

Seguin ISD

Middle School Course Catalog



Chart Your Course

2019-2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- SEGUIN ISD INFORMATION 2
- COURSE SELECTION AND SCHEDULING 3
- MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAN 4
- COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 5
 - English Language Arts 5
 - English as a Second Language (ESL)..... 6
 - Mathematics 7
 - Science..... 8
 - Social Studies 8
 - Physical Education and Athletics..... 9
 - Fine Arts 10
 - Languages Other Than English..... 12
 - Additional Courses..... 13
- PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL 15
 - Graduation Requirements: Foundation High School Program and Endorsements 15
 - Seguin ISD Early College High School (ECHS)..... 16
 - Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) 16
- OTHER INFORMATION 17
 - Advanced Academics..... 17
 - Credit by Examination 18
 - English as a Second Language (ESL) Program 18
 - Graduation Placement Committees..... 18
 - Middle School Course Requirements 19
 - Promotion Policy 19
 - Section 504 Services 19
 - Special Education Services..... 20
 - State Assessments 20

SEGUIN ISD INFORMATION

Seguin ISD Vision Statement
Exceptional Students to Exceptional Citizens

Seguin ISD Mission Statement
To cultivate, inspire and empower students to grow and learn.

Seguin Independent School District

1221 E. Kingsbury Street
Seguin, TX 78155
(830) 372-5771
<http://www.seguinisd.net>

Seguin ISD Board of Trustees

Cinde Thomas-Jimenez, *President*
Carl Jenkins, *Vice President*
Benito Amador, *Secretary*
Alejandro Guerra
Linda Duncan
Denise Crettenden
Glenda Moreno

Seguin ISD Leadership

Dr. Matthew Gutierrez, Superintendent
Bill Lewis, Associate Superintendent of Technology
Dorothy Whitman, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services
Jason Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Leadership Services
Anthony Hillberg, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services
Kirsten Legore, Executive Director of Student Services
Sean Hoffmann, Executive Director of Community Relations
Mark Cantu, School Improvement and Community Engagement Officer

A.J. Briesemeister Middle School

1616 W. Court
Seguin, TX 78155
(830) 379-0600

Amber Gonzales, Principal
Kristal Mata, Academic Dean
Michele Castillo, Assistant Principal
Dale Gonzales, Assistant Principal
Kimberli Johnson, Counselor
Natalie McFadden, Counselor

Jim Barnes Middle School

1539 Joe Carrillo Blvd.
Seguin, TX 78155
(830) 379-4717

Michael Garza, Principal
Kristi Miranda, Academic Dean
Vanessa Chapa-Gibson, Assistant Principal
Allison Seidenberger, Assistant Principal
Kelly Avriett, Counselor
Ashley Solomon, Counselor

It is the policy of Seguin ISD not to discriminate on the basis of sex, handicap, race, color, or national origin in its educational programs, services and activities and in its employment practices as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended.

COURSE SELECTION AND SCHEDULING

Students must carefully plan their course selections. Students will receive specific instructions and assistance from school counselors during the scheduling process. However, it is important that students and parents give careful consideration to selecting appropriate courses. *After the course selection process is complete, student schedule changes must be submitted in writing by parent or guardian and approved by campus administration.*

Below are steps to consider during the course selection process:

Review the Course Catalog

- Look over course descriptions and consider any requirements for courses of interest
- Consider how courses in middle school may impact high school graduation

Course Selection

- Select courses related to your future academic and career goals
- All students are required to enroll in core area courses
- Students may choose electives based on interest

Orientation of Courses

- Attend student and parent presentations on course offerings
- Review the 2019-2020 course selection sheet

Parent/Guardian Approval

- A parent or guardian must sign the bottom of the course selection sheet
- Students will return the sheet to their school counselor, once complete

Please note the following:

- If there is insufficient enrollment for a course, the course may not be offered and one of the three alternates listed on the student's 2018-2019 course selection sheet will be used.
- Elective courses are scheduled based on teachers and sections available for the current school year.
- Electives may be replaced with accelerated instruction courses in Reading and/or Math if a student demonstrates a need for targeted intervention.

Information in this catalog is subject to changes by action of the Board of Trustees of the Seguin Independent School District or the Texas Education Agency. Seguin High School reserves the right to add courses not described herein and to delete courses if minimum enrollment criteria are not met.

MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAN

Middle school courses offered in Seguin ISD meet and exceed the requirements set forth by the Texas Education Agency. For more information on the Middle School Course Requirements, see page 19.

