

Lufkin Middle School



8th Grade Course Description Guide

Spring 2020

**900 East Denman
Lufkin, Texas 75901**

(936) 630-4444

<http://sites.lufkinisd.org/lms/>

Lufkin Middle School

*Mission: to educate and equip all students
for success through exceptional learning experiences.*



The Course Description Guide provides information about all the courses we offer. As you select the courses with your child, be mindful of your son's or daughter's interests. We will do our best to honor your requests; if you have any questions please contact your grade level counselor/social worker.

6th Grade	Ms. Melinda Stowers Cole	mcole@lufkinisd.org	936-632-8049
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Danny Whisenant, Principal
Lufkin Middle School
Lufkin Independent School District

8th Grade Required Courses

Language Arts

Gifted/Talented Language Arts

Pre-AP Language Arts

Academic Language Arts

Math

Pre-AP Algebra I & STEM (High School Credit)*

Pre-AP Pre-Algebra

Academic Pre-Algebra

Science

STEM Science

Pre-AP Science

Academic Science

Social Studies

Pre-AP U.S. History

Academic U.S. History

Physical Education ½ year

(Band, Concert Choir, Athletics, Tennis, Intro to Dance or Drill Prep may fulfill the ½ year PE requirement.)

*NOTE: All 8th grade courses eligible for high school credit will be transcribed with the grades earned. Only failing grades may be repeated in grades 9-12. These grades will be included in student's GPA.

High School attendance requirements must be met for credit. ("To receive credit in a course, a student must attend at least 90 percent of the days the class is offered. A student who attends at least 75 percent but fewer than 90 percent of the days the class is offered may receive credit for the class if he or she completes a plan, approved by the principal that allows the student to fulfill the instructional requirements for the class.")

Electives

Half year Courses

These courses will meet 40 minutes every day for one semester

Art

College & Career Readiness

Choir - Treble - (Girls only)

Cross Country (1st semester only)

Introduction to Theater Arts

Office Aide

Physical Education

Computer Coding

Touch System Data Entry*

Full Year Courses

These courses will meet 40 minutes every day both semesters

Advanced Theater Arts

Athletics (Boys)(Football)

Athletics (Girls) tryouts

Band (Advanced Level)

Cheerleading (must be current cheerleader)

Choir- Treble

Choir (Mixed)

Drill/Cheer Combo

Dual Language Spanish* (*must be dual language*)

Yearbook/Tech

Physical Education

Spanish II*

Tennis

Drill Team (must be current drill)

Descriptions & Criteria for Gifted/Talented & Advanced Courses:

GT Language Arts

This course is designed to meet the needs of those students identified as gifted and talented. It allows the student to read, write, speak, and view skills in an independent manner through meaningful interdisciplinary tasks. Students will continue to develop an appreciation for literature through the study of literary elements in classics and contemporary selections. Emphasis is placed on moving from the literal to the abstract in the students' critical thinking skills and in the use of the language.

Students are selected for the course by a faculty committee and must be identified as gifted and talented program participants. **NOTE: Students will complete a summer reading assignment prior to entering this course.**

Pre-AP Language Arts

In order to help students and parents decide if Pre-AP language arts is the appropriate academic placement, the Pre-AP language arts teachers have developed a profile of a successful Pre-AP language arts student. Although a student may not exhibit all of these traits, it is a guide for examining characteristics that have been observed as contributing to student success in a language arts Pre-AP class. Carefully evaluate each of these traits to determine if Pre-AP placement is appropriate.

A successful Pre-AP language arts student is one who:

- enjoys reading and is presently reading on or above grade level,
- is committed to completing reading and writing assignments outside of class, will be willing to do independent projects that require research,
- is self-motivated and willing to do required assignments and turn them in on time, has good organizational skills,
- manages time effectively,
- has achieved a language arts average of 90 or above in an academic class or 85 or above in a Pre-AP class in the 7th grade.

Pre-AP Pre-Algebra

Students in Pre-AP Math must be self-motivated and hard working.

