

Ed Rawlinson Middle School

14100 Vance Jackson ♦ San Antonio, Texas 78249

210-397-4900 ♦ 210-697-4052

Sherry Mireles, Principal
Kimberly Twedt, Academic Dean

Julie Montamat, Vice Principal
Patti Vlieger, Assistant Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is time to begin the process of selecting your student's 8th grade courses for the upcoming school year. There are several steps to this process and your involvement and input is critical.

Step 1: Counselors will meet with students to discuss the following:

- provide an overview of the course selection process
- provide guidance on how to use the Middle School Course Selection Catalog as a resource during the course selection process
- share which course options are available to students for the upcoming school year (both required courses and elective options)

Step 2: At home, please take the time to talk with your student and review the Middle School Course Selection Catalog (link is below). This resource outlines course options available to students, course descriptions and course requirements. This information will help you make an informed decision when selecting courses.

Link to the Middle School Course Selection Catalog: <https://nisd.net/schools/course-catalogs>

Step 3: Use the attached worksheet to create a record of the selections you and your student have chosen for their 8th grade courses. Please note that these selections will be what your student enters into the online course selection system.

Step 4: Return the completed worksheet page with your son/daughter to start the registration process at school. Once your student brings this form back, he/she will register for their courses online with the assistance of school personnel.

Step 4: A paper copy of all courses selected by your student will be given to your child for you to review, sign and return back to the school. If you would like to make changes to the course selections, please do so directly on the form provided so the school can enter the correct information in the system.

Completing the Course Selection Worksheet: Use the worksheet on the attached page to select courses by circling the desired course/course number. For example, for Science, a student must take **ONE** of the following courses – 3080 (grade level), 3081 (Pre-AP) or 3082 (GT/PreAP). If you select Science Pre-AP (#3081), you will **circle** that course/course number. Remember, the course descriptions and requirements for each course are outlined in the Course Selection Catalog (link is provided above) and should assist you in making an informed decision regarding each course.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and involvement in this important process. Please contact the campus counselor, Tara Callaway at (210) 397-4921 if you have any questions.

Student Name: _____

ELA Teacher _____

Student ID #: _____

Class Period _____

8th Grade Course Selection WORKSHEET

Required Courses			
<u>Select ONE</u>	Language Arts (#1084)	Language Arts Pre-AP (#1087)	*Language Arts GT/Pre-AP (#1088) _____
<u>Select ONE</u>	Math (#2080)	MS Algebra I Pre-AP (#2121)	
<u>Select ONE</u>	Social Studies (#4080)	Social Studies Pre-AP (#4081)	*Social Studies GT (#4085) _____
<u>Select ONE</u>	Science (#3080)	Science Pre-AP (#3081)	*Science GT (#3082) _____
<u>Select ONE</u>	Physical Education (PE) (#5080)	<u>Athletics</u> Boys (#5085) OR Girls (#5086)	These courses serve as a substitute for Physical Education (PE). To take this course as an elective only, please see the "Elective Courses" section below. Dance MS 1 PE (#5091)
<u>Select</u>	Communication Applications (#1907)	Communication Applications (0.5 High School credit) and Methodology for Academic and Personal Success--MAPS (0.5 High School credit) are required for all 8th grade students and may not be taken in isolation. Students selecting AVID 1(elective course) are exempt from this requirement. See page 16 of the Course Catalog for additional information. Also Defined below.	
<u>Select</u>	Methodology for Academic and Personal Success-MAPS (#9002)		

*Must be identified as an NISD GT student to enroll in one of these classes. In the space provided, rank (1-3) GT courses in order of preference. See page 5 of the Course Catalog for additional information.

Elective Courses (Elective choice offerings/descriptions start on page 18 in the Course Catalog)

Note: Campus admin...you may want to consider adding space for alternate elective choice options. In addition, you may want to list the elective options in the order students will view them online. Modify this section/wording as per your campus offerings.

Please select two elective choices and two alternate choices.	Course Name		Course Number
	Current Elective--		_____
	Current Elective--		_____
	1st--		
	2nd--		
	Alternate #1--		
Alternate #2--			

Communication Applications--Students will identify, analyze, develop, and evaluate communication skills needed for professional and social success in interpersonal situations, group interactions, and formal and informal presentations.

Methodology For Academic and Personal Success (MAPS)--This course supports a successful transition into high school by developing the skills necessary for a successful academic career. Students will develop the specific strategies to achieve personal and professional goals. Based on individual learning styles and abilities, students will develop critical time-management, organization, and study skills, with a focus on character education and leadership.

BEGINNING BAND-6017

Band Beginner Level is designed to teach students how to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. No prior music experience or knowledge is required. Students will learn to read music, produce good tone quality, learn rhythm skills, and perform music. Students can develop skills at their own pace. Band concerts allow students to experience live performance. Students earn awards for individual outstanding skill mastery.

