

Humphreys American School

Course Description Guide 2012-2013

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Mathematics

Mathematics 6 MAMF01

Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6

The standard and expectancies for Mathematics 6 place emphasis on mathematical activities and skill development. Number topics include concepts and computation with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, ratio, proportion and scientific notation and prime and composite numbers. Geometry topics include similarity and congruence of polygons, areas of circles, triangles, and parallelograms, volumes of prisms and cylinders, and circumference of circles. Algebraic concepts include graphing ordered pairs, writing and evaluating expressions, solving simple equations and inequalities. Statistics topics include mean, median, mode graphs and making predictions. Probability topics include tree diagrams and both experimental and theoretical probability.

Mathematics 7 MAM 101

Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 7

The standard and expectancies for Mathematics 7 place emphasis on solving real life problems involving ratios, percents, proportions, probability, statistics and rational numbers. Students formulate write and defend real world problems involving multi-step operations. A strong emphasis on mathematical concepts and understanding also supports the development of problem solving. Students will be actively engaged, using tools and appropriate technologies such as calculators and computers. Students will be encouraged to explain, summarize, analyze, design, and evaluate mathematical ideas in writing and discussion.

Mathematics 8 MAM 201

Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 8

The standard and expectancies for Mathematics 8 place emphasis on core concepts of algebraic and geometric reasoning. Students will be involved in investigations and demonstrate understanding in the areas of data analysis, the mathematics of chance, fractal geometry and chaos theory, and functions. A strong emphasis on mathematical concepts and understanding also supports the development of problem solving. Students will be actively engaged, using tools and appropriate technologies such as calculators and computers. Students will be encouraged to explain, summarize, analyze, design, and evaluate mathematical ideas in writing and discussion.

Algebra 1 C

Length of Course: 36 weeks

MAA 201C

Grade Level: 8

This course may be the most common entry-level course for students who have has a rich and varied middle level mathematics program. It expands upon basic algebraic concepts previously acquired and integrates those principals with everyday life. Students will use formulas, functions, and equations to describe and clarify relationships as well as solve first and second degree equations and use functions to model real world phenomena. Students will have access to calculators at appropriate times. Cooperative learning and appropriate technologies are utilized throughout the course. This course generally follows middle school mathematics. A passing score on the diagnostic test is required for 8th grade students taking the course.

**Geometry
MAG 201C**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 8**

Preparation: Algebra 1

This course is designed to develop and promote students reasoning and problem solving involving geometric concepts and properties. Students will learn how to plan, organize, and complete various forms of proofs using deductive reasoning. Students will have access to calculators at appropriate times. This course involves inductive reasoning, extended projects, classroom presentations by students, open-ended investigations, and written justification by students of the solutions of the problems.

SCIENCE

**Integrated Science I
SCGF02**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6**

The Science 6 course is designed to show the relationship among living things is compared and contrasted through the study of the animal and plant kingdoms. The concept of change is explored through the study of the light and sound, energy transformation, earth's place in space, and ocean physics. Daily practice is provided for students to discuss and defend their scientific knowledge and opinions. The course is designed to help students think and write about science.

**Integrated Science II
SCGF102**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 7**

The Science 7 course is designed to provide students with an integration of the four primary science disciplines: biology, earth science, chemistry and physics. Science 7 integrates the various disciplines in a thematically organized framework. The various topics the students will study include light, water, ecology, motion, geology, and plant and animal life. Teaching

strategies include demonstrations, discussions, investigations, and hands on activities.

**Integrated Science III
SCGF202**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 8**

The Science 8 course is designed to expand the students' awareness of content and process in the integrated study of life, earth and physical sciences. This course includes: energy, systems and interactions, scale and structure, stability and change patterns. Scientific properties are logically integrated. Teaching strategies include demonstrations, discussions, investigations, and hands-on activities.

