



Curriculum Guide

Artesia Junior High School

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Notice

It is the policy of the Artesia Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, or handicap in any of its

educational programs or employment practices. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 may be directed to Mr. John Ross Null, Assistant Superintendent, at 1106 W Quay, Artesia, NM 88210.

Mission Statement

To provide a safe and
supportive
environment that
encourages the
academic
development and

strong moral character
of all students.

COURSE OFFERINGS FOR 8th and 9th GRADES

8th Grade

English/Language Arts
Mathematics (Pre-Algebra/Algebra I/Algebra I H)
Early U.S. History
Earth Science
**Reading Enrichment
**Applied Math

9th grade

English I/English I H
Mathematics (Algebra I/Geometry/Geometry H)
Science (Physical Science or Biology I H)
New Mexico History (semester course)

(In order to take Biology I Honors as a 9th grader, student must have completed Algebra I Honors as an 8th grader)

Elective Subjects:

*Spanish I
Keyboarding

Family Consumer Science
Woodworking
Creative Art
Introduction to the Science of Agriculture
*Drafting – General
Yearbook
*Driver’s Education (Classroom only/taken with NM History)
Athletics
Physical Education
Concert/Marching Band
Chorus (Treble Choir)
Vocal Ensemble (Mixed Choir)
Library and Information Literacy Skills
Office Aide
Photography
Weight Training
STEM
Current Events

**Electives offered to 9th graders only*

***Students who have not mastered proficiency on the PARCC will be recommended to take these courses.*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR 8TH AND 9TH GRADES

REQUIRED SUBJECTS (SOLIDS)

Solid Courses are English, Math, History and Science

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 8TH GRADE

This is a general ELA class that has been vertically aligned with ELA classes at the intermediate and high school levels. It follows the Common Core State Standards [<http://www.corestandards.org/>] for 8th grade students. Students will complete tasks in order to be prepared for college and career readiness. The five main standards addressed are reading: literature, reading: informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Students will do individual, small groups, and whole group projects and tasks to master objectives set forth by the CCSS. Reading material will be taken from the exemplar texts identified in the CCSS Appendix for 8th grade.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS HONORS 8th GRADE

This is a fast paced, ELA class that has been vertically aligned with ELA classes at the intermediate and high school levels. It follows the Common Core State Standards [<http://www.corestandards.org/>] for 8th grade students. Students will complete tasks in order to be prepared for college and career readiness. The five main standards addressed are reading: literature, reading: informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Students will do individual, small groups, and whole group projects and tasks to master objectives set forth by the CCSS. Reading material will be taken from the exemplar texts identified in the CCSS Appendix for 8th grade.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 9th GRADE

This is a general ELA class that has been vertically aligned with ELA classes grades 6-12. It follows the Common Core State Standards [<http://www.corestandards.org/>] for 9th grade students. Students will complete tasks in order to be prepared for college and career readiness. The five main standards addressed are reading: literature, reading: informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Students will do individual, small groups, and whole group projects and tasks to master objectives set forth by the CCSS. Reading material will be taken from the exemplar texts identified in the CCSS Appendix for grades 9-10. In high school, the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards (CCR) are addressed with more frequency. The CCR and

CCSS are utilized together to provide a broad understanding of future expectations as well as grade specific objectives for students to master.

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS HONORS 9th GRADE

This is a fast-paced, Pre-AP ELA class that has been vertically aligned with ELA classes grades 6-12. It follows the Common Core State Standards [<http://www.corestandards.org/>] for 9th grade students. Students will complete tasks in order to be prepared for college and career readiness. The five main standards addressed are reading: literature, reading: informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Students will do individual, small groups, and whole group projects and tasks to master objectives set forth by the CCSS. Reading material will be taken from the exemplar texts identified in the CCSS Appendix for grades 9-10. . In high school, the College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards (CCR) are addressed with more frequency. The CCR and CCSS are utilized together to provide a broad

understanding of future expectations as well as grade specific objectives for students to master.

