

# **Gilbert Public Schools Junior High Course Description Book 2011-2012**



Desert Ridge Jr. High School



Gilbert Jr. High School



Greenfield Jr. High School



Highland Jr. High School



Mesquite Jr. High School



South Valley Jr. High School

---

Dear Parents and Students:

You are about to make important course selections for the upcoming school year. As you review various classes, you will find that the junior high course catalog offers several required and elective classes. We encourage both parents and students to be involved in making these selections. Choices should be based on the promotion requirements, as well as the needs and interests of each student.

Please feel free to call or visit with the teachers, counselors, or administrators as you complete this important process.

Sincerely,

**Gilbert Public Schools District Junior High Principals:**

**JEAN WOODS**

Desert Ridge Jr. High School  
10211 E. Madero Ave.  
Mesa, Arizona 85212  
480-635-2025

**KEVIN RAINEY**

Gilbert Jr. High School  
1016 N. Burk St  
Gilbert, Arizona 85234  
480-892-6908

**JOYCE MEYER**

Greenfield Jr. High School  
101 S. Greenfield Rd  
Gilbert, Arizona 85296  
480-813-1770

**BRIAN YEE**

Highland Jr. High School  
6915 E. Guadalupe Rd  
Mesa, Arizona 85212  
480-632-4739

**RON IZZETT**

Mesquite Jr. High School  
130 W. Mesquite St.  
Gilbert, Arizona 85296  
480-926-1433

**BRIAN JAEGER**

South Valley Jr. High School  
2034 S. Lindsay Rd.  
Gilbert, Arizona 85296  
480-855-0015

**CHAD FITZGERALD**

Canyon Valley School  
6915 E. Guadalupe Rd.  
Mesa, Arizona 85212  
480-507-0519

**BRIAN ROSTA**

Gilbert Classical Academy  
55 N. Greenfield Road  
Gilbert, Arizona 85234  
480-497-4024

---

**Governing Board Members**

E.J. Anderson

Staci Burk

Helen D. Hollands

Shane Stapley

Lily Tram

**District Administration**

Dr. Dave Allison, Superintendent

Nikki Blanchard, Associate Superintendent

Shane McCord, Assistant Superintendent

Clyde Dangerfield, Assistant Superintendent

Barbara VeNard, Assistant Superintendent

# Table of Contents

<i>Language Arts</i> .....	1-2
<i>Math</i> .....	3
<i>Physical Education</i> .....	3-4
<i>Science</i> .....	4-5
<i>Social Studies</i> .....	5
<i>Special Education</i> .....	5-6
<i>Electives</i>	
<i>Art</i> .....	6-7
<i>Business/Computers</i> .....	7
<i>Communications</i> .....	7-8
<i>Family and Consumer Sciences</i> .....	8
<i>Fine Arts</i> .....	8-9
<i>Industrial Technology</i> .....	9
<i>Miscellaneous</i> .....	10
<i>Modern Languages</i> .....	10-11
<i>Music</i> .....	11-12
<i>Registration Information Chart</i> .....	13
<i>Important Information</i> .....	14-15
<i>Promotion Requirements</i> .....	16
<i>English/Language Arts Novel List</i> .....	17
<i>Gilbert Classical Academy (GCA)</i> .....	17
<i>Canyon Valley School (CVS)</i> .....	18

Although a course is listed, it will not be offered unless a sufficient number of students register for the course. Please reference the registration card. Classes are offered based on staff availability and expertise.

---

# Language Arts (refer to chart in back of book)

---

A reading list for each of the following courses is available from the instructor. A complete listing of novels is printed at the back of this booklet.

---

## LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Grade: 7	1 year	2 credits
----------	--------	-----------

This course consists of two class periods with the same teacher. English and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies and writing skills will be emphasized. Students in this course will study composition techniques, literary skills, spelling, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. Study skills are taught to ensure the success of students across the curriculum.

## HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 7

Grade: 7	1 year	2 credits
----------	--------	-----------

**Prerequisite: District qualifying examination or teacher recommendation. (This course carries a weighted grade.)**

This course consists of two class periods with the same teacher. English and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Advanced reading strategies and writing skills will be emphasized through the use of a pre-AP curriculum. Students in this course will study advanced composition techniques, literary skills, works of literary merit, and grammar/usage skills. Literary genres include: short stories, poetry, novels, nonfiction selections, and a work by William Shakespeare.