A middle school student's three-year plan for grades 6-8 is as follows:

6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Language Arts and Reading* Mathematics* Science* Social Studies* Physical Education Fine Arts Elective Elective/STAAR Intervention	Language Arts (Writing) and Reading* Mathematics* Science* Social Studies* Physical Education/Athletics Elective Elective Elective/STAAR Intervention	Language Arts and Reading* Mathematics* / Algebra 1+ Science* Social Studies* College and Career Readiness Elective Elective Elective/STAAR Intervention
<i>Courses available as Pre-AP = *</i> <i>Courses for High School Credit = +</i> <i>STAAR/EOC Tested Subjects = Bold</i>		

Elective Options			
Athletics	Fine Arts	Languages Other Than English	Other Courses
Boys Athletics, Grades 7-8 Girls Athletics, Grades 7-8	Art, Level 1-3 Band, Level 1-3 Mariachi, Level 1-3 Choir, Level 1-3 Theatre Arts, Level 1-3	Spanish 1+, Grade 8	Youth Leadership, Grade 6 AVID, Grades 7-8 Tech Apps: Digital Design, Grades 6-8 Tech Apps: Robotics, Grades 7-8 Broadcast Journalism, Grades 7-8 Journalism: Yearbook, Grade 8

State Assessments

In spring 2012, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) replaced the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS). The STAAR program includes annual assessments for the following middle school subjects:

- 6th grade: Math and Reading
- 7th grade: Math, Reading and Writing
- 8th grade: Math, Reading, Science and Social Studies

NOTE: Students who take Pre-AP Algebra I in 8th grade will be required to take the End-of-course (EOC) assessments for Algebra I.

For more information on the STAAR state assessment program, visit the Texas Education Agency website at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/>

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

English Language Arts and Reading

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 1161

Pre-AP English Language Arts and Reading

SISD Course Number: 1162

This course includes all TEKS for English Language Arts and Reading, which consist of reading, writing, research, listening, and speaking skills. This course provides instruction and practice in reading and writing a variety of genres to enhance students' language skills. Comprehension, writing, and research skills are developed through a variety of activities. Students learn grammar, usage, vocabulary, and other English language skills within the context of reading and writing.

For more information about Advanced Academics and Pre-AP course offerings, see pages 17-18.

English Language Arts and Reading

Grade 7

SISD Course Number: 1172

Pre-AP English Language Arts and Reading

SISD Course Number: 1173

This course facilitates opportunities for students to explore multiple genres through the analysis of literary and informational texts. Students' language skills are enhanced through the study of reading, writing, research, and oral and written conventions. Technology is used to enhance the writing process to produce publications for specific audiences.

For more information about Advanced Academics and Pre-AP course offerings, see pages 17-18.

English Language Arts and Reading

Grade 8

SISD Course Number: 1182

Pre-AP English Language Arts and Reading

SISD Course Number: 1183

This course facilitates opportunities for students to explore multiple genres through the analysis of literary and informational texts. The course enhances students' language skills by emphasizing critical thinking and the logical development of ideas as students build skills in the areas of reading, writing, research, and oral and written conventions.

For more information about Advanced Academics and Pre-AP course offerings, see pages 17-18.

STAAR Accelerated Reading and Writing

Grades 6, 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 1552, 1178, 1185

This course is designed to help students continue to build a foundation in reading and writing skills. Students will read both independent and instructional-level material for varied purposes such as collecting information, learning about and appreciating the writer's craft, and discovering models for their own writing. Targeted instruction and intervention will be based on student needs.

Note: *This course is recommended for students who did not meet passing standards on the Grade 4 STAAR Writing and/or STAAR Reading State Assessment from the prior grade level.*

Reading Foundations

Grades 6, 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 1666, 1710, 1885

In this course, students will complete lessons that include alphabet activities, review of spelling, reading practice, handwriting practice, listening and verbal expression (including phonological awareness), reading comprehension, writing activities and study skills.

Note: *Students are placed in this course by the 504 or ARD Committee, or Counselor Approval.*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Grades 6, 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 1660, 1197, 1198

ELL students are at different stages of language acquisition. Language proficiency levels are not grade specific. This course develops an understanding of English. Students engage in numerous language and cultural activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills to develop and strengthen their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.

Note: Students are placed in the appropriate ESL course based on the student's level of English proficiency.

