

AISU Course Catalog 2017-2018

Middle School Courses

Middle School Course Requirements

The state of Utah requires that 7th and 8th grade students earn a total of 12.5 credits. The credits are comprised of required and elective courses as described below. Students will take courses that accumulate more than 12.5 credits during 7th and 8th grade. The USOE does not track “credits” for sixth graders, but the core requirements can be organized to match the credit structure of seventh and eighth graders.

2.0 Credits LANGUAGE ARTS	1.0 credit Language Arts 7 1.0 credit Language Arts 8
2.0 Credits MATHEMATICS	2.0 credits from Mathematics 7 and Mathematics 8 or higher mathematics courses if these courses were completed in earlier grades.
2.0 Credits SCIENCE	1.0 Integrated Science 7 1.0 Integrated Science 8
1.5 Credits SOCIAL STUDIES	0.5 credit Utah History 1.0 credit United States History
4.0 Credits REQUIRED COURSEWORK	1.0 credit from Visual Arts, Music, Dance or Theatre 1.0 credit Physical Education 0.5 credit Health Education 1.0 credit College & Career Awareness 0.5 credit Digital Literacy
1.0 credits GENERAL ELECTIVES	Students must earn 1.0 credit from AISU’s General Electives.
Total: 12.5 Credits	

Sixth grade students at AISU follow USOE directed coursework including language arts, math, science and social studies.

COURSE CODE KEY

- (AE) Arts Elective
- (CTE) Career and Technology Education (EAd) Advanced English
- (EAp) Applied English
- (EC) English Core
- (FL) Foreign Language
- (FLE) Foreign Language Objective
- (GE) General Elective
- (MAd) Advanced Math
- (MAp) Applied Math
- (MC) Math Core
- (PEP) PE Participation
- (PEEl) PE Elective
- (R) Required For Graduation
- (SAd) Advanced Science
- (SAp) Applied Science
- (SC) Science Core
- (SS) Social Studies Core
- (SSE) Social Studies Elective

HOW TO READ THE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

This line tells you the name of the class.

This tells you how many credits the course is worth.

This tells you whether there is a class fee, and how much that fee is.

This tells you the class or classes that you must have taken and successfully completed in order to qualify to take this class.

This tells you the subject matter that the class covers and gives you a brief description of the class.

This lists the grades that may enroll in the class.

These are the course codes that tell you what graduation requirements the class qualifies for.

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

1.0 Credit—Grades 11-12 (EAd) (EC)

Fee: None

Prerequisite: English 10

This Advanced Placement English class is a college-level course in effective writing and critical reading. Students will read and write the kinds of discourse they will encounter during college and on the job. The course will focus on nonfiction literature, while preparing students for the AP Language and Composition exam. Discover why “success often comes to

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

HUMANITIES

(HUMANITIES Courses are year-long unless otherwise specified)

HUMANITIES 6

1.0 Credit Language Arts/1.0 Credit Social Studies—Grade 6 (R)

Students will learn about selected regions of the world and the societies that have formed, learning about their systems of governance, the rights and responsibilities they hold, how their societies have changed and continued over time, and how these regions are interconnected. Students will compare common institutions such as government, education, and religious institutions. This course helps students become language artists who can make their voices heard! Students will learn to be powerful communicators by developing their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will read both fiction and non-fiction and write in a variety of genres.

HUMANITIES 7

1.0 Credit Language Arts/1.0 Credit Social Studies—Grade 7 (R)

Students will be introduced to the significant events, people, cultures, and issues that have influenced Utah from its earliest beginnings through the present day. The first focus is devoted to history and events leading up to 1847. The second focus includes conflicts that led to statehood and the integration of Utah into the nation. The third focus will be on events leading to the present. This course helps students become language artists who can make their voices heard! Students will learn to be powerful communicators by developing their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will read both fiction and non-fiction and write in a variety of genres.

