

Chinook Required Courses in all Grades

Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 will be required to successfully complete the following courses during their middle school career:

English Language Arts (ELA) – 2 Periods Every Day, All Year: Instruction will be guided by the Washington State Learning Standards. These standards set requirements not only for English language arts (ELA) but also for literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. Just as students must learn to read, write, speak, listen, and use language effectively in multiple disciplines, so too must the Standards specify the literacy skills and understandings required for college and career readiness in multiple disciplines. Literacy standards for grade 6 and above are predicated on teachers of ELA, history/social studies, science, and technical subjects using their content area expertise to help students meet the particular challenges of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language in their respective fields. It is important to note that the 6–12 literacy standards in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects are not meant to replace content standards in those areas but rather to supplement them.

History (Social Studies) – 1 Period Every Day, All Year: Social studies education contributes to developing responsible citizens in a culturally diverse, democratic society in an interdependent world. Social studies equips students to understand their own power and their own responsibility as citizens of the world’s most powerful democracy. It equips them to make sound judgments and to actively contribute to good stewardship of the natural environment, to the health and prosperity of their own communities, and to a democratic society. *In sixth and seventh grade, history will be combined with ELA to form a three period block of instruction taught by one teacher.* Not only does this allow us to better teach the literacy standards within the content of non-fiction, informational text but it increases the support for students by decreasing the number of teachers sixth and seventh graders see each day. This provides a supportive transition for students from elementary school.

6th Grade: Geography (1 semester) & Ancient Civilizations (1 semester)

7th Grade: Washington State History (1 semester) & Ancient Civilization (1 semester)

8th Grade: US History (all year)

Math – 1 Period Every Day, All Year: The Kennewick School Board recently adopted the goal to increase the number of eighth grade students who successfully complete high school algebra. As a result, more students than ever before are receiving math credit for high school as an eighth grader. The Washington State Standards for Mathematics continue to guide instruction with the goal for every student to reach algebra by eighth grade.

Chinook Math Courses:

Standard 6th Grade Math Class – Holt Mathematics Course Level 1

Accelerated 6th Grade Math Class – Holt Mathematics Course Level 2 (these students can take Algebra in 8th grade for HS credit)

Honors 6th Grade Math Class – Holt Mathematics Course Level 3 (these students will take Honors Algebra in 7th grade and Geometry in 8th grade)

Standard 7th Grade Math Class – Holt Mathematics Course Level 2

Accelerated 7th Grade Math Class – Holt Mathematics Course Level 3 (these students can take Algebra in 8th grade for HS credit)

Foundations of Algebra (No high school credit available - Students who score below the 50th percentile on their math MAP test will be assigned to this class. They will study the first half of the high school Algebra curriculum with the intent of learning the second half during their 9th grade year.)

Algebra 1 & 2 (High School Credit - Students who have a math MAP test history between the 50th and 90th percentiles and successfully completed Course 3 the previous year.)

Honors Algebra 1 & 2 – High School Credit (these students will take Honors Geometry upon successful completion)

Honors Geometry 1 & 2 (High School Credit – Must have successfully completed Honors Algebra 1 & 2)

Health & Fitness – 1 Period Every Day, All Year: An understanding of good health and fitness concepts and practices is essential for all students. Businesses have already started to realize the extent to which poor health practices can undermine an employee's effectiveness and ability to succeed. The same is true of students. Teaching our students good health and safety principles can lead to a lifetime of healthy practices, resulting in more productive, active, and successful lives. Chinook students will learn these principles through both physical activities and classroom lessons. Students are required to wear a PE uniform (shorts and shirt) which can be purchased in the office. They also will be required to bring a combination lock to secure their PE locker. Eighth grade students are allowed to waive Health & Fitness in order to take High School Spanish.

Science – 1 Period Every Day, All Year: When comprehending current events, choosing and using technology, or making informed decisions about one's healthcare, science understanding is key. Science is also at the heart of the United States' ability to continue to innovate, lead, and create the jobs of the future. Chinook science instruction will be guided by the Washington State Next Generation Science Standards.

6th Grade Life Science

7th Grade Earth Science

8th Physical Science

Chinook Elective Courses

Typically, students have one elective period* where they choose either a music or CTE (Career Technical Education) class. In music students choose between band, orchestra, and choir. In CTE, students take three different classes throughout the school year.

Music Classes:

Band – 1 Period Every Day, All Year: Students learn to play a band instrument (horns or percussion) while learning how to read music. Students conduct several performances during the school year. The preference is that students who start band in 6th grade remain in the program throughout middle school.

Orchestra - 1 Period Every Day, All Year: Students learn to play a string instrument while learning how to read music. The preference is that students who start orchestra in 5th grade remain in the program throughout middle school. If students did not take orchestra in elementary school but would like to join in 6th grade, please contact the teacher, Teri Glasford, before registering teri.glasford@ksd.org

Choir – 1 Period Every Day, All Year: Choir offers the opportunity to participate in a vocal music program dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in music through performance. Students participate in daily rehearsals. Student perform 3 evening concerts during the school year. The preference is that students who start choir in 6th grade remain in the program throughout middle school.

Career Technical Education (CTE)

Multimedia Design – 1 Period Every Day, 12 Weeks: Students will explore real world applications of the arts, focusing on multimedia design and its applications utilizing digital photography and Adobe software products. Using a variety of technologies to create projects, students will develop an understanding of the elements and principles of design as they demonstrate artistic behaviors and solve problems using critical and creative thinking.

Computer Applications – 1 Period Every Day, 12 Weeks: Students will learn computer basics and become familiar with the Microsoft Office, developing skills in Word, PPT, Excel and Outlook applications. Students will learn to create documents, presentations, and spreadsheets, as well as how to use email and effectively browse the web.

Pre-engineering Technology – 1 Period Every Day, 12 Weeks: Students will learn about engineering processes through designing, building and problem solving as

they are engaged in projects that apply math, science, and technology concepts to solve real-world challenges. Project areas include robotics, computer programming, electricity and electronics, wood-working, materials science, and green technologies.

Spanish 1 – 1 Period Every Day, All Year: Students learn to speak, read, and write in Spanish. This course is a high school level class, so students must have a history of academic success in order to enroll. Students will be selected based on their previous GPA and NWEA Reading Assessment scores. If more than 75 students register, students with the highest GPA and reading assessment scores will be chosen first. Those who are selected for the class will be required to complete a Health & Fitness waiver or substitute Spanish for an elective.

Office Assistant – 1 Period Every Day, 12 Weeks: This is a volunteer position for 7th or 8th grade students who would like to assist our office secretaries with school communications. It replaces one class of the CTE rotation.

**Eighth grade students have the option of taking Spanish in place of PE or an elective. Parents who have questions about course requirements or elective options should contact the principal, Kevin Pierce. kevin.pierce@ksd.org*