Accelerated Language Support

Grades 6, 7

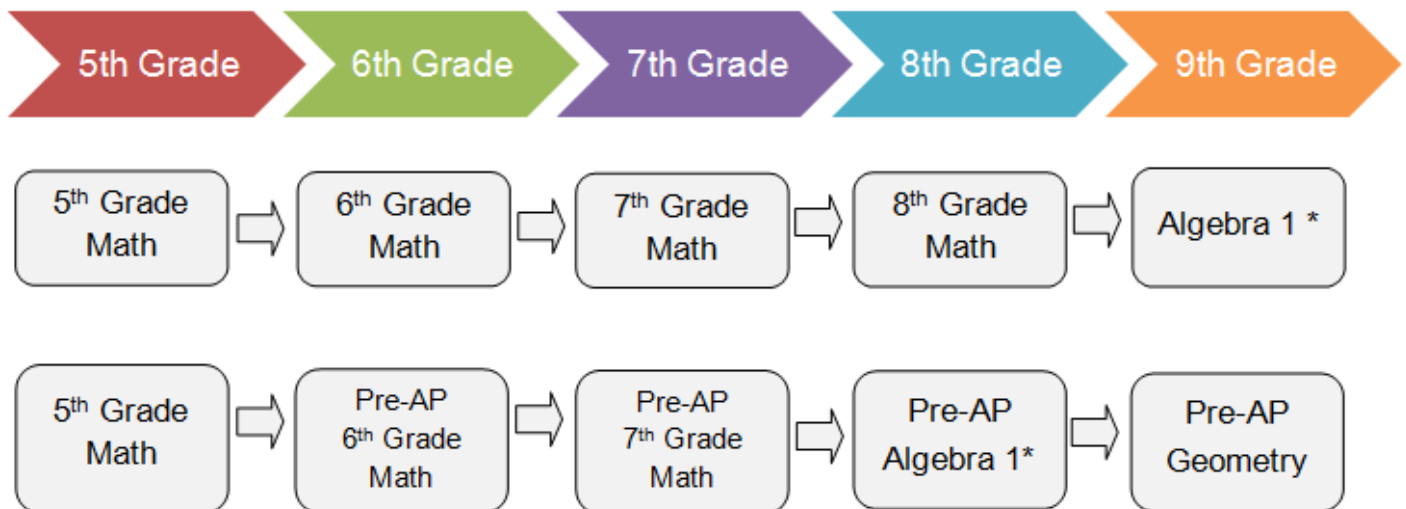
SISD Course Numbers: 1555, 1192

This course is designed to help English Learners follow the natural progression of language acquisition and development in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Major emphasis is on listening, oral language development and English language literacy.

Note: This course is recommended for students who did not meeting passing standards on the STAAR Writing and/or Reading State Assessment and who scored on a beginner or intermediate level on TELPAS.

MATHEMATICS

The graphic below shows two pathways for middle school Math courses, including the option for taking Pre-AP Algebra 1 in Grade 8.



* These courses have an End-of-Course (EOC) exam that fulfills a graduation requirement.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Mathematics

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 2162

The primary focal points at 6th grade are using all operations with integers, fractions and decimals to solve problems and understanding and applying ratios and rates to represent proportional relationships.

Pre-AP Mathematics

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 2163

All 6th grade TEKS are taught in addition to selected 7th grade TEKS as appropriate for extensions and identified in the Year-at-a-Glance (YAG). Students enrolled in this course will take the 6th grade Math STAAR.

Mathematics

Grade 7

SISD Course Number: 3172

The primary focal points at 7th grade are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations.

Pre-AP Mathematics

Grade 7

SISD Course Number: 2170

All 7th grade TEKS are taught in addition to selected 8th grade TEKS as appropriate for extensions and identified in the Year-at-a-Glance (YAG). Students enrolled in this course will take the 7th grade math STAAR.

Mathematics

Grade 8

SISD Course Number: 3182

The primary focal points at 8th grade are proportionality; expressions, equations, relationships, and foundations of functions; and measurement and data.

Pre-AP Algebra I

Grade 8

SISD Course Number: 3184

High School Credit: 1.0

This course addresses the Algebra I TEKS and prerequisite topics for high school mathematics courses. One high school credit is earned upon successful completion of this course. Students will be required to take the End-of-Course (EOC) assessment for Algebra 1.

Note: *The grade for this course will not be averaged in the student's high school grade point average (GPA) or class rank (see page 18).*

STAAR Accelerated Mathematics

Grades 6, 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 2165, 3177, 3181

Acceleration and an in-depth study of mathematical concepts based on student's previous state assessment performance. A prescriptive TEKS-based curriculum addresses difficult concepts while integrating targeted instructional strategies that build a strong foundation in mathematical thinking and reasoning.

Note: *This course is recommended for students who did not meet passing standards on the prior grade's STAAR Math State Assessment.*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SCIENCE

Science **Grade 6** **SISD Course Number: 3166**
Pre-AP Science **SISD Course Number: 3167**

The primary focus is on physical science through the use of exploratory and hands-on activities that follow the 5E Model of instruction. The strands include Scientific Investigation and Reasoning, Matter and Energy, Force, Motion, and Energy, Earth and Space, and Organisms and Environments. Students conduct laboratory and field investigations at least 40 percent of the time.

For more information about Advanced Academics and Pre-AP course offerings, see pages 17-18.

Science **Grade 7** **SISD Course Number: 4172**
Pre-AP Science **SISD Course Number: 4173**

The primary focus is on organisms and the environment through the use of exploratory and hands-on activities that follow the 5E Model of instruction. The strands include Scientific Investigation and Reasoning, Matter and Energy, Force, Motion, and Energy, Earth and Space, and Organisms and Environments. Students conduct laboratory and field investigations at least 40 percent of the time.

For more information about Advanced Academics and Pre-AP course offerings, see pages 17-18.

Science **Grade 8** **SISD Course Number: 4182**
Pre-AP Science **SISD Course Number: 4183**

The primary focus is on earth and space science through the use of exploratory and hands-on activities that follow the 5E Model of instruction. The strands include Scientific Investigation and Reasoning, Matter and Energy, Force, Motion, and Energy, Earth and Space, and Organisms and Environments. Students conduct laboratory and field investigations at least 40 percent of the time.

