

Queen Creek Unified School District



Middle School Course Description Catalog

2019/2020

Queen Creek Unified School District

Course Description Catalog

Grades 6-8

2019-2020

Governing Board

Ken Brague, President
Bill Schultz, Vice President
Jennifer Revolt, Member
Samantha Davis, Member
Courtney Narancic, Member

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Middle School Course Requirements

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Math	Math	Math
Reading Science	Reading Science	Reading Science
Social Studies	Social Studies	Social Studies
Writing	Writing	Writing
Physical Education 1 Semester	Career Exploration 1 Semester	Electives 4 Semesters
Technology 1 Semester	Electives 3 Semesters	
Electives 2 Semesters		

1 Semester = ½ Year

1 Quarter = 9 weeks

***Students who earn a failing grade (F) in English Language Arts (ELA) or Math semester one may lose an elective during semester two to make up the coursework. Students who earn a failing grade (F) in ELA or Math semester two will be required to attend summer school. For any student who earns a D in ELA or Math semester two, it will be highly recommended that they attend summer school.**

AzMERIT

AzMERIT is a computer-based test which provides engaging questions and measures critical thinking skills for college and career readiness. It is aligned to Arizona’s state learning standards which detail what students should be able to do at each grade level. The test is designed to measure student learning and progress towards readiness for college or career. AzMERIT is administered during a testing window in the spring semester.

Writing: The writing portion will require students to read a few passages and then write about them. This type of task requires students to think deeper about topics and use evidence to support their thinking.

Reading: The reading portion will be administered in two parts. This will ensure students have ample time to read and answer questions. The test will also contain editing tasks to measure student awareness of fundamental skills like spelling and grammar.

Math: The math portion will be administered in two parts. This will ensure students have ample time to read and answer questions. The test will ask questions that check a student’s conceptual understanding of math as well as their procedural skills.

Queen Creek Unified School District Honors/Weighted Course Criteria

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

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

All honors/weighted courses contain:

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

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

- Independent research
- Summer reading or other outside summer activities
- Inquiry learning
- Integration of two or more content areas
- Leadership components
- Service learning opportunities

6th Grade Course Descriptions

Math 6

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course addresses number sense and operations with an emphasis on integers, data analysis, probability/ discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure, and logic. Curriculum is rigorous including hands on and mathematical practices.

Honors Math 6

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

This course addresses number sense and operations with an emphasis on integers, data analysis, probability/ discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure, and logic. This is an accelerated course that addresses number sense and operations with an emphasis on rational numbers and solving equations, data analysis, probability/ discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure, and logic.

Science 6

One Year = 2 Semesters

In Life Science, students will focus on the characteristics of living things, understanding the function and structure of life cycles, and how living organisms relate and interact with their environment. The elements of the scientific process will with hands on investigations and experiments.

In Physical Science, students will understand how energy affects forms of matter, what changes occur and the processes involved in these interactions.

Earth and Space Science allows students to develop an understanding of the structure of the earth and the processes involved in how the Earth has been formed and continues to evolve.

Honors Science 6

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

In addition to the topics covered in 6th grade Science; this course will include more in depth study of all the state standards focusing on critical thinking skills and collaborative work.

Social Studies 6

One Year = 2 Semesters

The content focus will be viewed through geographic and historical lenses. Sixth grade students will understand the cultural, religious, economic, and political systems of selected societies in the Eastern Hemisphere. Regions in the Eastern Hemisphere include the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa, Europe, Asia (east, south, and southeast), and Oceania. Students will learn about the earliest human societies through the Renaissance and Reformation.

Honors Social Studies 6

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

Honors Social Studies courses are designed to address the five disciplines of History, Civics/Government, Geography, and Economics in more depth and complexity, and at an accelerated pace. Because the course is designed for high-ability learners, there is a strong emphasis on higher-level thinking skills and concept development. In addition, opportunities for independent research exist. Arizona College and Career Ready State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies are embedded throughout the course.

Language Arts 6

One Year = 2 Semesters

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study literary elements, vocabulary in context, and text structures. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

Honors Language Arts 6

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Test Scores, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study advanced literary elements, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

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

Physical Education

One Semester \$15 Uniform Fee

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

In this course, students will learn to develop lifelong skills in the areas of responsibility, socialization, sharing, cooperation, character, teamwork, sportsmanship, leadership and more. This development will be accomplished through individual and team activities. Emphasis is placed on lifetime physical fitness through a daily exercise and fitness program. Active participation and appropriate dress is required daily. PE uniform is mandatory.