INTERMEDIATE BAND-6024

Band Intermediate Level is designed for students to continue developing music fundamentals on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments introduced in the beginner level class. Students build skills at their own pace. Band literature is more advanced and promotes increased teamwork, kinesthetic development, expression, leadership, and problem solving skills. Band concerts include music of all styles. Students earn awards for individual and ensemble mastery of skills.

ADVANCED BAND-6032

Band Advanced Level is designed for students to apply sound music fundamentals on woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments to music of all styles. Students build skills at their own pace. Band literature is advanced and promotes extensive collaboration, expression, creativity, and problem-solving techniques. Students engage in multiple concerts. Students earn awards for individual and ensemble mastery of skills.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA-6079

Orchestra Beginner Level is designed to teach students how to play a violin, viola, cello, or string bass instrument. No prior music experience or knowledge is required. Students will learn to read music, produce good tone quality, learn rhythm skills, and perform music. Students can develop skills at their own pace. Orchestra concerts allow students to experience live performance. Students earn awards for individual outstanding skill mastery.

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA-6086

Orchestra Intermediate Level is designed for students to continue developing music fundamentals on violin, viola, cello, and string bass instruments introduced in the beginner level class. Orchestra literature is more advanced and promotes increased teamwork, kinesthetic development, expression, leadership, and problem-solving skills. Orchestra concerts include music of all styles. Students earn awards for individual and ensemble mastery of skills.

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA-6089

Orchestra Advanced Level is designed for students to apply strong music fundamentals on violin, viola, cello, and string bass instruments to music of all styles. Students build skills at their own pace. Orchestra literature is advanced and promotes extensive collaboration, expression, creativity, and problem-solving techniques. Orchestra concerts are extensive. Students earn awards for individual and ensemble mastery of skills.

BEGINNING TREBLE (GIRLS) CHOIR-6401

BEGINNING TENOR/BASS (BOYS)

CHOIR-6402

Choir is a beginner level course designed to teacher students to learn to sing. No prior music experience or knowledge is required. Girls are assigned to the Treble Choir and boys are assigned to the Tenor Bass Choir. Students learn to read music, produce good tone quality, learn rhythm skills, and perform. Students can develop skills at their own pace. Choir concerts allow students to experience live performance. Students earn awards for individual outstanding skill mastery.

INTERMEDIATE TREBLE (GIRLS) CHOIR-6411

INTERMEDIATE TENOR BASS (BOYS) CHOIR-6412

Choir is an intermediate level course designed for students to continue developing music fundamentals introduced in the beginner level class. Students build skills at their own pace. Choir literature is more advanced and promotes increased teamwork, kinesthetic development, expression, leadership, and problem solving skills. Choir concerts include music of all styles. Students earn awards for individual and ensemble mastery of skills.

ADVANCED TREBLE (GIRLS) CHOIR-6423

ADVANCED TENOR BASS (BOYS) CHOIR-6424

Choir is an advanced course designed for students to apply strong music fundamentals developed in beginner and intermediate level courses. Students build skills at their own pace. Choir literature is advanced and promotes extensive collaboration, expression, creativity, and problem-solving techniques. Students engage in multiple concerts. Students earn awards for individual and ensemble mastery of skills.

JAZZ BAND-6081

Students must be in one of the concert bands to join jazz band.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE-6404

Students must be in one of the regular choirs to participate in vocal ensemble

BEGINNING THEATRE-6609

Beginning Theatre is an introductory theatre course designed for the student to experience the basic elements of drama. No previous theatre or drama experience is required. Beginning acting and technical theatre techniques will be explored along with the basic skills needed to create a theatrical performance.

INTERMEDIATE THEATRE-6610

Intermediate Theatre is a more in-depth study of theatre where students continue to build upon skills learned in Theatre 1. Students are introduced to additional skills that are necessary to become a theatre artist. Dramatic structure, acting, and technical elements are expanded in both production and scene studies.

ADVANCED THEATRE-6615

Advanced Theatre is an advanced theatre class that requires students to enhance skills learned in Beginning and Intermediate through analyzation of theatrical concepts and practices. Students engage in research, creative thinking, problem solving, and improvisation that is transferred to collaborative production.

INTERMEDIATE ART-6911

Intermediate Art is concept-based and curriculum units build student skills developed in Beginning Art. Curriculum includes drawing, painting, printmaking, three-dimensional art forms, fiber, and digital art. Development of artistic originality, creativity, and study of artists and art periods is incorporated.

PREREQUISITE: Beginning Art

***ADVANCED ART -6912 or ADVANCED ART HS-6914**

Advanced Art is concept-based and curriculum units build student skills developed in Intermediate Art. Curriculum includes investigation and application in the media of drawing, painting, printmaking, three-dimensional art forms, fiber, digital art and compositions of mixed media. Students work toward mastery level in originality and creativity.

PREREQUISITE: Intermediate Art

*** ART 1 HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT--6913**

High School Art I is concept-based, introductory course. Curriculum units include drawing, painting, printmaking, three-dimensional art , architecture, fiber, digital photography, digital art, and compositions of mixed media. Content will include student originality, creativity, and study of artists and art periods. No prior art experience is required to be eligible for this high school credit course.