For more information about Advanced Academics and Pre-AP course offerings, see pages 17-18.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies **Grade 6** **SISD Course Number: 4160**
Pre-AP Social Studies **SISD Course Number: 4163**

This course includes the study of people and places of the contemporary world using a regional thematic approach. Primary and secondary source materials, reading and writing skills, technology, and critical thinking will be used to acquire and apply information.

For more information about Advanced Academics and Pre-AP course offerings, see pages 17-18.

Social Studies **Grade 7** **SISD Course Number: 5172**
Pre-AP Social Studies **SISD Course Number: 5173**

This course includes the study of Texas history from Native Americans to the present. Primary and secondary source materials, reading and writing skills, technology, and critical thinking will be used to acquire and apply information.

For more information about Advanced Academics and Pre-AP course offerings, see pages 17-18.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Social Studies

Grade 8

SISD Course Number: 5182

Pre-AP Social Studies

SISD Course Number: 5183

This course includes the study of the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Students will gain a deep conceptual understanding of how our nation was founded, the influence of our founding fathers and the founding documents. Primary and secondary source materials, reading and writing skills, technology, and critical thinking will be used to acquire and apply information. For more information about Advanced Academics and Pre-AP course offerings, see pages 17-18.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE) AND ATHLETICS

Physical Education (PE)

Grades 6, 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 7006, 6171, 6181

Students will develop fitness knowledge and motor skills basic to efficient movement that promote healthy lifestyle choices and improve the quality of students' lives. The 6th grade PE course will also include participation in student athletic activities that are fun and a significant part of the educational program that represents high standards of ethics and sportsmanship while developing good character through sports.

Each student must complete a yearly fitness assessment identified as FITNESSGRAM®. All information regarding this assessment is available at: www.fitnessgram.net.

Boys Athletics

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 6571, 6581

Girls Athletics

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 6572, 6582

These UIL approved courses are for the serious student wishing to participate in a competitive environment. Technical aspects of the team sport will be taught along with philosophy, strategy, and sportsmanship. Students enrolled will be held to a high standard of academic performance as well as behavioral expectations.

Enrollment in the class is reserved for students participating in at least two team sports or a combination of a Fall/Spring Team and Individual Sport. Due to the athlete/coach ratio, safety and security are highly considered. Thus, those wishing to ONLY participate in one sport will not be considered for entrance.

Recommended Prerequisite: *Approval by the Middle School Coordinator or respective Head Coach.*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FINE ARTS

Art Middle School 1

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 7104

This course is an introduction to basic art vocabulary essential for the well-rounded child. Students will explore various styles of drawing, sculpture and digital media. Students are exposed to art history and cross-curricular links to core disciplines. This course teaches how to draw and how to render spatial relationships, light, texture and forms. Topics covered in class include rendering objects, light sources, drawing media, illusion of space, introduction to figure drawing, expressive qualities, painting techniques, and more. Subject matter may vary from still life, landscape, human figure drawing, and fantasy to abstract. A wide variety of drawing and painting media will be practiced. **Note:** *This is a 1-semester course.*

Art Middle School 1

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Number: 7105

This course is an introduction to basic art vocabulary essential for the well-rounded child. Students will explore various styles of drawing, sculpture and digital media. Students are exposed to art history and cross-curricular links to core disciplines. This course teaches how to draw and how to render spatial relationships, light, texture and forms. Topics covered in class include rendering objects, light sources, drawing media, illusion of space, introduction to figure drawing, expressive qualities, painting techniques, and more. Subject matter may vary from still life, landscape, human figure drawing, and fantasy to abstract. A wide variety of drawing and painting media will be practiced.

Art Middle School 2-3

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 7174, 7175

This course is a continued directed examination of personal approaches to art-making with an emphasis on making visual and artistic decisions and developing an appropriate attitude toward visual expression. Art II & III may participate in a variety of school projects such as SISD Technology Fair, Guadalupe County Annual Student Show, and district-sponsored contests.

Recommended Prerequisite: *Art Middle School 1*

Band Middle School 1 – Beginner

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 8105

Beginning band focuses on developing instrument performance fundamentals and music literacy to prepare students for entrance into a Symphonic Band in 7th grade. Students make an instrument selection based on an interview/placement process conducted by the band director, which happens in the spring semester of the student's 5th grade school year. The class concentrates on the development of note-reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, and tone production. Students are expected to provide their own instrument for use in class and at home. Student Instrument rental or instrument purchase is therefore required. Rehearsals outside the school day are required but are limited to a few times each semester. Students are also responsible for specific supplies throughout the year as outlined for each instrument.

Band Middle School 2-3

Grade 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 8286, 8287

Symphonic Bands are performing bands at middle school. The classes consist of 7th and 8th graders. Students are placed in one of the Symphonic Bands through audition and director recommendation. Activities include concerts, solos and ensembles, region band, and concert contests. Sectionals outside the school day are required but are limited to once a week. There is a band fee of \$30.00 for all students and students using school instruments have an additional \$30.00 instrument rental fee per semester.