English Language Arts

**Language Arts 6
LARF 01**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6**

The language Arts 6 program is designed to strengthen students' skills in listening, speaking, writing, and reading literature. Units are thematically based and offer students a variety of material and projects. The literacy Place Program used in 6th grade is a multifaceted approach to Language Arts. Strong Emphasis is placed on the writing process with a thorough review of grammar basics. Students study different types of literature and focus on the concepts of literature to include: characterization, setting, and plot. Students read self-selected books and learn how to view reading as a useful and pleasurable experience.

**Reading 6
LARF01**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level 6**

The reading course is designed to focus on using context clues; understanding similes and metaphors: using punctuation as a key to comprehension: using the library and using references resources such as encyclopedias, newspapers and magazines: locating and interpreting graphic information: recognizing bias and evaluating statements of opinions; using study skills such as note taking and outlining; and recognizing various types of literature. Major topics to be studied include structural analysis, vocabulary building, reading comprehension, and study and reference skills, and reading in the content areas. Special emphasis is placed on developing an appreciation for literature and fostering self initiated reading.

**Language Arts 7
LAE 101**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level:**

The Language Arts 7 course is designed to strengthen students' skills in listening, speaking, writing, literature, and language. The content includes,

but is not limited to, developing an understanding of listening responsibility, a tolerance for other points of view, and knowledge of various listening techniques for various situations; using standard English in classroom situations; developing an appreciation for the importance of speech in problem solving and the importance of skill in organizing information, thoughts, and ideas logically, leading to clear, concise oral presentations; practicing the process of composition, including prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading, and publishing; writing in complete sentences; using proofreading skills to correct spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar and usage in final drafts; experiencing different types of literature (e.g., short stories, novels, non-fiction, poetry, mythology; applying information found in the dictionary and the thesaurus; using the media center research facilities; and reading self-selected books to help students learn to view reading as a useful and pleasurable activity.

**Language Arts 8
LAE 201**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level 8**

The Language Arts 8 course is designed to strengthen students' skills in listening, speaking, writing, literature, and language. The content includes, but is not limited to, writing notes from information received aurally; developing an aware-ness of sexism, racism, and age bias in material heard, viewed, or read; differentiating between emotional and intellectual arguments in a spoken or written discussion; discriminating among fact, fiction, opinion, assumption, and inference in spoken and written language; writing paragraphs composed of an appropriate topic sentence and adequate supportive material; writing coherent answers on essay tests; writing in various modes for self-discovery, self-expression, and enjoyment; presenting narrative and descriptive writing; identifying basic literary terms as they are used in discussing literature, e.g., characterization, plot, setting, and mood; using parts of speech correctly in final written drafts and in speech in the classroom setting; and reading and reviewing self-selected books to help students learn to view reading as a useful and pleasurable activity.

**English as a second Language
LAA 101**

**Length of Course: 36 Weeks
Grade Level: 6-8**

The English as a Second Language courses are designed to strengthen the English Language skills of students who speak other languages, including the skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. The content included, but is not limited to: listening to English to practice comprehension, verbalizing experiences orally, practicing the process of composition, and developing verbal skills necessary for the world of work and/ or post secondary education.

**Reading 180
RED105**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6th – 8th**

This course is designed to improve reading achievement for students not reading at grade level through the use of a whole group instructional model with small group rotations including Literacy instruction with technology support providing models and Lexile leveled text passages for instruction. Modeled and independent reading strategies will be used to modeled and independent reading strategies will be used to model or practice good reading strategies.

Social Studies

**Social Studies 6
SSEF 01**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6**

This course is an overview of societal development from ancient times to present day. Students learn how geography influenced that development. Students also study similarities and differences of world cultures and learn how cultures exchange knowledge and influence on another.

**World Geography
SSC 101**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 7**

The world Geography 7 course is designed to build on the background of geographical and cultural studies presented in the elementary curriculum. Students begin to look in depth at given regions of the world with an emphasis in physical geography. The course of study places emphasis on the following regions: North and South America, Western Europe, Africa, Australia, and the Pacific world. Students will study earth movement and forms from globes, use maps and graphs to study geographic patterns, and research information on major geographic patterns.