HUMANITIES 8

1.0 Credit Language Arts/1.0 credit Social Studies—Grade 8 (R)

This United States History course is designed to emphasize historic events from the age of exploration to reconstruction and the western movements. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, the age of exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, national period, constitutional issues, Civil War, reconstruction, and the western movement. The emphasis of this course is on the 18th and 19th centuries. This course helps students become language artists who can make their voices heard! Students will learn to be powerful communicators by developing their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will read both fiction and non-fiction and write in a variety of genres.

STEAM

(STEAM Courses are year-long unless otherwise specified)

STEAM 6

1.0 Credit Science/1.0 Credit Math—Grades 6 (R)

Students will explore the role of energy and gravity in the solar system as they compare the scale and properties of objects in the solar system and model the Sun-Earth-Moon system. By researching interactions between the living and nonliving components of ecosystems, students will understand how the flow of energy and cycling of matter affects stability and change within their environment. Instructional time will focus on connecting ratio and rate to multiplication and division; division of fractions; extending rational numbers to include negative numbers; using expressions and equations; and statistical thinking.

STEAM 7

1.0 Credit Science/1.0 Credit Math —Grade 7 (R)

Students will explore how forces can cause changes in motion and are responsible for the transfer of energy and the cycling of matter. Students will learn that organisms survive and reproduce only to the extent that their own mechanisms and adaptations allow. Additionally, mechanisms shaping Earth are understood as forces affecting the cycling of Earth's materials. Curriculum will focus on proportional relationships, operations with rational numbers, expressions, linear equations, and geometric constructions.

STEAM 8

1.0 Credit Science/1.0 Credit Math —Grade 8 (MC)

Students will explore how matter is arranged into either simple or complex substances, how substances store and transfer energy, which can cause them to interact physically and chemically, provide energy to living organisms, or be harnessed and used by humans. Evidence reveals that Earth systems change and affect ecosystems and organisms in positive and negative ways. Curriculum will focus on expressions and equations, linear equations, functions, quantitative relationships, and the Pythagorean Theorem.

Core Support Electives

(Core Support Electives are year-long unless otherwise specified)

LITERACY

1.0 Credit—Grades 6/7/8 (EAp)

Year-Long

Curriculum focuses on helping the individual student to reach grade level literacy proficiency. In a small group setting, students will work on fluency, vocabulary, comprehension strategies, and writing

skills. Based on test scores and teacher recommendations, students will be invited to participate in this class.

Writers Workshop

0.25 Credit—6-8 (EAp)

This course is designed to support the writing assignments of our Humanities courses. Students will meet in small groups to improve their basic writing skills.

Advanced Writing

0.25 Credit—6-8 (EAd)

This course will allow literary students to advance their knowledge and skills in an advanced writing block.

FUNDAMENTAL MATH

0.25 Credit—6-8 (MAp)

This course is designed for students who need to build their mathematical confidence and solidify their skill-based and conceptual foundation to support their progress in the middle school STEM sequence. Class exercises and activities are centered around core mathematics standards that are prerequisite to middle school mathematics success.

DRAGON MATHELETS – Advanced Math

0.25 Credit—6-8 (MAp)

Students in this course will prepare to participate in a variety of mathematics competitions, which may include the AMC 8, MathCounts, Math Madness, Kangaroo competitions, and others. An emphasis will be placed on problem-solving strategies and the Standards of Mathematical Practice. Earning competency in this course will require participation in at least one maths competition or completion league, per trimester.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

(CTE courses are 1 trimester long unless otherwise specified)

In addition to the courses offered below middle school students may also apply to participate in the CTE courses listed in the high school section of the course catalog with the approval of the teacher.

COLLEGE AND CAREER AWARENESS

1.0 Credit—Grade 7 (R)

The College and Career Awareness course is designed to help students identify their skills, interests, and abilities. Students will explore information related to careers, educational pathways and self interest in order to be making college and career goals for the future. **Students will complete the work for this course through projects associated with core courses.**

DIGITAL LITERACY

0.5 Credit – Grades 7 (R)

Required for all 7th grade students. Students will gain proficiency in key business applications including documents, spreadsheets, and slide presentations while developing literacy in technology areas such as computer hardware, software, the Internet, data, careers, and programming.