Prerequisite: *Band Middle School 1*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Instrumental Ensemble Middle School 1

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 7365

Mariachi Beginner Guitar

This course is designed for those interested in learning to play the guitar, utilizing the folk music of Mexico. Students will study mariachi guitar performance technique through both instrumental and vocal performance. The class concentrates on the development of note-reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, and tone production. Students are expected to provide their own instrument for practice at home. Student Instrument rental or instrument purchase is therefore required. This group will be required to participate in concerts and other activities.

Instrumental Ensemble Middle School 1

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 7366

Mariachi Beginner Violin

This course is designed for those interested in learning to play the violin, utilizing the folk music of Mexico. Students will study mariachi violin performance technique through both instrumental and vocal performance. The class concentrates on the development of note-reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, and tone production. Students are expected to provide their own instrument for practice at home. Student Instrument rental or instrument purchase is therefore required. This group will be required to participate in concerts and other activities.

Instrumental Ensemble Middle School 2-3

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 7367, 7368

Mariachi Ensemble

This course is designed for those interested in learning and playing the folk music of Mexico. Students will study mariachi music through instrumental and vocal performance in an ensemble setting. Student instrumentalists must provide their own instrument (guitar or violin) for developing instrumental performance skills. Students who have previous mariachi experience are encouraged to enroll in this class. This group will be required to participate in concerts and other activities.

Prerequisite: *Instrumental Ensemble 1 (Mariachi)*

Choir Mixed MS 1

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 8008

This ensemble is for 6th grade students with a soprano or alto voice. This class concentrates on the development of note-reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic independence, intonation, and vocal tone production. This ensemble is required to participate in concerts for the school and community throughout the year. Performances include fall, winter, and mock-competition concerts, as well as annual musical productions and spring pop show. Musical selections range from all musical time periods including Classical, Modern, and Pop.

Choir Mixed MS 2-3

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 7370, 7380

This auditioned ensemble is for 7th and 8th grade students with a soprano or alto voice. This class concentrates on the continued development of note-reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic independence, intonation, and vocal tone production. This ensemble is required to participate in concerts for the school and community throughout the year. Performances include fall, winter, and UIL concert and Sight-Reading Competition, as well as annual musical productions and spring pop show. Musical selections range from all musical time periods including Classical, Modern, and Pop.

Recommended Prerequisite: *Choir Mixed MS 1*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Theatre Arts MS 1

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 6002

This elective course is an introduction to theatre concepts that will focus on understanding of theatre fundamentals, using creative expression in performances, relating to theatre history, and evaluating performances. Specific topics include characterization, pantomime, reader's theatre, theatre vocabulary and parts of the stage, and creating characters for dramatizations. The main focus of this course will be group performances including writing, memorizing, and performing a group scene using visual elements.

Note: *This is a 1-semester course.*

Theatre Arts MS 2-3

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 7473, 7480

This elective course will refine theatre concepts, such as, using creative expression in performances, and evaluating performances. Specific topics include theatre history, careers in theatre, characterization, poetry reading, defining characters and portraying them in scenes, and improvisation. Many of the performances will be duets. The main focuses of this course will be a scripted group scene and a scripted duet scene. Both will be memorized and performed using visual elements.

Recommended Prerequisite: *Theatre Arts MS 1*

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Spanish 1

Grade 8

SISD Course Number: 2182

High School Credit: 1.0

This course introduces the basic Spanish language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students develop these communication skills by using knowledge of the language, including grammar, and culture, communication and learning strategies, technology, and content from other subject areas to socialize, to acquire and provide information, to express feelings and opinions, and to get others to adopt a course of action.

Note: *This is an accelerated course that covers the curriculum at the same pacing as the high school course. Students must complete the full year course to earn 1.0 high school credit, which will satisfy the first year of Languages other than English (LOTE) requirement on the Seguin ISD Foundation High School Program. The grade for this course will not be averaged in the student's high school grade point average (GPA) or class rank (see page 24).*

Spanish 1 for Spanish Speakers

Grade 8

SISD Course Number: 2183

High School Credit: 1.0

This course covers the same Spanish language skills listed in the Spanish 1 course description above. Additionally, this course will prepare students to take the Spanish 2 credit by examination in the spring semester. Students may earn high school Spanish 2 credit with a score of 80 or above on the credit by examination.

Note: *This is an accelerated course that covers the curriculum at the same pacing as the high school course. Students must complete the full year course to earn 1.0 high school credit, which will satisfy the first year of Languages other than English (LOTE) requirement on the Seguin ISD Foundation High School Program. The grade for this course will not be averaged in the student's high school grade point average (GPA) or class rank (see page 18).*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ADDITIONAL COURSES

Youth Leadership

Grade 6

SISD Course Number: 7108

This class consists of four basic units of study: utilizing resources, communication, critical thinking and problem solving, and character development.

Note: This is a 1-semester course.

Advancement Via Individual Determination

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 7000, 8000

AVID is a series of academic, regularly scheduled elective classes that uses writing as a tool for learning, inquiry, and collaboration. The three main components of the AVID program are academic instruction (AVID curriculum), tutorial support, and motivational activities. For more information about AVID, see page 21.