**U.S. History
SSU 201**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 8**

Major Concepts/Content: United States History and Geography: Growth and Conflict Students in grade eight study the ideas, issues, and events leading to framing of the Constitution through Reconstruction. After reviewing the development of America's democratic institutions, they learn about the challenges facing the new nation, with an emphasis on the

causes, course, and consequences of the Civil War. They make connections between the rise of industrialization and contemporary social and economic conditions.

Foreign Language

**Spanish I
FLS 101M**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 7-8**

The first year program is designed for the student to give simple oral and written information by using appropriate learned vocabulary, word order and grammatical forms, and read simple passages with comprehension.

**Spanish II
FLS 201M**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 7-8**

Preparation: Spanish 1

The second year program is designed to provide activities, projects and experiences that will enable the student to appreciate and value the target language. There is a stronger emphasis in communication ideas based on real life situations. Higher level grammatical structures will be practiced. Reading and writing activities will become more complex.

Fine Arts

**Beginning Band
MUI 101**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6-8**

The Beginning Band course is designed to introduce students to the following: basic instrumental music techniques such as tone production, articulation, breath control, pitch discrimination; melodic and rhythmic concepts and patterns; practice skills and habits; solo ensemble, and full group rehearsals; a variety of instrumental repertoire and experiences in performing ; and sound practice habits.

**Intermediate Band
MUI 102**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 7-8**

Preparation: Beginning Band

The intermediate Band course is designed to acquaint students with intermediate to advanced instrumental music and skills which include, but are not limited to the following content: intermediate to advanced level sight –reading skills: discrimination of pitch; absolute essentials for playing in tune; intermediate to advanced rhythm concepts and patterns; techniques for achieving the essentials of unity, balance and contrast in performing Instrumental music; the study of all major and minor scales; the opportunity of performing a variety of good musical repertoire; and listening skills development.

**Beginning Chorus
MUV 101**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6-8**

The Beginning Chorus course is designed to provide students to the following: learning the beginning and basic fundamentals of sight reading, vocal music, rehearsing and performing unison and two part music, signing with small and large groups, studying intonation, experiencing a wide variety of choral literature including secular and non secular music, singing with keyboard and other accompaniment, participating in public performances and musical productions.

Physical Education/ Health

**Physical Education
PEGF03/103/203**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6-8**

This semester course is designed to fully enable students to develop movement skills and conceptual knowledge and attitudes related to the needs of the adolescent. Developmentally appropriate concepts of physical fitness and personal and social development are also taught in this course. Students apply appropriate physical activity and fitness concepts and attitudes to the development of a healthy enhancing level of physical fitness. They demonstrate responsible and safe behavior applying appropriate concepts and attitudes to personal and social development. This course extends the depth and variety of instructional activities offered to further develop students' movement and physical fitness. Students participate in a variety of partially modified sports, rhythmic/dance, physical fitness, and other physical activities. Applications of concepts, thinking skills and positive attitudes to movement and physical fitness are featured. A focus on combining basic elements of movement to a rhythmic beat is emphasized in this course.

Professional- Technical Studies

**Computer Applications AB
PTI103**

**Length of Course: 18 weeks
Grade Level: 6**

This class introduces students to a variety of computer technology and its application to their daily lives. The areas of technology covered might include keyboarding, e-communications, word processing, presentations, spreadsheets, database, publication, and graphics.

**Computer Graphics
PTI112**

**Length of Course: 18 weeks
Grade Level: 7-8**

This class will incorporate computer software, hands-on art and digital photography. We will be studying the art of graphics using several different pieces of computer hardware and software. Projects will be based on the needs of your 'client.' Since this class is part of the Professional Technical Studies (PTS) subject area we will investigate graphics not only as an art form but as a profession.

