

Mendota Junior High School

Course Descriptions

Course Title	Text Book/ISBN	Grade Level	Course Description
U.S. History		8th	This course focuses on the examination of major turning points in American history in the 18 th and 19 th century. The course emphasizes specific themes, such as the expanding role of the federal government and federal courts; the continuing tension between the individual and the state and between minority rights and majority power; the civil war and reconstruction; the impact of the industrial revolution on American society and culture; change in the ethnic composition of American society; the movements toward equal rights for racial minorities and women.
Historical Lit.		7th & 8th	This course is designed to offer the student an opportunity to study and reflect upon Historical literature. Students improve their critical thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values presented in the different literature. Oral discussion and written composition are integral parts of the course emphasis. The course may survey representative works of a particular genre or a specific theme or works of a particular era.
Literature		7th & 8th	This course is designed to offer the student an opportunity to study and reflect upon English literature. Students improve their critical thinking skills as they determine the underlying assumptions and values presented in literary works. Oral discussion and written composition are integral parts of the course emphasis. The course may survey representative works of a particular genre or a specific theme or works of a particular era of literature.
English Language Arts		7th	English Language Arts builds upon the students prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and mechanics of writing, and usually includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Various genres of literature, including expository and informational materials, are introduced, with written compositions in a variety of genres, often linked to the reading selections.
English Language		8th	English Language Arts builds upon the

Arts			students prior knowledge of grammar, vocabulary, word usage, and mechanics of writing, and usually includes the four aspects of language use: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Various genres of literature, including expository and informational materials, are introduced, with written compositions in a variety of genres, often linked to the reading selections.
Band/Guitar & Percussion		7th & 8th	This program is a performing band, typically of fifteen or more students, in which students learn proper individual and band instrument technique, receive standards-based sequential music instruction. It may include guitar band, garage band, symphonic band, marching band, Mariachi, jazz band, swing bands, or stage bands. There may be more than one band group at the same time, within the course of instruction.
Mathematics		7th & 8th	This course is designed to assist students in mastering sixteen target standards with a primary focus on developing students mastery of arithmetic concepts and skills. Materials should include a wide range of difficulty, starting with simple one-step problems and progressing to multi-step problems to ensure student success. Units should include whole numbers and their operations, rational numbers and their operations, symbolic notation, equations and functions, the coordinate plane, graphing proportional relationships, and Algebra.
Computers		7th & 8th	This introductory course in computers is designed to acquaint the students with techniques for using computers. Students learn key entry skills in order to use simple word processors, mathematical or database applications, and simple graphics programming. When school resources allow, teachers may introduce students to the Internet, where they learn about different search engines, e-mail, and the variety of educational resources on the Internet.
Physical Education		7th & 8th	This course provides students with knowledge and skills related to one or more of the nine content areas of health education, as defined in the Health Framework: (1) nutrition; (2) prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs; (3) personal health; (4) injury prevention and safety; (5) individual growth and development; (6) consumer and

			community health; (7) environmental health; (8) communicable and chronic diseases; and (9) family life. Family life education promotes the development of positive family interactions and may include human sexuality, dating, relationships, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. This course provides students with content and skills that enable them to apply specific knowledge in their own personal behaviors and environments. This course builds the skills students need to recognize and resist negative influences. It includes decision-making, goal setting, communication, and interpersonal skills.
Life Skills		7th & 8th	Life Skills is designed to increase student knowledge and ability in skills necessary for everyday living. The course emphasizes defining personal values, goal-setting and planning, making decisions and solving problems, evaluating information and dealing with media and peer pressure, communication and relationships, decision making, wellness and personal safety, and contributing to your community.
Science		?	This course covers the structure and state of matter. Topics may include forms of energy, wave phenomenon, electromagnetism, and physical/chemical interactions.
Science		?	This course combines more than one branch of science into a cohesive study where students explore general scientific concepts. Topics covered include the principles underlying the scientific method and the techniques of experimentation.
World History		7th	This course provides an overview of the history of human society from early civilization to the contemporary period, examining political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural developments. Students study cultures of the western and nonwestern world. The course integrates geography with history and cultural studies.
Geography		7th & 8th	This course provides an understanding of the distribution and characteristics of the world's major cultures and of the dynamics of human migration and cultural diffusion. Topics include basic physical geography, map reading, and studies of various regions of the world. The

			course emphasizes the traditional and contemporary roles of foreign nations in the growth of American culture.
Yearbook		7th & 8th	This course is designed to provide students with practical experience in planning and producing a book that chronicles the school's events during the year. The course uses an eclectic approach in which students from a variety of disciplines (English, art, photography, graphic arts) cooperate in the production of a yearbook.
Art		7th & 8th	This is a basic course in the fundamentals of art expression taught to the visual arts standards. In grades seven through eight, the course may include experiences in drawing, painting, two-and three-dimensional design, and sculpture. The course emphasizes observations, interpretation of the visual environment, and imagination and symbolic subjects. Included are application of the elements and principles of design, a study of historical and contemporary art and artists from a worldwide perspective, and instruction and practice in the critique process.
Health and Nutrition		7th & 8th	This concentration course expands on the comprehensive core and prepares students to understand the scientific principles of nutrition, the relationship of nutrition to health and well-being, and careers related to food and nutrition. Instruction includes nutrition and health, safety and emergencies, food safety and sanitation, meal management, food preparation, food purchasing, food in culture, the science of food and nutrition, food costs and production, and food technology. This course provides a solid background for a wide range of careers food science, dietetics and nutrition, as well as food service and hospitality.
Introduction to Woodworking		7th & 8th	This introductory course prepares students to safely design, lay out and shape stock; assemble wooden articles or subassemblies; mark, bind, saw, carve, and sand wooden products; repair wooden articles; and use a variety of hand and power tools.
M.E.S.A.		7th & 8th	
English Language Development		7th and 8th	The course focuses on reading, writing,

			speaking, and listening. Students participate in extensive listening and speaking exercises. The course covers basic structures of the English language. Students progress from an elementary understanding of English words and verb tenses to a more comprehensive grasp of various formal and informal styles. The course may include an orientation to the customs and cultures of people in the United States.
Title III			
RSP			
Special Education			