Technology Applications: Digital Design

Grade 6, 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 5160, 8171, 8173

Students in this course will be introduced to a wide range of digital media processes and applications. They work on a variety of software and are challenged to advance their skills and produce high quality products for school projects.

Note: This is a 1-semester course.

Technology Applications: Robotics

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 8176, 8177

Students in this course will be introduced to robotics through the study of technology applications. Students make informed decisions by understanding current and emerging technologies, including technology systems, appropriate digital tools, and personal learning networks. They will work on building solutions to challenge-based problems for robotics competitions.

Note: This is a 1-semester course.

Technology Applications:

Grades 8

SISD Course Number: 8179

College and Career Readiness (CCR)

This course is designed to develop students' career and college readiness skills through the study of technology applications. Students make informed decisions by understanding current and emerging technologies, including technology systems, appropriate digital tools, and personal learning networks. Information will be shared about college and career readiness, to include potential career choices and the education needed to enter those careers. This course will also prepare students for the transition into 9th grade.

Note: This is a required for all 8th grade students.

Broadcast Journalism

Grades 7, 8

SISD Course Number: 1103

This course teaches students about broadcast preparation and delivery. Students will use various forms of media to communicate school, community and world events to the student body.

Note: This is a 1-semester course.

Journalism: Yearbook

Grade 8

SISD Course Number: 1485

This course teaches students yearbook design and composition in order to compose the school yearbook. Students are instructed in digital photography skills, interviewing, and writing skills.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Student Aide

Grade 8

SISD Course Number: 1000

Students have the opportunity to assist a member of the staff in one of the following capacities: office aide, counselor aide, and library aide.

Note: *This is a 1-semester course that requires Administrator and/or Counselor approval.*

Investigating Careers, I-III

Grades 6, 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 9601, 9602, 9603

Pre-vocational skills needed for vocation and employment are taught in the classroom and in simulated work environments. The goal of this course is to create a foundation for success in high school, future studies, and vocation and employment. Grade level TEKS are accessed through prerequisite skills.

Note: *Committee approval required for enrollment.*

Activities of Daily Living

Grades 6, 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 9604, 9605, 9606

This course is designed to provide instruction to students in real time as need arises in the areas of basic hygiene, grooming, cooking skills, household living, household cleaning, self-help skills, etc., in the classroom as well as in the community.

Note: *Committee approval required for enrollment.*

Academic Skills

Grades 6, 7, 8

SISD Course Numbers: 1861, 1862, 1863

This course is designed to provide direct instruction to students daily in the areas of academic preparation, organization, note taking, and test taking as well as have time to complete academic assignments and work on individualized goals and objectives.

Note: *Committee approval required for enrollment.*

PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

This section contains information about Seguin High School, Seguin ISD Early College High School (ECHS) and state requirements for high school graduation. As parents and students select courses for grades 6-8, they can use this information to prepare for their high school plan of study.

Foundation High School Program with Distinguished Level of Achievement	
<i>Credit requirements specific to at least one endorsement</i>	
4 credits English ELA I, II, III, IV	2 credits Languages Other Than English
4 credits Mathematics Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, any authorized additional math course	1 credit Fine Arts
4 credits Science Biology; one credit in IPC, Chemistry or Physics; two credits in any additional science courses	1 credit Physical Education or PE Substitution
3 credits Social Studies World Geography, US History, Government (.5 credit) , Economics (.5 credit) <i>Seguin ISD recommends World History for all students</i>	7 credits in electives
Total: 26 credits	

Distinguished Level of Achievement = Foundation + Endorsement + Algebra II
 A student must earn *Distinguished Achievement* to be considered in the “Top 10%” of the class and qualify for automatic college admission. This is Seguin ISD’s default graduation plan.

Note: Students may move to the Foundation Graduation Plan only after completing their sophomore year AND with parent or guardian written permission.

Endorsements

Students will be able to earn one or more endorsements as part of their graduation requirements. Endorsements consist of a related series of courses that are grouped together by interest or skill set. They provide students with in-depth knowledge of a subject area. Students can earn an endorsement by completing the curriculum requirements for the endorsement, including a 4th credit of math and science and two additional elective credits.

Students can choose from 5 endorsement areas:

STEM	Business/ Industry	Public Service	Arts & Humanities	Multidisciplinary Studies
-------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Other Information

<p>State Assessments Required for Graduation</p> <p>English I English II Algebra I Biology US History</p>	<p>Students may earn a Performance Acknowledgement on their transcript for outstanding performance on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dual Credit Coursework • Bilingualism and Biliteracy • Advanced Placement (College Board) or International Baccalaureate Exams • PSAT, SAT, ACT-Aspire, or ACT • State-recognized, nationally, or internationally recognized business or industry certification and/or license
--	--

PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Seguin ISD Early College High School (ECHS)

Seguin's ECHS uses a comprehensive "College-for-All" model, developed by Seguin ISD and St. Philip's College designed to prepare all students to be college and career ready by providing articulated degree pathways that lead to postsecondary credentials. Each pathway works within the State of Texas graduation requirements and CTE Endorsements. Eighth grade students choose from the four pathways described in the table below, along with an endorsement as part of their high school graduation plan (see page 22).



