

Queen Creek Unified School District



EXCELLENCE THROUGH LEADERSHIP

Junior High Course Description Catalog

2020/2021

Queen Creek Unified School District

Course Description Catalog

Grades 7-8

2020-2021

Governing Board

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

District Administration

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Dr. Matt Strom, Associate Superintendent of Business and Operations
Dr. Cort Monroe, Assistant Superintendent Student Support Services
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Junior High Course Requirements

Grade 7	Grade 8
Math	Math
Reading	Reading
Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies
Writing	Writing
Career Exploration (1 Semester)	Electives (4 Semesters)
Electives (3 Semesters)	

1 Semester = ½ Year

AzM2

AzM2 is the statewide achievement test for Arizona students. It is aligned to Arizona's state learning standards which detail what students should be able to do at each grade level. It is also designed to measure student learning and progress towards readiness for college and career. AzM2 is administered on-line, during a statewide test 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.

Honors Courses

Honors/weighted courses are 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
- Inquiry learning
- Integration of two or more content areas
- Leadership components
- Service learning opportunities

Junior High Homework Guidelines

In QCUSD, we believe that homework is an important part of the educational process for our students. Homework can be a powerful tool to help parents become more involved in their child's learning. It can provide insights into a child's strengths and interests, and can also encourage conversations about a child's life at school. We also recognize the importance of family and recreational time for our students outside of school.

Homework is intended to reinforce what students are learning, can be completed independently, and should deepen our student's understanding of key standards.

In order to support a balance of home/school activities on any given night, the following guidelines will be put in place:

1. Homework may be assigned Monday through Thursday. Generally, homework assignments will consist of approximately 20 minutes of practice. A student should not work on any given subject for more than 20-30 minutes a night. If a student is spending significantly more time than this, they should document the cause and share with the teacher the next day.
 - a. It is important that the student communicates exactly what aspect of the homework is creating a challenge. This helps build advocacy and gives the teacher guidance on how to best support the student.
2. Teachers will collaborate to increase awareness of what other content teachers are assigning and plan accordingly in order to support this balance. The general guideline will be 60 minutes of homework maximum per night, but this may fluctuate depending on upcoming projects, assessments, etc.
3. Teachers will consider the time needed to work on projects when assigning homework as part of the recommended minutes per subject. Parents should support students with pacing work on projects throughout the quarter to avoid excessive homework time spent completing projects right before the due date.

7th Grade Course Selections

Math 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students will develop an understanding of proportional relationships to solve single- and multi-step problems. Students will develop a unified understanding of numbers by recognizing fractions, decimals, and percents as different representations of rational numbers. The course includes the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of rational numbers. Students will use variables to represent quantities and construct simple equations and inequalities to solve problems. Topics in geometry, statistics and probability will also be explored. The standards of mathematical practices and modeling with mathematics are embedded into this course.

Honors Math 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course is intended to be taken after completing Honors Math 6. It is an accelerated course that includes the 2nd portion of the Math 7 standards and all of the Math 8 standards. The course is designed for a student preparing to take Algebra 1 during their 8th grade year. Students will develop an understanding of expressions, equations and inequalities, including modeling bivariate data with linear equations and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students will explore the concept of functions and use them to describe quantitative relationships. Students will analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, congruence, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Topics in statistics and probability will also be explored. The standards of mathematical practices and modeling with mathematics are embedded into this course.

Science 7

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 how cause and effect take place within and between a wide variety of force and motion systems including forces that shape our Earth.

Students will develop an understanding of the structure and function of cells within all living organisms, that cells come from existing cells and cells are the basic structural and functional unit of all living things. Students will further understand the relationship between major cell structures and cell functions and explain how cells, tissues, and organ systems maintain life.

Honors Science 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

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

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.

Language Arts 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Language Arts 7 is an integrated reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar 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 by reading texts from literary genres including, but not limited to: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, students will begin honing skills in the areas of research, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, grammatical structures of writing, and the steps of the writing process.

Honors Language Arts 7

One Year = 2 Semesters

Honors Language Arts 7 is an integrated reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar 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 by reading texts from literary genres including, but not limited to: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, students will begin honing skills in the areas of research, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, grammatical structures of writing, and the steps of the writing process.

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

Art I

One semester \$ 15 fee

Art I is a prerequisite for the other art classes, which can be taken in any order. Art I 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 II

One semester \$ 15 Fee

Art II course offers students a learning experience similar to the Art I course (see description), with increased levels of artistic and academic expectations. Lessons provide an in depth progression into drawing, painting and printmaking. Art II students are challenged to build on current artistic knowledge and skill levels. *Art I is a prerequisite.*

Art III

One semester \$ 15 Fee

Art III course offers students a learning experience similar to the Art I course (See description), with increased levels of artistic and academic expectations. Lessons provide an in depth progression into sculpting and ceramics. Art III students are challenged to build on current artistic knowledge and skill levels. *Art I is a prerequisite.*

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.