A successful Pre-AP math student is one who:

- is a critical thinker and problem solver
- has a firm grasp on basic skills such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers,
- has good organizational skills and manages time effectively, is a good problem solver and logical thinker,
- achieves an average grade in math of 90 or above in an academic class or 85 or above in a Pre-AP class in the seventh grade.

Pre-AP Science

Pre-AP science is recommended for students with a genuine interest in science who desire a more in-depth study of the subject. The class will have an inquiry based, integrated curriculum that explores physics, chemistry, environmental, earth and life science as it relates to the student, our community and society. Students will be responsible for extended assignments (outside of class), detailed labs and projects requiring some outside research, and the use of technology in the classroom. Additional outside projects may be required.

Pre-AP Social Studies

The course enhances a regular study of United States History through challenging reading assignments including primary source documents, intensive reading, and the use of current world situations, research, and critical thinking. Participants in this enriched curriculum will be required to perform at a level that surpasses the expected norm of students in a non-advanced class. Students will be expected to function more independently both in class and on homework assignments.

A successful Pre-AP Science or Social Studies student is one who:

- has a genuine interest in science and/or social studies and desires a more in depth study of the subject,
- is self motivated,
- accepts responsibility for turning in his/her homework, enjoys reading and research,
- likes to be challenged academically,
- is a critical thinker and problem solver, has good communication skills,
- and achieves an average grade of 85 or above in all 7th grade core academic subjects.

STEM Pre-AP Algebra I & STEM Science

Students who are selected to participate in this program excel in both mathematics and science.

The STEM Prep program, focusing on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) careers, is designed to further develop the mathematics and science knowledge and skills of the students who are enrolled in these courses. Students are invited into the STEM Prep program based on various criteria including state assessment results.

One of the goals of the program is to enable students to accelerate in mathematics and science coursework for Lufkin ISD. For this reason, a seventh grade STEM Prep student should plan to enroll in 8th grade Algebra I PAP for high school credit and advanced math and science coursework at Lufkin High School.

The expectation is for these students to apply to participate in the STEM Academy at Lufkin High School as a ninth grader.

Pre-AP Algebra I - (high school credit course)

Recommended Prerequisite: Grade 7 STEM Math or a combination of teacher recommendation, 1st semester 7th grade math scores, STAAR & Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test performance.

Algebra 1 PAP is a full term/year enriched and accelerated course which emphasizes basic algebraic concepts and extends higher level thinking skills. Students will become familiar with the graphing calculators in their study of algebraic concepts and use them to investigate problem-solving situations. This course is to prepare students for entry into the AP Mathematics program.

This is a freshman level class which gives the student high school credit for Algebra I Pre-AP. Students in this class will take the Algebra I End-of-Course test. They will not be responsible for the 8th grade STAAR math test.

AP Course Selection Options for the
8th Grade Algebra Student

	<i>One course a year</i>	<i>Accelerated Classes</i>
9th grade	Geometry	Geometry,-Algebra II
10th grade	Algebra II	Pre Calculus
11th grade	Pre-Calculus	Calculus
12th grade	Calculus	

Removal from Advanced Classes

Removal from an advanced class (such as GT, STEM Prep, Pre-AP, or high school credit courses) will require a committee decision. The committee will include the student, teacher, parent, counselor and an administrator. Removal will not be considered until the following steps have been taken:

- Student has attended tutoring at least once a week.
- There has been active parental involvement and support.
- There may be other necessary stipulations added in an effort to ensure every child has a level of success.
- Removal from a class will not occur until the end of the first six weeks period. The grades will remain on the record.
- Students may not be removed from an advanced class after the first nine weeks without principal approval for special circumstances.