Technology

One Semester

This is an introductory course to information technology and data communication. Students will gain a basic understanding of computer hardware and software terminology through a “hands on” lab experience. Students will develop foundational skills in keyboarding, operational systems, maintenance and troubleshooting, video animation, and sound creation. Topics will also address current multi-media behaviors, attitudes, internet safety, and legal issues, as well as, occupations within the IT field. Through the use of Microsoft Office: Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Excel, students will create, import, and sequence media elements to produce multimedia documents, presentations, and graphics as they conceptualize, produce, and explore visual aesthetics.

6th Grade Electives

Cadet Band

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

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

Cadet Orchestra

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

This course is designed for students who would have very little or no experience in orchestra. This course will cover note reading, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context to today. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. Performances will be twice a semester, with occasional rehearsals outside of the school day. All students are required to be at rehearsals and performances.

Choir

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

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

Concert Band

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

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

Concert Percussion

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

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

Introduction to Guitar

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

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

Leadership Foundations

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

****Requires teacher recommendation and application**

Students who are interested in future leadership positions are given lessons in self-exploration, leadership, and communication concepts. They are then guided through the steps of organizing, implementing, and reflecting on various school events. This leadership class is an introduction-level course where students are taught a variety of skills that will help them be successful and self-sufficient as they join 7th and 8th grade leadership opportunities.

Student Leadership - Student Council

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

** Requires teacher recommendation and application

** Limited positions available per grade level

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

6th Grade Elective Wheel

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Students will switch every 9 weeks. Classes will be randomly assigned in the order students take the class. Classes will include: General Art, Family and Consumer Sciences, AVID Systems and STEM.

AVID Systems-Wheel

One Quarter = 9 Weeks

Students get an opportunity to experience a condensed version of the AVID Elective curriculum focusing on preparation for success in rigorous college-preparatory course work. Within this curriculum students will be exposed to WICOR strategies (Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading), character development, self-reflection, study skills, public speaking, note-taking, time management, and goal setting. The goal for the 9 weeks is for students to realize their potential for success in college and career readiness as well as to gain the confidence, determination, and positivity in becoming academically successful leaders and role models.

Family and Consumer Science-Wheel

One Quarter = 9 Weeks

Students will attend FACS class as part of the elective wheel. Objectives will include nutrition information, basic recipe construction and cooking, hand sewing techniques, family information and childcare fundamentals.

General Art –Wheel

One Quarter = 9 Weeks

Students explore their world through the Visual Arts by connecting and responding to artists and artworks from different cultures and time periods, which then serves as inspiration for creating and presenting their own studio work. They make original artworks while learning basic skills in drawing, painting, and mixed media. Engaging, hands-on lessons are aligned with State and National Core Visual Arts Standards. This 6th Grade General Art class is one of four courses on the Electives Wheel.

STEM-Wheel

One Quarter = 9 Weeks

Students will be introduced to STEM concepts and how these concepts relate to the real world. Each lesson is aligned to current Arizona Science and Arizona College and Career Ready Standards in science, technology, engineering and math offering hands on activities to promote critical thinking and collaboration. The class is designed for all students to be scientifically aware, engaged in exploration, and experience the world around them. There will also be opportunities to explore health science careers in sports medicine, biomedical engineering, forensics, and veterinary medicine.

Math Lab

One Year = 2 Semesters

Math Lab is a required course for students who are not mastering grade level math skills. Placement determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation.

This course is designed to be paired with and support the assigned math class. This course will strengthen prerequisite skills, support and maintain grade level concepts, as well as address study skills. Successful completion of this course will provide students with an elective credit.

Reading Lab

One Year = 2 Semesters

In this course, students will gain foundational skills necessary to be successful in Language Arts. Student placement is determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation. This course will provide students with strategies and skills that proficient, critical, and close readers bring to any text. Areas of focus include but are not limited to reading fluently, summarizing main ideas, engaging in discussion, developing vocabulary, and making connections.

Students will read and discuss fiction and non-fiction texts from multiple genres. An emphasis will also be placed on finding textual evidence to support claims made within a text.