READING ENRICHMENT

This is an enrichment class to strengthen a student's basic reading skills. It follows the Common Core State Standards for 8th grade students. Students will complete tasks to better prepare them for success in their core classes. The students' time will be equally split between traditional classroom instruction and online based individually paced instruction. Students will do individual, small groups, whole group, and online projects and tasks to master objectives set forth by the CCSS. Online programs used are Total Reader and My Skills Tutor. *Reading Enrichment is designed for students who have not yet mastered proficiency on the PARCC.*

PRE ALGEBRA 8th GRADE

In this course, properties of operations take on prominence as arithmetic matures into Algebra. The theme of quantitative relationships also becomes explicit, developing into the formal notion of a function; as this course helps to prepare students prepare for Algebra 1 and is aligned to the Common Core. Topics include: rational and irrational numbers, linear equations in one variable, integer exponents, scientific notation, proportional relationships, lines, and linear equations, systems of two linear equations, defining and comparing functions, linear functions, congruence, similarity, reasoning in Geometry, the Pythagorean Theorem, surface area and volume, scatter plots and analyzing categorical data.

ALGEBRA I HONORS 8th GRADE

Algebra 1 covers topics typically treated in a first year algebra course and is aligned to the Common Core. Topics include: solving and graphing equations and inequalities in one variable, systems of equations (linear/linear and linear/quadratic), interpreting and analyzing functions to include linear, quadratic, absolute value, square root, cube root, piece-wise, step, exponential and logarithmic; factoring polynomials, exponents and roots, properties of real numbers, Pythagorean theorem, radical expressions and equations, rational expressions, data analysis and probability. Students will develop problem-solving skills and will become well versed in using the graphing calculator as a tool to aid in problem-solving. The use of MathXL will be incorporated throughout the school year. Included uses will be in-class practice, spiral review outside of class as well as in-class quizzes and tests. *Student has to have*

a recommendation from the 7th Grade teacher and proficient or advanced on the PARCC.

GEOMETRY HONORS/REGULAR 9TH GRADE

Geometry is a form of mathematics that studies the following topics and is aligned to the Common Core. Topics include: congruency in triangles (to include two-column proofs), similarity, transformations, right triangles, trigonometry, circles, geometric constructions, geometric measurement and dimension (two-dimensional and three-dimensional), introduction to conic sections, conditional probability and the rules of probability. Graphing calculators and the aid of visual tools will be used at appropriate times. The use of MathXL will be incorporated throughout the school year. Included uses will be in-class practice, spiral review outside of class as well as in-class quizzes and tests. This class is for 9th graders who have taken Algebra 1 as 8th graders. *Successful completion of 8th Grade Algebra 1 is required.*

ALGEBRA I 8th or 9th GRADE

Algebra 1 covers topics typically treated in a first year algebra course and is aligned to the Common Core. Topics include: properties of real numbers, solving one, two and multi-step equations and equations with variables on both sides, ratios, rates, conversions, proportions, solving and graphing inequalities, unions and intersections of sets, functions, linear functions, solving and graphing systems of linear inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring,

quadratic functions, radical expressions and equations, rational expressions and functions and data analysis and probability. The use of MathXL will be incorporated throughout the school year. Included uses will be in-class practice, spiral review outside of class as well as in-class quizzes and tests. *Algebra 1 is a high school credit required to graduate.*

APPLIED MATH

This is an enrichment class to strengthen a student's basic math skills. It follows the Common Core State Standards for 8th grade and lower level students. Students will complete tasks to better prepare them for success in their core math class. Topics include, but are not limited to, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. Students will also master positive and negative integers, linear equations, percentages, order of operations, exponents, rational/irrational numbers, basic geometry, and other pre-algebra operations. The students' time will be equally split between traditional

classroom instruction and online based individually paced instruction. Students will do individual, small groups, whole group, and online projects and tasks to master objectives set forth by the CCSS. Online programs used are ALEKS, Accelerated Math, and My Skills Tutor.