**Business Enterprise
PTB102**

**Length of Course: 18 weeks
Grade Level: 7-8**

This class introduces students to the world of work---its expectations, demand for skills, flow-of-activity, and performance standards and need for interpersonal skills. The first nine weeks concentrate on developing these capabilities. The second nine weeks set up a cooperative business simulation leading to the class starting a business at school, peer instruction will be utilized by the managers as supervisor and by students training other students in new job assignments.

**Yearbook
AAY101**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 7-8**

The yearbook production course is a practical course designed to produce the official yearbook for the school. All phases of yearbook production, including photography, copy writing, page layout, and book and advertisement sales are included. The concept of accurate photojournalism is balanced with the need to present the events, activities, and personalities of the school year in a positive manner. There are some assignments outside of class time and some weekend participation required.

**Video Production
PTV103**

**Length of Course: 18 weeks
Grade Level: 7-8**

This class is designed to provide students with exploratory and investigative activities dealing with camera functions, filming techniques, composition, non-linear/linear editing, and computer animation/graphics. Through a hands-on approach students will learn the entire process of video/television production from initial filming to final editing. Since this class is part of the Professional Technical Studies (PTS) subject area we will investigate video productions as a career choice.

Electives

**AVID
LAV 101**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6-8**

AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) is a language arts based curriculum with emphasis on the writing as a tool of learning. In addition to

inquiry and collaboration, AVID also provides students with academic survival skills, i.e. time management, note taking, textbook reading, library research, test skills, study skills. The Cornell note-taking system is taught and students are expected to use this system in all classes.

**Creative Thinking
AACE01**

**Length of Course: 36 weeks
Grade Level: 6-8**

The critical thinking and creative problem solving course is designed to develop students' higher level thinking, and problem solving, and research skills. The course provides challenging critical and creative problem solving opportunities and allows students to make connections across disciplines through problem based learning activities.

**Research Project
INSI143**

**Length of Course: 18 weeks
Grade Level: 6-8**

This course is designed to develop the students' ability to plan, conduct and present a firsthand original research project. The course emphasizes the development of skills including: cognitive, learning to learn, problem solving, decision making, inquiry, synthesis, analysis, and communication skills. The focus of the investigation/ research is original, using real problems and discovery of new original information.

**Study Skills
AAS101**

**Length of Course: 18 weeks
Grade Level: 6-8**

The study skills course is designed to strengthen students' skills in implementing a variety of organizational and learning strategies to become more effective and efficient learners. The content includes, but is not limited to : organizing homework assignments and calendars; learning a variety of study techniques; developing skills for conducting a research assignment; refining ability to take notes by matching different techniques to a content area; preparing for and learning from test; developing unique strategies for learning in the manner that best fits individual strengths and weaknesses; learning to request and use assistance ; fostering the ability to work in pairs and teams as well as working independently; organizing time and materials to facilitate efficient schoolwork.

**Drama
DRA103**

**Length of Course: 18 weeks
Grade Level: 6-8**

The drama course is designed to give students the opportunity to experience drama as a significant and rewarding activity and to enable students to demonstrate knowledge of the historical background of drama. The content includes, but is not limited to, recognition of the different genres of drama (tragedy, comedy, farce, melodrama and musical) and the

elements of play writing; use of oral communication skills such as appropriate voice levels, gestures, posture and language; understanding of the importance of drama as a reflection of society; recognition of drama as a self-rewarding activity that involves the identification of the unique worth of the individual, the motivation behind human behavior; and the dynamics of interpersonal relationships.

Humanities
HUH103

Length of Course: 18 weeks
Grade Level: 6-8

To humanities course is designed is to examine human culture. The content includes but is not limited to the study of art, history, cultural values, social movements, philosophy and many other areas.

Learning Strategies
weeks
AAC331

Length of Course: 36
Grade Level: 6-8

The learning strategies course is designed to introduce special education students to concepts that are necessary for them to function in a regular classroom environment. The content includes, but is not limited to, the following concepts: time management, decision-making strategies, following directions, time-on-task behaviors, use of visual aids, organization of work site, organization of information, textbook usage strategies, note taking, test-taking strategies, dictionary reference skills and researching and locating information.