Online Extension

The online intervention program is designed to be completed *independently* by students. The program has all of the tools necessary for your child's success and advancement. Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Writing lessons contain vocabulary, lectures, assignments, quizzes, and tests. These lessons introduce and reinforce state standards and concepts taught within the semester. Students must complete an online course for each 'F' they received in these subject areas. If completed successfully, a "D" will replace the failing grade.

7th Grade Course Descriptions

Math 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course addresses number sense and operations with an emphasis on integers, data analysis, probability/ discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure, and logic.

Honors Pre-Algebra 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a "B" or better for the course. All students must maintain a "C" (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a "C" could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

This is an accelerated course that addresses number sense and operations with an emphasis on rational numbers and solving equations, data analysis, probability/ discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure, and logic.

Science 7 – Earth & Environmental

One Year = 2 Semesters

Earth Science is the focus of this course in which students will classify rocks and minerals, describe the properties and composition of major layers of the earth and explain the processes of erosion, deposition, plate tectonics and volcanism. Students will use the rock and fossil record show that environmental conditions change over geologic and recent time. Students will also explore the relationships of the Earth and other objects in the solar system, including the relative positions of the Earth, Sun and Moon in and their interrelationships in moon phases, tides and seasons. The relationships among common objects in the solar system, galaxy, and universe will also be investigated.

Students will analyze the relationships among various organisms and their environment including food chains and webs, how organisms obtain and use resources in niches and predator/prey relationships. Students will evaluate data related to problems and possible solutions associated with population growth, as well as predict how environmental factors affect survival rates in living organisms.

Honors Science 7 - Earth & Environmental

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a "B" or better for the course. All students must maintain a "C" (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a "C" could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

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

Social Studies 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Honors Social Studies 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

Honors Social Studies courses are designed to address the five disciplines of History, Civics/Government, Geography, and Economics in more depth and complexity, and at an accelerated pace. Because the course is designed for high-ability learners, there is a strong emphasis on higher-level thinking skills and concept development. In addition, opportunities for independent research exist. Arizona College and Career Ready State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies are embedded throughout the course.

Language Arts 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study composition techniques relating to narrative and argumentative writing, literary elements, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

Honors Language Arts 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study composition techniques relating to advanced narrative, argumentative, and expository writing, literary elements, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

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

Career Exploration

One Semester

This required 7th grade course introduces students to a variety of career fields, including business, information technology, cyber-safety, and sales and marketing. Students also explore their interests, aptitudes, and skills to compete in the workplace as well as learn about their individual learning styles to find possible career matches. Students will explore a variety of career options and use the steps in the decision-making process to develop their career plan through ECAP via AZCIS website. This will guide them to make appropriate decisions about high school level courses, post-secondary education and training, and career fields.

7th Grade Electives

7 Habits: Exploring Moral Fibers and Social Interactions

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

This course will offer a variety of assignments, which help students explore and further develop their personal skills. Through countless experiences, students will look at: choosing a positive attitude, setting goals, time management, peer pressure, taking risks, conflict-resolution, communication skills, collaboration, balance, and more! This is the perfect course to help students make adjustments to find more success and happiness in life today, tomorrow, and beyond!

Art 7

One semester \$ 15 fee

The Art 7 course includes basic instruction in painting, drawing, ceramics and various media (printmaking, paper mache, repurposed art, etc). Students gain knowledge and learn new skills through engaging, hands-on experiences as they express individual creativity and make original works of art. Each studio project is inspired by a brief study of specific artists or artworks (past and present), art styles, aesthetics, and/or processes and techniques. Lessons align with State and National Core Visual Arts Standards and often include cross-curricular connections with core academic areas. *No prerequisites or skill/experience levels required.*

Art in Action

One semester \$ 15 fee

In the Art in Action course, 7th & 8th grade students are placed together in combination level classes. Unlike Art 7 and Art 8 classes where the emphasis is on creating art, this course teaches students to make important connections between the world around them, and the world of art. Lessons guide students in an exploration of the work of artists, art critics, historians, and curators, as they learn where and how artworks are exhibited, why art is important, and how art influences and affects people. Using appropriate criterion and sources they select, evaluate, and prepare student artwork for exhibit. They also collaborate with peers to create displays for local exhibits, shows and events. Art in Action students play a key role in connecting student artworks with the people and places that make up their daily lives. *No prerequisites or skill/experience levels required.*

AVID

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

*Subject to acceptance into the AVID program

AVID is a teacher approved elective course. In the AVID elective class, students learn organizational study skills, work on critical thinking, asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college/adult tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Students in AVID will be enrolled in one or more rigorous classes, such as honors math, science, social studies, reading or writing. As students' progress in AVID, their self-images improve, and they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students.