Applied Math is designed for students who have not yet mastered proficiency on the PARCC.

EARLY U.S. HISTORY 8th GRADE

Eighth grade U.S. History will start with the early Americas in the 1400s. We will then travel through Colonial Settlement, Creating a Nation; which covers the American Revolution, The New Republic; which will cover the First Presidents and The Growing Nation will lead us to the American Civil War. This class will end with the Civil War and Reconstruction. This class promises a clear and Comprehensive Coverage of American History made relevant through current events, opportunities for discussion and an in depth evaluation of historical issues.

NEW MEXICO HISTORY 9th GRADE

New Mexico History is a half credit requirement for graduation. By using the book "*New Mexico a Brief Multi-History*" written by Ruben Salaz Marquez, this class offers a thorough historical account of New Mexico from the pre-contact era until the 21st century modern events. It is written in non-narrative time-line fashion using a multitude of primary sources as its data. **This class is offered as the opposite semester course from Drivers Education.*

EARTH SCIENCE 8th GRADE

Earth Science is an in-depth study of how physical, chemical, and nuclear processes come together to shape our planet, and how our planet and solar system fit into the structure of the universe. Principles underlying Earth's weather patterns, plate tectonics, and resource conservation are addressed.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE 9th GRADE

Physical Science is the scientific study of matter and energy, and how they interact. In addition to practicing the scientific method, students learn the basic definition and structure of matter, how to recognize different properties of various types of matter, and how changes in matter

occur through chemical reactions and other processes involving energy. Students will also learn the basic scientific laws governing the physical universe, what different types of energy exist, and how those types of energy interact with matter.

Course serves as the foundation for more advanced classes in physics, including High School Chemistry.

BIOLOGY I HONORS 9th GRADE

Course is designed to provide information regarding the fundamental concepts of life and life processes. Topics covered include (but are not restricted to) cell structure and function, general plant and animal physiology, genetics, and taxonomy. *A prerequisite for this course is successfully completing Algebra I Honors. This class is for students whose past grades and test scores are substantially above average and who plan to enroll in three more units of high school science.*

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

**Elective subjects that can only be taken by 9th graders*

***SPANISH I**

This course introduces students to the basic skills – listening, speaking, reading, and writing and to the basic structures of Spanish taught within the cultural context. Emphasis will be placed on oral and written communication skills. Students are made aware of the importance of Spanish in their world.

KEYBOARDING

Keyboarding I is an introduction to the keyboard allowing students to operate the keyboard by touch with speed and accuracy. Students will learn keyboarding skills using the Glencoe Keyboarding with Computer Applications program. Along with the keyboarding skills students will also be introduced to the ten-key numeric keypad. As the course progresses students will be learning basic word processing features continuing to more advanced word processing features which will allow the students to apply their keyboarding skills in formatting various documents. These skills and knowledge the students will acquire will benefit them throughout their education and careers.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

The Family & Consumer Science class covers Foods and Nutrition in the first semester. This allows weekly cooking labs for students to prepare recipes in the Foods lab. The second semester covers many topics such as self-esteem, decision making, values, goal setting, careers, job applications, checking accounts and budgeting, maturing and abstinence based education. The students will learn how to sew on buttons, learn basic stitches, practice on sewing machines and complete 2 projects from the Haan Crafts sewing magazine. The year is full of topics and activities to help students develop in an ever changing society. A student may only take this class one year.

WOODWORKING

This course includes studying the properties of woods and composites. Emphasis is on proper use of hand and power tools and equipment, and various wood joints. This knowledge will be used by the student to design and construct a functional project. This class will enable the student to experience the process of translating an idea into a finished product with instruction in planning, designing, selecting materials, and using tools and machines. A \$20.00 woodworking fee is required.

Students coming in after the first semester will not be allowed to take this class due to not having the safety classes.