## ENGLISH 8

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: District qualifying examination**

This course involves the study of composition skills, as well as short stories, novels, and poetry. This course will also emphasize basic grammar, mechanics of composition, usage, and vocabulary. Composition instruction includes paragraph structure, the writing of letters, narratives, poetry, and essays.

## HONORS ENGLISH 8

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: District qualifying examination or teacher recommendation. (This course carries a weighted grade.)**

This course is designed for those students who possess the motivation and skill levels necessary for the accelerated classroom. Advanced reading strategies and writing skills will be emphasized through the use of a pre-AP curriculum. Emphasis will be placed on vocabulary development, mature writing techniques, and literary analysis. Students in this course will also study Shakespeare and his major literary devices and techniques, as well as read brief selections from a tragedy, a comedy, and historical plays.

## LANGUAGE ARTS 8

Grade: 8	1 year	2 credits
----------	--------	-----------

This course consists of two class periods with the same teacher. English and reading are integrated into one curriculum. Essential reading strategies and writing skills are taught with a heavy emphasis on composition. Students in this course will study composition techniques, literary skills, spelling, vocabulary in context, and basic grammar. Literary genres include: short stories, novels, poetry, and nonfiction selections. Study skills are taught to ensure the success of students across the curriculum.

# English Language Learners

Arizona laws have established guidelines for English Learner Programs in Arizona. The following courses meet those guidelines.

## ELL LANGUAGE ARTS, Pre-Intermediate

Grades: 7/8	Up to two semesters	2 Language Arts credits 2 Elective credits
-------------	---------------------	---

**Prerequisite: Identification as a Pre-Emergent, Emergent, or Basic English Learner by assessment using the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment [AZELLA] scores.**

This course consists of four class periods daily of intensive English language instruction designed to prepare them for success in a school where the curriculum is delivered in English. The Arizona English Language Proficiency Standards, the Arizona English Language Standards, and the Gilbert Language Arts Standards set the curriculum.

## ELL LANGUAGE ARTS, Intermediate

Grades: 7/8	Up to two semesters	2 Language Arts credits 2 Elective credits
-------------	---------------------	---

**Prerequisite: Identification as an Intermediate English Learner by assessment using the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment [AZELLA] scores.**

This course consists of two to four class periods of intensive English language instruction daily. The number of hours the student will receive depends on the student's assessment results. The class is designed to further prepare English learners for success in a school where the curriculum is delivered in English. The Arizona English Language Proficiency Standards, the Arizona English Language Standards, the Gilbert Language Arts Standards and the student's assessment results set the curriculum.

## ELL SOCIAL STUDIES

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 social studies credit
-------------	--------	-------------------------

**Prerequisite: Beginning level on language assessment measures.**

***Course may be taken only one year.***

This course is for students who have been in a US school for one year or less. It is designed to provide students with the language and social studies background needed for success in future social studies classes.

## ELL MENTOR

Grade 7/8	1 year	1 elective credit
-----------	--------	-------------------

**Prerequisite: FEP identification by assessment using the Arizona English Language Learner Assessment [AZELLA]. Course may be repeated for elective credit, but not for grade change.**

This course is for current English learners and FEP students who are in the two-year monitor period. It is designed to provide students with support in the content areas.

# **Math** (refer to chart in back of book)

---

## **MATH 7 (grade level math class)**

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course includes basic and detailed operations in decimals, fractions, percentages, and whole numbers as well as algebra functions, graphing, and integer operations. The next class in this sequence is Math 8.

## **HONORS MATH 7**

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: District qualifying examination or teacher recommendation. (This course carries a weighted grade.)</b>		

This course involves the study of algebra concepts including geometry, advanced arithmetic, computation, and algebraic problem solving with an emphasis on simple expressions and algebraic story problems. This class is for the able and ambitious with first priority given to identified honor students. The next class in this sequence is Honors Math 8 (Topics 1-2).

## **MATH LAB 7**

Grade: 7	1 semester or 1 year	1/2 or 1 credit
----------	----------------------	-----------------

This elective course will focus on basic math skills. Students may use the Accelerated Math program and receive direct instruction to master objectives missed in earlier schooling.