Drama I

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

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

Drama II

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

Prerequisite: Drama I

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

Family and Consumer Science – 7

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Requires teacher recommendation and application

** Limited positions available per grade level

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

Student Leadership – WEB – Where Everybody Belongs One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

**Requires teacher recommendation and application

** This course includes attendance at 2 summer training days and 1 summer day for 6th grade orientation

As WEB leaders, seventh and eighth graders will work to provide a quality experience for sixth graders transitioning into the middle school environment. WEB leaders will learn various leadership skills, explore their strengths and weaknesses, mentor 6th graders, and work on events that improve the overall school culture. As WEB leaders, students will learn and practice real-world communication skills as they are required to reach out to their assigned sixth graders throughout the school year. It is essential that WEB leaders mark the required summer days for their personal leadership development as well as creating bonds with their assigned sixth graders.

World Language Survey Class**One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

World Language will provide the student with a one-semester introduction to three foreign languages. E.g., Spanish, French, German, Arabic, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin or other world languages based on the strengths of the instructor. During each six-week language study, students will be exposed to the culture of the target language as well as focus on basic vocabulary and grammar including: numbers, colors, greetings and farewells, and simple verb conjugations.

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

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

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

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

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

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

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

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

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

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

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

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

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

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

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

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

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

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

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

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

Introduction to Guitar**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

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

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

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

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

This course is designed for students who would have very little or no experience in orchestra. This course will cover note reading, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context to today. Students are expected to provide their own instruments. Cello and bass players are expected to have an instrument at home to practice, but will be allowed to play a school cello or bass during class. Performances will be twice a semester, with occasional rehearsals outside of the school day. All students are required to be at rehearsals and performances.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Math Lab**One Year = 2 Semesters**

Math Lab is a required course for students who are not mastering grade level math skills. Placement determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation.

This course is designed to be paired with and support the assigned math class. This course will strengthen prerequisite skills, support and maintain grade level concepts, as well as address study skills. Successful completion of this course will provide students with an elective credit.

Reading Lab**One Year = 2 Semesters**

In this course, students will gain foundational skills necessary to be successful in Language Arts. Student placement is determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation. This course will provide students with strategies and skills that proficient, critical, and close readers bring to any text. Areas of focus include but are not limited to reading fluently, summarizing main ideas, engaging in discussion, developing vocabulary, and making connections. Students will read and discuss fiction and non-fiction texts from multiple genres. An emphasis will also be placed on finding textual evidence to support claims made within a text.

Online Extension

One Semester \$100 Course Fee (Course Fee Summer School Only)

The online intervention program is designed to be completed *independently* by students. The program has all the tools necessary for your child's success and advancement. Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Writing lessons contain vocabulary, lectures, assignments, quizzes, and tests. These lessons introduce and reinforce state standards and concepts taught within the semester. Students must complete an online course for each 'F' they received in these subject areas. If completed successfully, a "D" will replace the failing grade.

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Pre-Algebra 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course addresses number sense and operations with an emphasis on rational numbers and solving equations, data analysis, probability/ discrete mathematics, patterns, algebraic thinking and functions, geometry, measurement, problem solving, structure, and logic.

Honors Algebra I 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. Newell Barney and Queen Creek Middle School students may receive high school credit for Algebra I by successfully completing both semesters with a "C" or higher. Credits will be recorded onto the students' high school transcript with NBMS & QCMS letter grades attached. These grades will be counted into the students' cumulative grade point average.

This course will explore the relationships between linear, exponential and quadratic functions through real world modeling. Other major areas of study will include expressions, solving equations and inequalities, properties of exponents, system of equations, matrices, analyzing functions using different representations, descriptive statistics, perform arithmetic operations on polynomials, use properties of rational and irrational numbers through problem solving and applications. A graphing calculator is highly recommended and a specific model will be suggested by the instructor. The course uses the common core state standards as a guideline for its curriculum.