CREATIVE ART

This course provides students with the opportunity to try several different art mediums. Different artists and art styles are studied throughout the year. Creativity and developing an individual artistic style is encouraged, drawing painting, clay, and collage are just a few of the things to be studied. A \$20.00/year art fee is required.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF AGRICULTURE

The local, national, and global definitions, history, and scope of agriculture in society are covered in this course. It also covers plant and animal sciences, production and processing; agricultural mechanics, including tool and machine operation; business and natural resource management; management of food and fiber systems; soil characteristics, formation and properties; and development of leadership and communication skills. A class fee of \$20.00 is required to cover FFA dues. *Meets 1st period each day at Artesia High School. Students will get off their buses at the High School or parents may drop them off at the High School Ag building before school. There is a bus to transport students back to the Junior High after class and this is the only school*

approved method of getting back to the Junior High.

***DRAFTING-GENERAL**

Course usually offered as a sequence of courses, introduce students to the technical craft of illustrations to represent and/or analyze design specifications, and then refine the skills necessary for this craft. Drafting-General courses use exercises from a variety of applications to provide students with the knowledge and experience to develop the ability to perform freehand sketching, lettering, geometric construction, multi-view projections, and to produce various types of drawings (working, detail, assembly, schematic, perspective and so on). Computer aided drafting (CAD) systems (if available) are typically introduced and used to fulfill course objectives. *This course is taken at the High School- students are transported to and from the high school for this course. This course is a dual credit through NMSU-C.*

YEARBOOK

As an elective, students are asked to participate in AJHS events from behind the lens of the camera or journalism pad. This course provides the further study of and practice in computer skills, gathering and analyzing information, interviewing, and photography for the purpose of writing, editing, designing and publishing the school's yearbook. A web-based yearbook program is utilized to create, design and publish the yearbook. This class emphasizes team work, where students are expected to work collaboratively, learning the process of publishing a yearbook with accuracy, fair and equal student representation, good communication skills and time management. *Students must have good attendance, grades and not have discipline referrals. Enrollment will be limited to 15 students.*

***DRIVERS EDUCATION**

Driver Education provides students with the knowledge to become safe, courteous, efficient and economical drivers on America's highway transportation system. Topics covered in the class include legal obligations and responsibilities, traffic laws and procedures, driving techniques and strategies, and dealing with the physical and mental factors that affect driving. This class is certified by the NM Traffic Safety Bureau and is required for any 15, 16, or 17 year old that wants to drive in our state. Driver Education class enrollment is determined by age and grade level. A student must be 15 years old when the class ends and must be enrolled as a 9th grader. Students may receive a learner's permit during

class, and will be qualified to receive one upon successful completion of the class.

ATHLETICS

Athletics at AJHS is an elective course that is offered to any student boy or girl who wants to participate in extracurricular sports. These sports are demanding and include for 8th grade boys: Football, basketball, and track; 8th grade girls: Volleyball, basketball, cheerleading and track; 9th grade boys: Football, soccer, basketball, rodeo, bowling, swimming, baseball, track, golf, and tennis; 9th grade girls: Volleyball, soccer, basketball, swimming, rodeo, bowling track, softball, tennis, golf, cheerleading. In order for any student to compete in these sports they have to maintain a 2.0 GP A or better and can have no more than one "F". Athletics is offered to committed athletes who understand the physical nature of sports, the chance for injury, and the time expectations beyond the school day. Athletics for both boys and girls will be scheduled for seventh period and after school. A student who signs up for Athletics must participate and complete a minimum of two sports. If a student is interested in only a Spring sport, they still must be enrolled in Athletics all year and successfully complete another sport Any athlete (cheerleaders included) that is "cut" from a spring sport must then participate in the junior high track program, unless they have already successfully completed two sports. A student quitting a sport could be immediately removed from Athletics, placed in a P.E. class, and denied the privilege of further participation in the junior high athletic program. Students must have parental permission, signed drug testing consent form, and a physical examination. All cheerleaders will participate in a spring sport. Random drug testing will be conducted throughout the year.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a course that provides instruction and development of skills in human movement, physical activities, physical fitness and sport. The course requires that students participate daily through each particular physical activity. Students will be evaluated based on their level of daily participation as well as their personal physical fitness goals. *Students may take this course as a 9th grader to fulfill their PE credit needed for graduation.*