Parent and student presentations are held at each middle school during the spring semester of the student's 8th grade year. All eighth graders also have the opportunity to visit Seguin ISD's college partner, St. Philip's College, in San Antonio.

For more information, see the school counselor or visit the Seguin Early College High School [website](#).

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID)

Beginning in grade 9, all Associate Degree Pathway students are enrolled in AVID classes at Seguin Early College High School. AVID is also available as an elective class for students in grades 7 and 8.

AVID is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college and other postsecondary opportunities.

The mission of the AVID program is to ensure that all students, especially those in the middle who are capable of completing a college-preparatory path, have a chance to succeed and to increase enrollment of these students in four-year colleges and universities.

The three main components of the AVID program are:

Academic Instruction (AVID curriculum)

- Students will receive two hours of instruction per week in college entry-level skills.

Tutorial Support

- Students will receive two hours of instruction per week in tutor-led study groups.

Motivational Activities

- Students will receive one hour of instruction per week in motivational activities and academic survival skills.



OTHER INFORMATION

Below is other information that may be helpful through the course selection process. Topics are arranged alphabetically.

Advanced Academics

Seguin ISD is committed to providing multiple opportunities for students to participate in advanced academic coursework during their middle school experience. The section below provides more information regarding available opportunities and district policies supporting advanced academics. Additionally, advanced academics provide opportunities to serve students identified as Gifted and Talented (GT).

Advanced Academic Course Student Agreement

Students who participate in advanced academic courses must complete an Advanced Academic Course Student Agreement and turn in the completed agreement signed by parent or guardian to their teacher before the end of the first week of school. Success in advanced academic courses requires the student's commitment to the expectations of the advanced level course program. Students will be expected to:

- analyze, synthesize, and manipulate knowledge and skills and think critically;
- budget time effectively and efficiently and develop successful study skills;
- commit to a daily academic action plan and attend tutoring regularly if needed;
- come to school early and/or stay late in order to attend tutoring;
- engage in electronically-assigned research and/or communications;
- increase advanced content area vocabulary.

For more information about the Advanced Level Course Agreement and to see a sample agreement, students and parents should contact Campus Administration.

Examination for Acceleration

In accordance with Board Policy EHDC (LEGAL), students in grades 6-12 may be given credit for an academic subject in which they had no prior instruction. If a student is given credit in a subject on the basis of an examination on which the student scored 80 percent or higher, the District shall enter the examination score on the student's transcript and the student is not required to take an end-of-course (EOC) assessment instrument, where applicable, under Texas Education Code 39.023(c) for the course.

Gifted and Talented (GT) Services

Seguin ISD defines gifted and talented as any child or youth in grades K-12 who performs at, or shows the potential for performing at, a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to others of the same age, experience, or environment and who:

- exhibits high performance capability in general intellectual ability; or
- excels in one or more specific academic fields: math, science, language arts, and/or social studies.

Students who participate in services designed for gifted students will demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performances that are advanced in relation to students of similar age, experience, or environment and that reflect individuality and creativity. High school graduates who have participated in services for gifted students will produce products and performances of professional quality as part of their program services.

Seguin ISD offers services for identified GT students through Pre-AP courses from a GT trained teacher. The Pre-AP courses are designed to meet the needs of Gifted and Talented (GT) students. Additionally, teachers may utilize resources from the Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP) in their classes. This resource provides differentiated instruction to GT students through a coherent package of standards, curriculum, and assessments. For more information on the Texas Performance Standards Project (TPSP), visit

<http://www.texaspsp.org/>.

Furthermore, advanced academic elective courses taught by GT trained teachers are offered during the school day. Out-of-school enrichment opportunities are also provided for students including Destination ImagiNation, UIL activities, and Science Fair.

OTHER INFORMATION

High School Credit in Middle School

Sequin ISD offers courses that may count towards earning state or local high school credits. Examples of these courses are Languages Other Than English (LOTE) and Algebra I. The grade for these courses taken prior to high school will not be averaged in the student's high school grade point average (GPA) or class rank [Board Policy EIC (LOCAL)]. Students in grades 6-8 who are also enrolled in a high school course will take the corresponding State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) End of Course (EOC), where applicable, as required for graduation.

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) Courses

Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses are designed to teach students strong study habits, critical thinking skills and learning strategies to prepare them for taking Advanced Placement (AP) courses in high school. Pre-AP course offerings are available in English, Math, Science and Social Studies in grades 6-8 and are taught by teachers who are provided professional development in gifted and talented (GT) and Pre-AP strategies. The increased academic rigor of these courses is based on additional enrichment activities.

Credit by Examination

In accordance with Board Policy EHDB (LEGAL), a student in any of grades 6–12 may be given credit for an academic subject in which he or she had some prior instruction if the student scores 70 percent or higher on a criterion-referenced test approved by the Board for the applicable course.

Additional information for credit by examination for an academic subject in which the student has had no prior instruction can be found on page 26.

