchase a P.E. t-shirt and shorts identified by the campus P.E. Department

## **Athletics**

### **Boys' Athletics**

#### **Football, basketball and track & field**

#### **Grade 7/8**

Students must be in the 7th or 8th grade and meet UIL age restrictions. All participants must have a yearly physical exam completed on a UIL form. Students may be required to try out for participation in athletic classes. Participants must pass all courses to be eligible for competitions. Participants will develop fundamental skills as well as learn strategies, rules and procedures used for each sport activity. Transportation by the parent will be required to accommodate before or after school hours for practice time. The District will provide transportation for competitions only.

## **Girls' Athletics**

**Volleyball, basketball, track and field**

**Grade 7/8**

Students must be in the 7th or 8th grade and meet UIL age restrictions. All participants must have a yearly physical exam completed on a UIL form. Students may be required to try out for participation in athletic classes. Participants must pass all courses to be eligible for competitions. Participants will develop fundamental skills as well as learn strategies, rules and procedures used for each sport activity. Transportation by the parent will be required to accommodate before or after school hours for practice time. The District will provide transportation for competitions only.

## **Other Courses and Electives**

### **Computer Science**

Students will learn the use of coding, hardware and software, spreadsheets, word processing, database and multimedia.

### **Spanish I (HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT)**

Spanish I will be a yearlong study in which reading; writing, listening, and speaking will be reinforced with daily practice. Students will acquire an understanding of basic grammatical structures and practice speaking in Spanish.

### **Pre- Engineering (Must meet criteria)**

The course provides educational enrichment opportunities for high-ability middle school students interested in pursuing science-based careers. It integrates technology, mathematics, and science into pre-engineering activities. The course emphasizes developing abstract reasoning, problem solving, and computer programming skills. It also provides appropriate speakers and field trip experiences.

## **Teen Leadership**

Students will develop needed skills to enhance academic success in Study and Organizational skills. They will also learn to develop a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and learn to understand the concept of personal responsibility. They develop an understanding of self-awareness, self-control, self motivation, and social skills. Students will develop skills in public speaking and communication as well as acquiring an understanding of personal image and the effects of peer pressure.

## **Special Education Services**

### **Special Education**

Students with identified special needs will be provided appropriate modifications and accommodations in regular classes. Students should always be served in the regular classroom unless prohibited by a significant handicap. Should students need modification of the state standards, they may be served in specialized classes according to their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

### **Life Skills Grade 6/7/8**

The life skills program provides students with severe learning challenges a separate curriculum based on their individual needs. The life skills program can provide training in functional skills in the following areas:

- Daily living skills
- Basic technology
- Applied science
- Personal social skills
- Math concepts
- Personal health
- Communication
- Community skills