CONCERT/MARCHING BAND

Course is designed to develop skill and technique for playing brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments, and cover band literature styles for both concert and marching performances. *The Junior High*

Concert/Marching Band is a performing group of Eighth and Ninth graders. Performances for concert/marching band include some 8th and 9th grade football games, pep assemblies, the Homecoming parade, Cakewalk, one Varsity halftime show, Zia at the Bowl, the Winter Concert, Sweetheart concert, Pre-contest concert, District Concert and Sight-reading contest, Spring concert, and High School Graduation. All students are required to participate in solo and ensemble contest. Concert/Marching band students have the additional option of trying out for a position in the All-District Honor Band. Auditions and eligibility are required for placement in the Concert/Marching Band. Students in the Eighth and Ninth grade must audition and be selected to participate in the Concert/Marching Band and meet eligibility requirements. Any student who wants to participate in the High School Band as a ninth grade student must audition at the end of their Eighth grade year and meet eligibility requirements.

CHOIR

(Mixed Choir) This course is intended to develop vocal techniques and the ability to sing parts in small ensemble or madrigal groups. The course goals may include the development of solo singing ability; one of several ensemble literature styles may be emphasized. All students will be required to perform at concerts and public performances, and there will be extra rehearsal times called throughout the year.

TREBLE CHOIR

(Girls Choir) This course is intended to develop vocal techniques and the ability to sing parts in small ensemble or madrigal groups. The course goals may include the development of solo singing ability; one or several ensemble literature styles may be emphasized. All students will be required to perform at concerts and public performances, and there will be extra rehearsal times called throughout the year.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER ASSISTANT

This course is a hands-on work experience in the library media center that teaches basic library skills. Student tasks include: assisting students and staff, checking books in and out, shelving books, reading shelves, the use of technology, and anything else needed to keep the library clean, orderly and functioning. A library assistant should be friendly, responsible, able to stay on task, respectful of library rules and maintain good attendance. As in any working environment, students will learn and maintain the meaning of professionalism. *Students must first complete*

the application process including acquiring the recommendation from two teachers concerning grades, dependability and attitude. Students must then be approved by a Principal and the Librarian. Enrollment will be limited to 2 students per period.

OFFICE AIDE

This course provides students with the opportunity to work in campus offices, developing skills related to clerical office work. Duties may include, among others, typing, filing, record keeping, receiving visitors, answering the telephone, and duplicating. Emphasis is placed on appropriate work attitude, human relations, good grades, good attendance, and proper office procedures. *Students must be approved by a Principal.*

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

“A picture is worth a thousand words.”

Photographs play an important role in our world today. We photograph to preserve memories, document events, and create artistic works. This course introduces students to the basics of digital photography, including camera functions and photo composition. Students will learn what it takes to create a good photograph and how to improve photographs of animals, people, and vacations. They will also begin working with their photographs using photo-editing software. Through a variety of assigned projects, students will engage their creativity by photographing a range of subjects and learning to see the world through the lens of their cameras.

WEIGHT TRAINING

Students have the opportunity to take as an elective a weight lifting class that begins laying a foundation for athletic strength and conditioning. The class is offered to both boys and girls and includes strength and conditioning exercises with individual testing and individualized workout programs designed to increase strength, agility, flexibility, and athletic performance with the use of free-weights. It is designed to also help prevent injuries related to playing sports. The 9th grade girls' weight lifting class will meet first period each day at the Bulldog Pit. Students will get off their buses at the high school or parents may drop them off at the pit before school. There is a bus to transport students back to the Junior High after class and this is the only school approved method of getting back to the Junior High.

S.T.E.M.

This course is designed to further develop the science, technology, engineering and mathematic skills of students who have a proven interest in these areas. Various areas of S.T.E.M. will be utilized, including participation in scientific competitions such as Science Olympiad.