## **MATH 8 (grade level math class)**

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course will include the study of number theory, abstract thinking, algebra, geometry and integrated math. The major topics covered are number systems, algebraic functions, decimals, expressions, geometry, equation solving, and integers. This course will prepare students for Math Topics 1-2.

## **HONORS MATH 8 (TOPICS 1-2)**

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: District qualifying examination or teacher recommendation. (This course carries a weighted grade.) Scientific calculators recommended.</b>		

This course will include the study of numbers, measurement, geometry, data analysis, algebra, patterns and relations, and analytic reasoning with emphasis on communications, problem solving, and application through the use of technology.

## **MATH LAB 8**

Grade: 8	1 semester or 1 year	1/2 or 1 credit
----------	----------------------	-----------------

This elective course will focus on basic math skills. Students may use the Accelerated Math program and receive direct instruction to master objectives missed in earlier schooling.

# **Physical Education**

---

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - BOYS 7**

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course is a study of basic skills involved in various team and individual sport activities. Major emphasis will be placed on skill development, flexibility, cardiovascular conditioning, and positive social interactions. Topics covered may include, but not limited to the following: health, nutrition, tennis, archery, weight training, yoga, PACER, 12-minute run, flag football, softball, floor hockey, golf, aerobics, basketball, volleyball, track and field, inline skating, and badminton.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - GIRLS 7**

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course is a study of basic skills involved in various team and individual sport activities.

Major emphasis will be placed on skill development, flexibility, cardiovascular conditioning, and positive social interactions. Topics covered may include, but not limited to the following: health, nutrition, tennis, archery, weight training, yoga, PACER, 12-minute run, flag football, softball, floor hockey, golf, aerobics, basketball, volleyball, track and field, inline skating, and badminton.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - BOYS 8**

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course is a study of intermediate skills involved in various team and individual sport activities. Major emphasis will be placed on skill development, flexibility, cardiovascular conditioning, and positive social interactions. Topics covered may include, but not limited to the following: health, nutrition, tennis, archery, weight training, yoga, PACER, 12-minute run, flag football, softball, floor hockey, golf, aerobics, basketball, volleyball, track and field, inline skating, and badminton.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION - GIRLS 8**

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course is a study of intermediate skills involved in various team and individual sport activities. Major emphasis will be placed on skill development, flexibility, cardiovascular conditioning, and positive social interactions. Topics covered may include, but not limited to the following: health, nutrition, tennis, archery, weight training, yoga, PACER, 12-minute run, flag football, softball, floor hockey, golf, aerobics, basketball, volleyball, track and field, inline skating, and badminton.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION – ACCOMMODATED CO-ED PE**

#### ***Pilot – HJHS Only***

Grade: 7/8 – Co-ed	1 year	1 credit
--------------------	--------	----------

This PE course offers opportunities for students with physical or mental disabilities to be partnered with typical kids in a daily PE class. It is a co-ed class where boys and girls are also matched across grade levels to benefit the needs of all the students involved.

## **Science** (refer to chart in back of book)

### **SCIENCE 7**

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course is designed to teach a selection of Earth and Life Science topics. Students will use inquiry as a discovery method in order to explain the relationship among objects in the solar system, describe the properties and composition of the Earth's structure, explain the Earth's geological processes, and analyze the interactions of living organisms within ecosystems. Scientific persona and events of historical significance will be integrated to support the curriculum and help students make relevant connections to their lives.

### **HONORS SCIENCE 7**

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: District qualifying examination or teacher recommendation (This course carries a weighted grade.)</b>		

This advanced course is designed to teach a selection of Earth and Life Science topics. Students will use inquiry as a discovery method in order to explain the relationship among objects in the solar system, describe the properties and composition of the Earth's structure, explain the Earth's geological processes, and analyze the interactions of living organisms within ecosystems. Scientific persona and events of historical significance will be integrated. The course will be accelerated and students will learn additional depth of content through the study of a supplemental curricular resource.

## SCIENCE 8

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course is designed to teach students basic fundamentals of chemistry, physics, and biology. The chemistry section will begin the study of the atom. The physics section will focus upon motion and Newton's laws, the genetics component of biology and the structural and behavioral aspects of adaptations. This inquiry-based course will teach hands-on laboratory skills and methods as a means to learning the content curriculum. This course will reflect on the nature and history of science as well as looking into the impact science has on modern society.