UIL AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ELIBIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A student shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the District or the UIL after a grade evaluation period in which the student received a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class other than a course designated by the district as an advanced class (Pre-AP, STEM Prep, GT and Dual Language). An exemption may be made with principal approval for advanced classes. The student and the parent must make a request in writing to the principal for consideration. A suspension continues for at least three school weeks and is not removed during the school year until the conditions of REINSTATEMENT, described below, are met. A suspension shall not last beyond the end of a school year. -Grade evaluation period means: 1. The six-week grade reporting period; or 2. The first six weeks of a semester and each grade reporting period thereafter.

Make your last year at LMS a productive one!

- Make informed decisions about your future.
- Put forth effort in your classes.
- Use tutoring time to your advantage.
- Turn in assignments when they are due.
- Ask questions.
- Be prepared for moving on to LHS.



Specialized Programs

Dual Language

Dual Language Spanish offers an accelerated course of Spanish study for students who were previously enrolled in the Dual Language Magnet Program. In eighth grade, the Dual Language Spanish course continues to prepare students for the AP Spanish Language and AP Literature exams. It is presented in a systematic manner, six chapters, progressing in difficulty that introduce the vocabulary and grammar, provide practice exercises, conjugation tables and some of the more interesting literature selections.

Completion of the Dual Language Program at LMS can provide 2 high school Spanish credits. If Spanish I credit is earned in 5th grade, students will take Spanish IIA in 6th and Spanish IIB 7th grade—and Spanish III in 8th grade. If Spanish I credit is not earned in 5th grade, Spanish I credit can be earned in 6th and 7th grade—and Spanish II in 8th grade. Dual language students enrolled in Spanish II and Spanish III will be eligible for weighted credit. *Dual language elementary students are automatically enrolled in Dual Language Spanish at LMS.*

English as a Second Language (ESL)

This course serves the needs of students who are identified as English Learners with intermediate levels of listening, speaking, vocabulary development, reading, writing, grammar, and composition skills. STAAR reading and writing objectives are addressed. This course fulfills the Language Arts requirement.

GT Language Arts

Gifted and Talented Language Arts courses are offered at all three grade levels. This program offers students with research-based learning experiences which prepare them to pursue higher levels of academic achievement. Students must be identified as G/T for participation in the program.

Special Education

This program provides special education services and facilities to ensure the availability of comprehensive services so that each handicapped student has the opportunity to participate in an appropriate education designed to meet his/her individual needs. The following instructional settings are offered:

Regular class	Related services
Regular class with support	Speech therapy
Content Mastery Centers	Resource classes
Self-contained classes	Services for the hearing and visually impaired

STEM

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) course work is offered to prepare students for advanced math and science coursework at Lufkin High School. Students are invited into the STEM Prep program based on various criteria including the 5th grade state assessment results in both mathematics and science.

Other Programs

For students who need additional assistance to meet academic requirements, LMS offers a variety of options:

Dyslexic Students - Reading instruction for identified dyslexic students will support the Language Arts curriculum. This will be a required elective choice.

Content Mastery Centers (CMC Lab) allows for immediate access to individual assistance for a student in the CMC Lab when curriculum content is not mastered.

504 Students-Accommodation plans will be designed and implemented for eligible students.

Math 101—Students who require additional math intervention may be enrolled in this program for a semester in place of an elective.

Read 180—Students who require additional reading intervention may be enrolled in this program for a semester in place of an elective.

Supplemental Services

Clubs and Student Organizations – Students are provided with numerous opportunities to participate in co-curricular and extracurricular activities to enhance a sense of community, achievement, and support at Lufkin Middle School.

Guidance and Counseling - The guidance and counseling program consists of those services which aid the students in the areas of self-understanding, decision making and problem-solving skills, career awareness, and accepting personal responsibility.

Library Services - The Lufkin Middle School Library is the heart of the school where all students, faculty, and community members may come for information, enjoyment, resources, and services.

PAWS (Pause and Work Strategically)—This daily enrichment and intervention support provides opportunities for character development and academic support.

Tutoring – For students who need additional support or assistance, all core teachers offer tutoring twice a week before school.

UIL –Students have opportunities to compete against other schools to demonstrate their proficiency in select academic areas.