INTRO TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

0.25 Credit – Grades 6-8 (CTE)

For 6th grade and other middle school students who have not taken any computer science classes. Students will engage in unplugged problem solving activities and online puzzles that teach the basic programming structures of Computer Science (functions, variables, conditionals, loops, etc.)

GAME & WEB DEVELOPMENT

0.25 Credit – Grades 7-8 (CTE)

Prerequisite: CS class recommended. Students will learn fundamental programming concepts as they develop their own computer games and websites.

INTRO TO ENGINEERING DESIGN

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-8 (CTE)

Use your creative talents and problem solving skills to design solutions to everyday problems. This course is intended to introduce students to the engineering design process and elements of good design. Through hands on projects and prototyping students will plan, implement and document solutions to several design challenges.

MANUFACTURING

0.25 Credit—Grades 7-8 (CTE)

In this class we will explore manufacturing and how the products we use every day are made. We will learn about manufacturing by making drawings, creating processes and building project.

CAD

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-8 (CTE)

From a simple, hand drawn sketch to a realistic 3D computer model, this class teaches the basics of Computer Aided Drafting using AutoDesk's Inventor. Previous experience is not required.

INTRO TO ROBOTICS

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-8 (CTE)

Learn the fundamentals of robotics: mechanisms, electronics, and programming. This is a fast paced, small group project based class intended for those who want to build and learn. Previous experience is not required.

DIGITAL AUDIO

0.25 Credit—Grades 7-8 (CTE)

Learn to use computer software and MIDI to create your own sounds and music. This class starts with a basic foundation of music theory, which helps students understand how to start composing their own melodies. We will also take an in depth look at all of the tools available in Garageband, and begin exploring the advanced functions available in Logic Pro X.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

0.25 Credit—6-8 (CTE)

Trimester Only

Graphic Design will begin the creative aspects of the computer. Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign will be programs that are utilized. Students will be encouraged to create advertising, posters, logos, graphics for t-shirts, skateboards, snowboards, stickers, websites, film, etc.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

0.25 Credit—6-8 (CTE)

Trimester Only

Digital Photography will explore the world of photography through the digital lens. The course will center on understanding the basic principles of photography. Students will learn correct techniques of framing pictures as well as exploring various subject matter and printing methods. It is a balance of the technical and creative aspects of photography.

COMMERCIAL ART

0.25 Credit—6-8 (CTE)

Trimester Only

Welcome to Middle School Intro to Commercial Art. We will learn how to communicate concepts through art and creative design. The class aims to provide an open arena for students to learn in and a space where they can discuss their work and feel confident in utilizing various media. We will explore typography, branding, graphics, advertising, fine arts, illustration, collage and journaling.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

(Physical Education /Health courses are 1 trimester long unless otherwise specified)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

0.5 Credit—Grade 6-8 (R)

Curriculum will focus on the value of activity, fitness, and nutrition as keys to creating and maintaining a life-long healthy lifestyle, including developing and carrying out a personal fitness plan.

HEALTH 8

0.5 Credit—Grades 8 (R)

This course acquaints students with body functions and the problems that might disrupt normal processes. It also helps students develop wise practices and habits that will assure them of sound mental, social and physical health.

YOGA

0.5 Credit—Grades 7-8 (PEE1)

Yoga represents the union of body, mind, and soul. This class will be influenced by a variety of yoga styles (Ashtanga, Iyengar, Hatha, and Anusara) and will encourage students to develop strength, flexibility, and concentration. We will explore the history and philosophy of yoga as we delve into basic and intermediate level poses. At the end of the course students will feel comfortable to continue their path in yoga and feel confident in a variety of poses.