Science 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course emphasizes scientific processes including investigation, data collection, and analysis. The physical science portion of this course will explore the properties, classification, and structure of matter, the periodic table and how transfer of energy can affect the properties of matter. The relationship between force and motion will be explored in terms of Newton's Laws of Motion.

The life science portion includes the basic principles of heredity including the dominant and recessive traits in humans including hair color and blood type. Students will analyze competitive relationships of organisms as well as the structural and behavioral adaptations of organisms that could change over several generations and allow for their survival within an ecosystem.

Honors Science 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a "B" or better for the course. All students must maintain a "C" (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a "C" could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

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

Social Studies 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Honors Social Studies 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

Honors Social Studies courses are designed to address the five disciplines of History, Civics/Government, Geography, and Economics in more depth and complexity, and at an accelerated pace. Because the course is designed for high-ability learners, there is a strong emphasis on higher-level thinking skills and concept development. In addition, opportunities for independent research exist. Arizona College and Career Ready State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies are embedded throughout the course.

Language Arts 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study composition techniques relating to narrative and argumentative writing, literary elements, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

Honors Language Arts 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. To receive weighted credit, a student must maintain a grade of a “B” or better for the course. All students must maintain a “C” (75%) or better to continue in the honors sequence. Students that receive a grade lower than a “C” could be removed from the class upon administrative approval.

Language Arts is a block consisting of two class periods with the same teacher. Writing and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study composition techniques relating to advanced narrative and argumentative writing, literary elements, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, a large focus will be placed on research skills, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, and the steps of the writing process.

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

8th Grade Electives

7 Habits: Exploring Moral Fibers and Social Interactions

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

This course will offer a variety of assignments which help students explore and further develop their personal skills. Through countless experiences, students will look at: choosing a positive attitude, setting goals, time management, peer pressure, taking risks, conflict-resolution, communication skills, collaboration, balance, and more! This is the perfect course to help students make adjustments to find more success and happiness in life today, tomorrow, and beyond!

Art 8

One semester \$ 15 Fee

The Art 8 course offers students a learning experience similar to the Art 7 course (see description), with increased levels of artistic and academic expectations appropriate for this grade level. Lessons in the same areas of drawing, painting, ceramics and various media include instruction in higher-level concepts and processes, and use of a wider variety of tools and techniques. Art 8 students are challenged to build on current artistic knowledge and skill levels. *No prerequisites are required.*

Art in Action

One semester \$ 15 Fee

In the Art in Action course, 7th & 8th grade students are placed together in combination level classes. Unlike Art 7 and Art 8 classes where the emphasis is on creating art, this course teaches students to make important connections between the world around them, and the world of art. Lessons lead students to explore the work of artists, art critics, historians, and curators, as they learn where and how artworks are exhibited, why art is important, and how art influences and affects people. Using appropriate criterion and sources, they select, evaluate, and prepare student artwork for exhibit. They also collaborate with peers to create displays for local exhibits, shows and events. Art in Action students play a key role in connecting student artworks with the people and places that make up their daily lives. *No prerequisites or skill/experience levels required.*

AVID

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

*Subject to acceptance into the AVID program

AVID is a teacher approved elective course. In the AVID elective class, students learn organizational and study skills, work on critical thinking and asking probing questions, get academic help from peers and college/adult tutors, and participate in enrichment and motivational activities that make college seem attainable. Students in AVID are expected to enroll in rigorous classes, such as honors math, science, social studies, reading or writing. As students' progress in AVID, their self-images improve, and they become academically successful leaders and role models for other students.

Drama I

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

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

Drama II

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

Prerequisite: Drama I

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

Family and Consumer Science – 8

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

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

Future Health Professionals

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

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

Media Interactions in the 21st Century

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

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

Student Leadership - Student Council

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

**Requires teacher recommendation and application

** Limited positions available per grade level

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

Student Leadership – WEB – Where Everybody Belongs

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

**Requires teacher recommendation and application

** This course includes attendance at 2 summer training days and 1 summer day for 6th grade orientation

As WEB leaders, seventh and eighth graders will work to provide a quality experience for sixth graders transitioning into the middle school environment. WEB leaders will learn various leadership skills, explore their strengths and weaknesses, mentor 6th graders, and work on events that improve the overall school culture. As WEB leaders, students will learn and practice real-world communication skills as they are required to reach out to their assigned sixth graders throughout the school year. It is essential that WEB leaders mark the required summer days for their personal leadership development as well as creating bonds with their assigned sixth graders.