(Prerequisite: Students must have completed both Science and Math classes the previous year with no less than a "B" average.) FEE: \$20.00

CURRENT EVENTS

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge of current global events, geographic locations, political and economic issues, and possible historical causes and/or solutions facing the world.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

The Special Education Department is unique in that each student has a program of instruction built around that student's own needs and interests. Every student in this program should be given the opportunity to successfully complete a program of study designed to meet his/her individual needs and abilities. When such a program is completed satisfactorily, the student should receive a diploma or certificate comparable to that of other students of the school who have completed their curriculum requirements.

The following curriculum guide is merely a description of skills that could be taught when a student is assigned to a particular class. Because each student has different needs, once assigned to a class, skills taught to each student will be based on need. Therefore, every skill offered in every class will not necessarily be offered to every student. All classes will be individualized. However, group objectives will be utilized whenever possible.

B-C LEVEL

The length of the school day shall be the same as for all other students of this age and ability. The same grading scale will be used as is used with all students. Level of performance will be indicated. The students will be integrated with regular classes as much as their individual ability will allow.

Requirements for graduation will be the same as for all other students. Courses will be determined by parents, student, and teachers. Individual

Education Plans (IEP) will be prepared for each student. "B" level students will be required to complete 50 hours of course work to be eligible for high school graduation and a diploma. Most of their classes will be in the regular programs with some classes in the Resource Room to provide the individual assistance each will need for graduation.

B/C PROGRAMS

Students are afforded the opportunity to be placed in an inclusion class. The placement will be determined by the student's IEP. Students may enroll in the electives of their choice based upon their IEP.

Courses that the inclusion setting is available for 8th and 9th grades

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 8th GRADE

ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS 9th GRADE

PRE ALGEBRA 8th GRADE

ALGEBRA I 9th GRADE

EARLY U.S. HISTORY 8th GRADE

MODERN U.S. HISTORY 9th GRADE

EARTH SCIENCE 8th GRADE

EARTH SCIENCE 9th GRADE

BILINGUAL

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE 8TH AND 9TH GRADE

This course is designed for the rapid mastery of the English language, focusing on reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. ESL courses usually begin with extensive listening and speaking practice, building on auditory and oral skills, and then move to reading and writing. This course must follow the New Mexico Content Standards and Benchmarks for Language Arts and the ELD Performance Instructional Strategies.

LANGUAGE FOR NATIVE SPEAKERS

This course supports, reinforces, and expands students' knowledge of home language. Because students have already been exposed to their home/heritage language, they understand at least the rudiments and structure of the language, and have a working vocabulary (to a greater or

lesser degree). Courses in Language for Native Speakers often move faster than Foreign Language courses, and may be structured similar to an English Language Arts course (Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking, with the study of literature and composition). This course must incorporate the study of the culture, history, and traditions of the community. This course must be taught in the target language.

EXTRACURRICULAR GROUPS

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

Selection to the AJHS Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society is based on five criteria: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, Character, and Citizenship. The Faculty Council has set the grade point requirement for scholarship at a 3.7 GPA. Each student member is required to maintain a quarterly and semester GPA of 3.7 or higher. Qualified students can apply for membership with two faculty recommendations on the basis of all five criteria. The selection will be made at the end of the third nine-week grading period. Service Activities include projects in our community such as Habitat for Humanity, Service through Outreach Committee, Artesia Clean and Beautiful, Reading at Elementary schools, and Projects with the Student Council.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Council is a group of students from both 8th and 9th grades that represent every homeroom class in the school. Students Council (STUCO) members are elected by their peers or are nominated by their teachers. To be eligible Student Council members must maintain a required GPA and a certain number of volunteer hours. Activities include: planning dress up days, trash pick-ups, and pennies for patients, etc.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM

Students explore the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. They compete in competitions around the state. Before and After school practices as well as some weekend practices are required. Students must have maintained at least a “B” average in the previous year’s Science and Math classes and enrolled in the STEM class.