FINE ARTS

(Fine Arts Courses are year-long unless otherwise specified)

DANCE I

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-8 (AE)

Trimester Only

Students will come to a greater understanding of the art of dance through a critical and creative exploration of the elements of dance (time, space, and energy). Through the exploration of these elements, along with a

variety of various movement styles (Modern, Ballroom, Jazz, and Hip Hop), students will be challenged to increase balance, flexibility, musicality, and full body awareness.

MS DANCE CONSERVATORY

1.0 Credit—Grades 6-8 (AE)

Prerequisite: Placement Class Required

Students will come to a greater understanding of the art of dance through a critical and creative exploration of the elements of dance (time, space, and energy). With multiple performing and touring opportunities throughout the school year, AISU's Middle School Dance Conservatory is designed to assist the serious dance student with the tools needed to move forward in the fast moving field of 21st Century dance.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOR

1.0 Credit—Grades 6-8 (AE)

A non-audition introductory choir class for boys and girls (Grades 6-8) that explores a variety of styles and introduces new singers to healthy vocal technique. Study includes the ability to read music, to compose, to develop responsible rehearsal habits, and to analyze musical performances. Experiences will also be related to personal development. Enrollment is open (no audition).

SYMPHONIC CHORAL

1.0 Credit—Grades 8-12 (AE)

Prerequisite: Audition required.

A large SATB ensemble (men and women) that explores a wide variety of vocal repertoire from musical theater to pop to classical. Members will have opportunities to participate in competitions and festivals and to collaborate with the AISU Symphony Orchestra and other Salt Lake-area performing groups. Experiences will also be related to personal development.

CHAMBER CHOIR

1.0 Credit—Grades 8-12 (AE)

Prerequisite: Audition required.

An advanced 32-voice choir. Audition and previous experience required. Performance

opportunities will be frequent (at festivals, competitions, and community events. Students will hone their listening skills and their ability to critique musical performances. Experiences will also be related to personal development.

AISU STRING ORCHESTRA

1.0 Credit—Grades 6-12 (AE)

String Orchestra is a performance group open to students who have an interest in beginning the violin, viola, cello, or double bass. Emphasis will be placed on basic orchestral and ensemble playing techniques and music reading. Students will occasionally be required to attend rehearsals and performances outside the regular school day. This course is designed for students wishing to enroll in AISU Philharmonia and then AISU Symphony Orchestra in future years.

AISU PHILHARMONIA (Intermediate Full Orchestra)

1.0 Credit—Grades 6-12 (AE)

Prerequisite: Audition required or successful completion of AISU String Orchestra.

The AISU Philharmonia is a performance group open to wind, brass, string, and percussion students who have intermediate-level proficiency. Emphasis will be placed on advancing orchestral playing techniques, sight-reading, and ensemble skills. Students will occasionally be required to attend rehearsals, performances and participate in sectionals outside the regular school day. This course is designed for students wishing to enroll in AISU Symphony Orchestra in future years.

AISU SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA (Advanced Full Orchestra)

1.0 Credit—Grades 6-12 (AE)

Prerequisite: Audition required

The AISU Symphony Orchestra (strings, winds, brass, and percussion) provides more experienced musicians with the opportunity to refine their technique while performing more challenging literature. Full symphonic works

will be performed in collaboration with AISU choral, theater, and dance programs. Sectionals, rehearsals, festivals, and performances, and other musical opportunities will occur both within and outside the academic day and are integral to the course. Students will participate in the UHSAA Large Ensemble Festival, UMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival, and be encouraged to participate in UHSAA All-State Orchestras.

RYTHMN EXPLORATION

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-8 (AE)

Trimester Only

Do you ever find yourself tapping your toes or nodding your head along with a good melody? You've got rhythm! This unique ensemble is open to all levels, including beginners with no previous experience. The class is designed to allow students to create music as an ensemble using sticks, buckets, chairs, and our own bodies. This ensemble will collaborate occasionally with the dance department. Open enrollment; no audition required.