Elective Course Descriptions

Advanced Theater Arts (full year)

Students are required to have been in the 7th grade Intro. to Theater Arts class or to have performed in previous LMS shows. Students will have the opportunity to compete at U.I.L. One-Act Play. Students will also learn techniques of acting, technical theater, as well as studying a classic play. Students will be required to memorize and perform monologues or duos.

Art (1/2 year - \$5.00 Art Fee)

Students will use a variety of media to explore the elements and principles of art. A \$5.00 art fee will be applied toward student supplies. Students may choose one of the following sections:

Art I-Emphasis will be on basic art skills and design

Art II-Emphasis will be on creative drawing

Art III-Emphasis will be placed on painting

Athletics (Girls) (all year) Volleyball and Basketball

Athletics is an extracurricular event offered to 7th and 8th grade girls. Girls must participate in one of the sports. Track is offered in the spring semester only before or after school, but NOT during class time. 8th grade athletes MUST be able to attend practices until 5:00 p.m. to remain in the class and it is the parents' responsibility to arrange for transportation after the 5:00 p.m. practice. **A physical is required of all participants.**

Athletics (Boys) – Football (try-outs required for Basketball and Track) (all year)

Students desiring to have Athletics as an elective at LMS will be required to participate in football activities.

Boys' Athletics at Lufkin Middle School is designed to teach the basic fundamentals of team sports while enhancing positive peer relationships. Football, basketball, and track are offered through the athletic department.

Students will learn the rules of the games and work to improve their fundamental skills in the sport in which they are participating. There is no cost to parent or student. Uniforms, practice clothes, and transportation to any contest are provided by the district. Parents are required to pick up students on return from out of town contests. A physical is required of all participants. A Lufkin Middle School athlete is required and expected to have good attendance, great behavior and discipline in the classroom and the community.

Band (Advanced)

Prerequisite: 7th grade band (all year)

In this course further development of fundamentals needed to play a band instrument and read music will be enhanced in preparation for technical, musical, and marching challenges of high school band. Required performances will augment student's confidence in a variety of performance settings.

Cheer team—(All Year)

Prerequisite: prior spring tryouts

This course is designed to enhance specific cheerleading skills for performance purposes. Students can expect to practice skills such as group cheers, game chants, formations, stunts, gymnastics, and pom -pom routines. All cheerleaders are required to attend camp in the summer. Cheerleaders will perform at LMS football and basketball games as well as pep rallies/community/school events and attend local competitions.

Choir - 8th Grade Treble Choir (girls only) (1/2 or all year)

Eighth Grade Treble Choir is a full year or half year course for girls interested in a quality choral experience.

Unison, two-part and three-part voicing will be the primary focus. Students will receive training in sight singing, correct vocal production, pitch matching, harmonization, rhythmic accuracy, and performance skills. Students will perform three concerts during the year, attend All-Region Choir Auditions and UIL events. Students must keep their grades eligible (70 and above) each grading period to participate in extra-curricular activities. Attendance at performances and occasional after school rehearsals is required and is a major portion of the grade in this course. \$13.00 Region Choir Fee optional.

Choir-8th Mixed Choir (all year)

8th Grade Mixed Choir is a full year course for students interested in a quality choral experience. Unison, two-part, and three-part voicing will be the primary focus. Students will receive training in sight singing, correct vocal production, pitch matching, harmonization, rhythmic accuracy, and performance skills. Students will perform three concerts during the year, attend All-Region Choir Auditions and UIL events. Students must keep their grades eligible (70 and above) each grading period to participate in extra-curricular activities. Attendance at performances and occasional after school rehearsals is required and is a major portion of the grade in this course. \$13.00 Region Choir Fee optional.

College and Career Readiness (1/2 year)

Students will evaluate skills needed for personal career success, utilizing problem-solving and critical thinking skills to make informed decisions. Emphasis will be placed on job seeking skills including the importance of stress and time management as well as career goal setting. Students will utilize individualized career interest data to research the educational and certification requirements for a wide variety of careers.