For more information about Credit by Examination, including testing windows and exams offered, see the Sequin ISD website: <http://www.sequin.k12.tx.us/page/ci.accelerationexams>

English as a Second Language (ESL) Program

Middle schools provide English as a Second Language (ESL)/sheltered instructional strategies to students identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP). Additionally, the middle school language arts curriculum provides ESL support for English Language Learners who are recent immigrants (0-3 years in U.S. schools) through an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) class. The purpose of the ESL program is to enable LEP students to be competent in the comprehension, speaking, reading and composition of the English language through the integrated use of second language methods.

Grade Placement Committees

Per Board Policy EIE (LOCAL), if a student fails to demonstrate proficiency on a state-mandated assessment, the student shall be provided accelerated instruction. A student in grade 8 will have two additional opportunities to take a failed Math or Reading assessment. If a student fails a second time, a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal or designee, the teacher, and the student's parent, will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive. After a third failed attempt, the student will be retained; however, the parent can appeal this decision to the committee. In order for the student to be promoted, based on standards previously established by the district, the decision of the committee must be unanimous and the student must complete additional special instruction before beginning the next grade level. Whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year.

OTHER INFORMATION

Middle School Course Requirements

Middle school courses offered in Seguin ISD meet and exceed the requirements set forth by the Texas Education Agency. Below is additional information for specific course requirements, per Texas Education Code.

College and Career Readiness Instruction Requirement

In accordance with the Texas Education Code §28.016, beginning in grade 6 information will be shared with students about college and career readiness, to include the following: high school personal graduation plans (PGPs), graduation requirements under the Distinguished Level of Achievement, endorsements, college readiness standards, and potential career choices and the education needed to enter those careers. In grade 8, all students are required to take the semester Technology Applications: College and Career Readiness (CCR) course (see page 18 for Course Description).

Fine Arts Requirement

In accordance with House Bill 3, all middle school students must complete one fine arts course during grades 6, 7, or 8. Elective course offerings are dependent on staff and facilities availability at each middle school campus.

Physical Education Requirement

In accordance with the Texas Education Code §28.002(l), all students in Kindergarten-Grade 8 must participate in at least 30 minutes of moderate to vigorous daily physical activity. A student in grade 6, 7, or 8 must participate daily for at least four semesters during those grades.

Health Education Requirement

19 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §74.3(a) strengthened TEKS-based health education as a requirement for students in grades 6-8. School districts must provide health education instruction in the middle school as a part of a school district's required curriculum. The focus of Seguin ISD's health education at the middle school level is to educate students about health concepts through a comprehensive focus.

Promotion Policy [EIE (LOCAL)]

In grades 6–8, promotion to the next grade level shall be based on an overall average of 70 on a scale of 100 based on course-level, grade-level standards (essential knowledge and skills) for all subject areas and a grade of 70 or above in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Except when a student will be assessed in reading or mathematics above his or her enrolled grade level, students in grade 8 must meet the passing standard on the applicable state-mandated assessments in reading and mathematics to be promoted to the next grade level.

Section 504 Services

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination against individuals with a disability in any program receiving Federal financial assistance. In order to fulfill its obligation under Section 504, Seguin ISD recognizes a responsibility to avoid discrimination in policies and practices regarding its students. No discrimination against any students solely due to his/her disability will knowingly be permitted in any of the programs and practices in the school system. The school district has specific responsibilities under Section 504 which include the responsibility to identify, evaluate and, if the student is determined to be eligible under Section 504, to afford access to necessary educational accommodations. For more information regarding Section 504, contact the campus counselor.

OTHER INFORMATION

Special Education Services

Seguin ISD provides a continuum of special education services for students with disabilities. Special education services are provided according to the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as per the recommendation of the Annual Review and Dismissal (ARD) Committee. For more information, please see the Seguin ISD Special Education website at <http://www.seguin.k12.tx.us/page/specialeducation.home>

State Assessments

In spring 2012, the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR®) replaced the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

The STAAR program includes annual assessments for the following middle school subjects:

- 6th grade: Math and Reading
- 7th grade: Math, Reading and Writing
- 8th grade: Math, Reading, Science and Social Studies

Students who take Pre-AP Algebra I in 8th grade will be required to take the End-of-course (EOC) assessments for Algebra I.

Per Board Policy EIE (LOCAL), if a student fails to demonstrate proficiency on a state-mandated assessment, the student shall be provided accelerated instruction. A student in grade 8 will have two additional opportunities to take a failed Math or Reading assessment. If a student fails a second time, a grade placement committee, consisting of the principal or designee, the teacher, and the student's parent, will determine the additional special instruction the student will receive. After a third failed attempt, the student will be retained; however, the parent can appeal this decision to the committee. In order for the student to be promoted, based on standards previously established by the district, the decision of the committee must be unanimous and the student must complete additional special instruction before beginning the next grade level. Whether the student is retained or promoted, an educational plan for the student will be designed to enable the student to perform at grade level by the end of the next school year.

For more information on the STAAR state assessment program, visit the Texas Education Agency website at <http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/staar/>