PREREQUISITE: None

YEARBOOK/JOURNALISM-1702

This course is designed to teach the skills necessary to produce the school yearbook, which offers a complete record of an entire school year. The year begins by planning the coverage for the school year and designing a unifying theme for the book. Students will study magazine journalism including layout and design techniques, writing and editing copy, headlines and picture captions. This course provides the study of and practice in gathering and analyzing information, interviewing, note taking, photography, marketing and sales.

STUDY HALL -9471

Students in study hall will have the opportunity to work on homework, study and maintain organization. Students are expected to bring work every day.

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY (DIGITAL MEDIA)-7018

Students will use presentation, video, image editing, sound, and animation software and other web-based technology applications to create products that communicate solutions to self-selected problems. Flash, Fireworks, Dreamweaver, Photoshop Elements, Movie Maker, and Audacity will be used extensively.

OFFICE ASSISTANT-9023

Students will be assigned to campus offices to assist campus staff. Tasks could include clerical work and campus deliveries. Office assistants must demonstrate a history of exemplary conduct and hard work.

CAREER PORTALS in TECHNOLOGY PRODUCTION (Woodshop)--8811

Students will apply critical thinking processes to research, plan, design, construct, and evaluate projects built in class. In the wood lab, students will learn safety, basic production principles, and how to use hand and power tools. Students will use drill presses, band saws, scroll saws, routers, air tools, and sanders to produce their projects. Students will use the knowledge and skills they acquire to design, create material lists, plan production and create their own student-designed projects. Students will learn coding and programming through the Arduino unit. Bread boards will be utilized to wire circuits and create working electrical models.

DANCE 1 (Elective)-6810

The first dance course in middle school is designed to give students the opportunity to develop and execute beginner skills in ballet, jazz, tap, modern dance, musical theatre dance and world dance forms. Various dance genres and styles will be explored while improving their technique, self-confidence, creative ability and concept of wellness. Dance students will have ensemble performance opportunities. No prior dance experience is required. Prerequisite (PR): None Semesters: 2 HS Credit (CR): 0

***SPANISH 1 MS-5714**

This course focuses on developing speaking and listening comprehension skills. Students are exposed to basic reading and writing skills. Students are introduced to the people, their customs, and other aspects of their culture. Students have the opportunity to work in pairs and small groups to role play real life situations using the target language. **PREREQUISITE:** None

*** SPANISH 2 MS-5715**

This course continues to focus on opportunities for students to expand their speaking and listening comprehension skills in addition to developing their writing and reading comprehension skills. Students continue to study the culture, the people and their customs. Students will continue to role play and perform dialogues/skits on various everyday situations and topics using the target language. **PREREQUISITE:** 70 or higher in Spanish 1, or 80 or higher on the Credit-by-Exam.

*** SPANISH 2 PAP MS-5732**

This course exceeds the Level 2 requirements by including many independent activities requiring performance in the target language. The students will continue to refine the four skills by being exposed to an enriched and accelerated curriculum. **PREREQUISITE:** Recommended 90 or higher in Spanish 1, or 90 or higher on the Credit-by-Exam.

*** SPANISH 3 PAP MS-5742**

This course exceeds the Level 3 requirements by including many independent activities requiring performance in the target language. The students will continue to refine the four skills by being exposed to an enriched and accelerated curriculum. **PREREQUISITE:** Recommended 90 or higher in Spanish 2, or 90 or higher on the Credit-by-Exam.

CAREER PORTALS in FAMILY CONSUMER SCIENCE 1 8800 (Home Economics)

This comprehensive foundation course addresses positive self image, nutrition and food preparation, wellness, personal appearance, sewing, and career options. Emphasis is on the importance of effective family communication skills, management skills, how to get along with others including family members and peers, decision making, acceptance of responsibility, and child care practices. Students will explore career information to learn more about themselves, their interests and their abilities in order to make informed decisions regarding their futures.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE 2-- 8th Grade-8801

A course designed to increase the student's understanding of nutritional guidelines, textiles/sewing techniques and stages of child development. Practical projects will be completed that reinforce problem solving, technical and academic skills. Students will research careers in order to assist with development of their four year high school plans. **PREREQUISITE:** FCS 1 dit course.

***AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)-9054**

Middle School AVID is a program designed to prepare and assist students, who have the ability but might not normally take Pre-AP courses, to take more rigorous courses in preparation for High School AP courses. An application and interview process is required. Applications can be picked up in the counseling office. This course also fulfills the speech requirement for high school.

*** NOTE:** Advanced Art. Art 1 HS credit, AVID and all Spanish classes are high school credit courses, and the grade earned will be part of the Grade Point Average (GPA). Students must meet both attendance and academic requirements to receive high school credit. No prior art experience is required to be eligible for this high school credit*