Computer Coding (1/2 year)

Write computer code to drive websites, create video-games, and control robots. Learn to think like a computer scientist by planning and creating programs that solve complex problems.

Cross Country (fall semester only)

From August through December, a competitive running program that builds students' self-esteem through an individual and team environment. Mileage is built in a very slow, beginner runner's fashion and personal growth and fitness as well as supportive team building skills become part of each student's daily workouts. Daily runs take place on and off campus, accompanied by a coach. This program also provides a great learning experience of what cross country truly entails for those students interested in running at the high school level.

Drill Team (full year)

Prerequisite: prior spring tryouts

This course is designed to enhance specific dance skills for performance purposes. Students can expect to practice skills such as splits, high kicks, dance combinations, and stand routines. All LMS Drill Team members are required to attend camp in the summer. Drill Team will perform at LMS football and basketball games as well as pep rallies/community/school events and attend local competitions. LMS Drill team will also perform in the annual Panther Pride Spring Show.

Drill and Cheer Combo Class (all year)

This class is one full year in length. This class does NOT require a tryout. This class provides instruction to girls who are interested in trying out for LHS JV Drill Team or Freshmen Cheerleader. Students may have a performance opportunity at a pep rally or fine arts showcase.

Dual Language Spanish--Prerequisite: Dual Spanish in 7th grade (full year)—high school credit*

This course will focus on continued development of vocabulary, reading, writing, grammar and composition in Spanish. The literature will explore the history, culture and diversity of the Spanish-speaking world. Students who demonstrate successful completion of Dual Language Spanish may be awarded one unit of weighted high school credit. If Spanish I credit is earned in 5th grade, students will take Spanish IIA in 6th and Spanish IIB 7th grade—and Spanish III in 8th grade. If Spanish I credit is not earned in 5th grade, Spanish I credit can be earned in 6th and 7th grade—and Spanish II in 8th grade. Dual language students enrolled in Spanish II and Spanish III will be eligible for weighted credit.

Introduction to Theater Arts (1/2 year)

Students will explore the world of theater arts. We will study and evaluate various acting techniques, principles of scenery, costumes, stage make-up, and lighting. Students will study a Shakespearean play, musicals, Greek Theater... and much more! Students are required to perform memorized monologues.

Office Aide/Library Aide (1/2 year) (requires application)

This course provides students with the opportunity to assist with basic office or library duties. This class does require an application and approval by the counselor.

Physical Education (1/2 year or all year)

This class incorporates exercising and learning basic game skills. Students are required to dress out and participate each day. Boys and girls must bring appropriate shorts and t-shirts from home.

Spanish II (full year)—Prerequisite Spanish IB—high school credit*

Spanish II will expand upon the tasks and knowledge of the Spanish language learner as presented in Spanish IA & IB. Spanish II is a full year course. Students who demonstrate successful completion of Spanish II may be awarded one unit of high school credit.

Tennis (Full year)

This class is for students who have a serious interest in playing competitive tennis in high school. Tennis will enhance the students' basic skills for weekend competition. There are specific requirements for competition on the weekend.

Prerequisites: Competitive spirit, shoes and a tennis racket. Tryouts may be required.

Touch System Data Entry (1/2 year) –high school credit*

Students learn to touch key and apply skills to business applications such as: memos, tables, charts, graphs, letters, and reports. Students participate in group projects which include team building activities and presentation skills. Students apply reading, computing, writing and reasoning skills to create documents for their own business. This course, if successfully completed, and attendance requirement met, will qualify for ½ local credit for Lufkin High School.

Yearbook/Technology (full year) (Requires application)

Students will assist with the creation of the LMS yearbook including layout, cover design, photography, copy writing, and record keeping procedures. Students will also have the opportunity to expand on basics that were learned in Intro to Technology. Research skills along with expanding proficiency in Desktop Publishing, Power Point and Spreadsheets will be emphasized. Students must possess good word processing skills, be mature and able to work independently.