World Language Survey Class

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

World Language will provide the student with a one semester introduction to three foreign languages. E.g., Spanish, French, German, Arabic, Italian, Portuguese, Mandarin or other world languages based on the strengths of the instructor. During each six-week language study, students will be exposed to the culture of the target language as well as focus on basic vocabulary and grammar including: numbers, colors, greetings and farewells, and simple verb conjugations.

Spanish I

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Students are placed in this course based on their score on the Benchmark Tests, Grades, State Standards Test, parent request, and/or other approved tests adopted by the State Board of Education. Newell Barney and Queen Creek Middle School students may receive high school credit for Spanish I by successfully completing both semesters with a “C” or higher. Credits will be recorded onto the students’ high school transcript with NBMS & QCMS letter grades attached. These grades will be counted into the students’ cumulative grade point average.

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

Yearbook**One Semester \$15 Course Fee**

Prerequisites: Completed application and teacher recommendation. Students must have at least a "C" in all classes. Students will not be permitted in this class until they have met all the above qualifications.

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

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

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

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

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

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

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

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

PE uniform is mandatory.

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

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

Concert Band**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee***Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.*

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

Symphonic Band**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee***Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.*

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

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

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

Advanced Percussion**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee***Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.*

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

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

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

Introduction to Guitar**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee**

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

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

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

Intermediate Orchestra**One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee***Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and/or audition*

This course is designed for students who would have one to two years of experience in orchestra. Students should be able to fluently read their notes on the A and D Strings. This course will cover note reading, posture, performing individually and in a group, as well as a survey of music in context to today. In addition, this course will involve shifting

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

Advanced Orchestra

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

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

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

Math Lab

One Year = 2 Semesters

Math Lab is a required course for students who are not mastering grade level math skills. Placement determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation.

This course is designed to be paired with and support the assigned math class. This course will strengthen prerequisite skills, support and maintain grade level concepts, as well as address study skills. Successful completion of this course will provide students with an elective credit.

Reading Lab

One Year = 2 Semesters

In this course, students will gain foundational skills necessary to be successful in Language Arts. Student placement is determined by ATI/Galileo benchmark test scores and staff recommendation. This course will provide students with strategies and skills that proficient, critical, and close readers bring to any text. Areas of focus include but are not limited to reading fluently, summarizing main ideas, engaging in discussion, developing vocabulary, and making connections. Students will read and discuss fiction and non-fiction texts from multiple genres. An emphasis will also be placed on finding textual evidence to support claims made within a text.

Online Extension

One Semester \$100 Course Fee (Course Fee Summer School Only)

The online intervention program is designed to be completed *independently* by students. The program has all the tools necessary for your child's success and advancement. Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Writing lessons contain vocabulary, lectures, assignments, quizzes, and tests. These lessons introduce and reinforce state standards and concepts taught within the semester. Students must complete an online course for each 'F' they received in these subject areas. If completed successfully, a "D" will replace the failing grade.

Special Education

Resource Program

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

R Math 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

R Reading 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

R Social Skills 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

R Study Skills 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

R Writing 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Special Education

Pathways Program

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

Pathways Elective 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Pathways Group 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Pathways Math 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Pathways Reading 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Pathways Science 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Pathways Social Studies 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Pathways Writing 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Special Education

SAILS Program

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

SAILS Math 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

SAILS Reading 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

SAILS Science 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

SAILS Social Studies 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

SAILS Writing 6-8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

Notification of Rights under FERPA for Elementary and Secondary Schools

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

- Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school within 45 days of a request made to the school administrator. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records without copies. Schools may charge a fee for copies;
- Parents or eligible students have the right to request in writing that a school correct records that they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information;
- Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions;
- School officials with legitimate educational interest
 - A school official is a person employed or contracted by the school to serve as an administrator, supervisor, teacher, or support staff member (including health staff, law enforcement personnel, attorney, auditor, or other similar roles); a person serving on the school board; or a parent or student serving on an official committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks;
 - A legitimate educational interest means the review of records is necessary to fulfill a professional responsibility for the school;
- Other schools to which a student is seeking to enroll;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Accrediting organizations;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies; and
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law.

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

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

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