CONCERT BAND (Beginning Band)

1.0 Credit—Grades 6-12 (AE)

This course provides opportunities for students to develop their musical potential and aesthetic understanding through learning to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Study includes the care and cultivation of tone, the ability to read music, the building of technical skills, teamwork, and responsible rehearsal habits. Students will have opportunities to experience the spontaneity of improvisation and the creative process of composing. Students will strengthen listening skills and their ability to analyze and evaluate music and music performances. This course is designed for students wishing to enroll in AISU Philharmonia and then AISU Symphony in future years.

GROUP GUITAR

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-8(AE)

Trimester Only

Students in Group Guitar will explore beginning-level fingerings and chord patterns and develop basic guitar technique. Students may progress at an individualized rate, guided by the instructor. Guitar and method book required.

MUSIC APPRECIATION

0.25 Credit—6-8 Grades (AE)

Trimester Only

From basic musical materials to monumental masterworks, Music Appreciation puts students on the path to more informed and satisfying listening experiences. The student will master musical concepts and vocabulary that are applicable to a broad range of musical styles, situations, and personal musical preferences and passions. No musical background is necessary.

ACTING

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-8 (AE)

Trimester Only

Theater I students will develop the ability to recognize and describe the development of theatrical forms, an understanding of the history, traditions, and conventions of the theater. Theater I provides the opportunity for students to develop a sense of intellectual, physical, and emotional comfort as they work collaboratively and cooperatively with other students to approach performance preparation, the creative process, basic acting skills, theater careers and practices, and the process of critiquing and evaluating performances.

MUSICAL THEATER

ACTING, MUSIC, DANCE

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-12 (AE)

Trimester Only

Musical Theatre students will explore the different aspects of the Broadway musical through solo and group performance, choreography, staging and research. Through collaboration with other students and special guest lectures, students will gain an

understanding of the history, traditions, and conventions of the Broadway musical.

ART FOUNDATIONS

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-8 (AE)

Trimester Only

Art Foundations will encompass multiple forms of art for those students who have perhaps never taken an art class, and for those that love art in all its forms. Students will assemble and create works of art by experiencing a variety of art media and by learning the elements and principles of art.

3-D ART

0.25 Credit—Grades 6-8 (AE)

Trimester Only

Students in this class will have the opportunity to study a variety of 3-D art, public art, and installation art. We will learn about 3D art elements and principles and will engage in several creative group projects

FORIEGN LANGUAGE

(Foreign Language Courses are year-long unless otherwise specified)

SPANISH 1

1.0 Credit—Grades 7-8 (GE)

Understanding spoken Spanish and attaining fluency in basic conversational expressions are emphasized. Understanding grammar and written Spanish is also stressed. A study of culture and custom of Spanish speaking countries is covered.

CHINESE 1

1.0 Credit—Grades 7-8 (GE)

Students begin their introduction to Chinese by focusing on the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each unit consists of a new vocabulary theme and grammar concept, reading and listening comprehension

activities, speaking and writing activities. Both Chinese characters and pinyin are presented together throughout the course. Students should expect to be actively engaged in their own language learning, become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases.

LEADERSHIP

PERSONAL LEADERSHIP/CREW

0.5 Credit—Grades 6-7-8 (R)

Students learn the value of setting goals for personal and academic development and create a learning plan for the school year. Credit will be earned by attending and participating in the Leadership Intensive as well as year-long crew.

LEADERSHIP

0.25 Credit—Grades 7-8 (GE)

Trimester Only

Students will have the opportunity to lead their peers, either in the International department or in becoming a Teacher Assistant.

Directed Course Work

(Directed Course Work courses are year-long unless otherwise specified)

ADVISORY

0.0 Credit—Grade 6, 7, 8 (R)

Advisory: This block prepares students to be successful in a student led educational environment. Success Coaches help facilitate this block by guiding students through Independent Reading, ALEKS and core subjects. Focus is placed on developing strong study habits like goal setting and time management. Students meet individually with Success Coaches during this time.