Family and Consumer Science – I

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. (QCJH and NBJH only)

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.

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.

Automation and Robotics

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

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!

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.

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 Band

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Placement is by teacher recommendation/audition.

A training-oriented performance ensemble for junior high 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 junior high 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.

Guitar I

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.

Guitar II

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

The course will build off instrumental skills learned in Guitar 1. The course will cover advanced note reading skills, music theory, chords and playing techniques associated with guitar. Students will be required to provide their own instrument. *Guitar I is a prerequisite.*

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.

Performance 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.

Symphonic Orchestra

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Prerequisite: Must pass performance 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.

8th Grade Course Descriptions

Math 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Students will develop an understanding of expressions, equations and inequalities, including modeling bivariate data with linear equations and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations. Students will explore the concept of functions and use them to describe quantitative relationships. Students will analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, congruence, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Topics in statistics and probability will also be explored. The standards of mathematical practices and modeling with mathematics are embedded into this course.

Algebra I

One Year = 2 Semesters

Junior high students may receive high school credit by successfully completing both semesters with a “C” or higher. Credit will be recorded onto the students’ high school transcript with NBJH/QCJH/EHS letter grades attached. These grades will be counted into the students’ cumulative grade point average and will fulfill an elective credit requirement toward graduation. Accelerated math opportunities are intended to provide students access to higher levels of math in high school, not replace high school math instruction. All students are required to take math all four years of high school.

This course is an accelerated course in Algebra 1 for students who have proven their exceptional interest, ability, and industry in mathematics. It is designed to deepen and extend understanding of linear and non-linear relationships by comparing and contrasting them with each other. Students will apply models to data that exhibit a linear trend. In addition, students will engage in methods of analyzing, solving and using exponential and quadratic functions. Emphasis will be on the application of the functions studied. This accelerated course uses the state standards as a guideline for its curriculum and prepares students for advanced study in mathematics and science. A graphing calculator is recommended for this course.

Science 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

In this course, students will explore stability and change to explore chemical properties of matter and chemical reactions to further understand energy and matter. Atomic theory, physical and chemical properties, energy transfer, and wave characteristics

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 also analyze Earth’s geological column to understand relative ages of rocks and fossils. Natural disasters and geologic events along with human impact of the Earth’s limited resources will also be explored.

Honors Science 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

This course addresses the same 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

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.

Language Arts 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

Language Arts 8 is an integrated reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar curriculum. Essential reading strategies, language acquisition, and speaking and listening skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will deeply study literary elements, vocabulary in context, and text structures by reading texts from literary genres including, but not limited to: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. An emphasis will also be placed on reading and analyzing informational and functional text. Additionally, students will continue honing skills in the areas of research, citing sources of information, quote/evidence integration in writing, grammatical structures of writing, and the steps of the writing process.

Honors Language Arts 8

One Year = 2 Semesters

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8th Grade Electives

Art I

Art I is a prerequisite for the other art classes, which can be taken in any order. Art I 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 II

Art II 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 provide an in depth progression into drawing, painting and printmaking. Art II students are challenged to build on current artistic knowledge and skill levels. *Art I is a prerequisite.*

One semester \$ 15 Fee

Art III

One semester \$ 15 Fee

Art III course offers students a learning experience similar to the Art I course (See description), with increased levels of artistic and academic expectations. Lessons provide an in depth progression into sculpting and ceramics. Art III students are challenged to build on current artistic knowledge and skill levels. *Art I is a prerequisite.*

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.

Family and Consumer Science – II

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.

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.

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.

Automation and Robotics

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

Students learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

Student Leadership - Student Council

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

**Requires 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! 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)

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

**Requires application

** This course includes attendance at 2 summer training days and 1 summer day for 7th grade orientation

As WEB leaders, eighth graders will work to provide a quality experience for seventh graders transitioning into the junior high school environment. WEB leaders will learn various leadership skills, explore their strengths and weaknesses, mentor 7th 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 seventh 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 seventh graders.

Spanish I

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Newell Barney and Queen Creek Junior High 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 NBJH/QCJH/EHS 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.

Journalism

One Semester \$15 Course Fee

This course creates a volume of student school memories. Students in this class are 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 daily exercise and a 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 junior 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 junior 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.

Guitar I

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.

Guitar II

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

The course will build off instrumental skills learned in Guitar 1. The course will cover advanced note reading skills, music theory, chords and playing techniques associated with guitar. Students will be required to provide their own instrument. *Guitar I is a prerequisite.*

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.

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.

Cadet 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.

Symphonic Orchestra

One Year = 2 Semesters \$20 Course Fee

Prerequisite: Must pass Intermediate Orchestra with a C 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.

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