## HONORS SCIENCE 8

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: District qualifying examination or teacher recommendation (This course carries a weighted grade.)</b>		

This advanced course is designed to teach 8<sup>th</sup> grade students basic fundamentals of chemistry, physics, and biology. The chemistry section will begin the study of the atom: physics will be focusing on motion and Newton's laws, the genetics component of biology and the structural and behavioral aspects of adaptations. This inquiry-based course will teach hands-on laboratory skills and methods as a means to learning the content curriculum. This course will reflect on the nature and history of science as well as looking into the impact science has on modern society. The course will be accelerated and students will learn additional depth of content through the study of a supplemental curricular resource.

# Social Studies

---

## SOCIAL STUDIES 7

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This is an American history course that focuses on the period of history from the Civil War through the Great Depression. This course aligns with the new articulated Arizona Social Studies Standard and incorporates all five Social Studies strands. Study skills, note taking, critical thinking and writing skills are developed in this course.

## SOCIAL STUDIES 8

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This eighth grade class continues our two-year course of American history. This course begins with a unit on U.S. and Arizona Government, continues with a unit on Economics and then proceeds with a study of history from World War II through present-day. All five Social Studies strands from the articulated Arizona Social Studies standard are studied. Study skills, note taking, writing and critical thinking skills will continue to be a major focus in the Social Studies program.

# Special Education

---

## YSP ENGLISH

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: Multi-disciplinary staffing</b>		

This course is a study of individual instruction in basic sentence structure, capitalization, punctuation, and development of ideas into a paragraph. The major topics covered will be paragraphs, letter writing, handwriting, and spelling. Computer labs will be utilized to reinforce skills and teach word processing techniques.

## YSP MATH

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: Multi-disciplinary staffing</b>		

This course is a study of basic mathematics that is geared to each individual's strengths and

weaknesses. The major topics covered will be addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals.

### **YSP READING**

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
-------------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: Multi-disciplinary staffing**

This course is a study of reading skills. The major areas are vocabulary and reading comprehension. Other features will include structural analysis (prefixes and suffixes), use of reference materials and outlining. Computer labs will be utilized to reinforce skills and teach word processing techniques.

### **YSP SCIENCE**

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
-------------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: Multi-disciplinary staffing**

This course is conducted in a lab-type setting. Students work within a group or individually. The major topics covered in this course will be life and earth sciences. Level of materials and pace of class are adjusted to meet each student's needs.

### **YSP SOCIAL STUDIES**

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
-------------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: Multi-disciplinary staffing**

This course is a study of American and Arizona history. The major topics covered will be the exploration and colonization of North America, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and reconstruction to modern America.

### **YSP RESOURCE STUDY SKILLS**

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
-------------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: Multi-disciplinary staffing**

This course is a study program designed to aid the student in developing learning strategies to be used in successful completion of the regular education classroom curriculum. Emphasis will be placed on the development of organizational skills, monitoring progress in other classes, subject tutoring, and developing skills in special areas.

### **YSP EMOTIONAL SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM**

Grade: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
------------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: Multi-disciplinary staffing**

This program is designed to improve appropriate classroom behavior and responsibilities to a level where the student can complete regular or special education classes and interact appropriately with peers. The major topics will offer instruction in the areas of reading, English, math, science and social studies. It will additionally offer physical recreation and a confined lunch period. Other features include a staffing procedure for integrating the student into the regular or academic special education classes.

## ***Electives***

---

Although a course is listed, it will not be offered unless a sufficient number of students register for the course. Please reference the registration card. Classes are offered based on staff availability and expertise.

## ***ART***

---

### **INTRODUCTON TO ART (Mini Course)**

Grade: 7	1 quarter (9 weeks only)	1/4 credit
----------	--------------------------	------------

This course is a study of various media and techniques used in art today. Two-dimensional art is taught with an emphasis on creativity and an understanding of processes. Students may enter their artwork in the school's spring exhibit.

## **ART I**

Grade: 8	1 semester	1/2 credit
----------	------------	------------

This course is designed to complement Introduction to Art by continuing to explore various kinds of art. Students will enhance their abilities in line drawings, pen and ink crosshatchings, color stippling, marker rendering, collage making, watercolor and pastel painting. The principles of art and elements of design will still be emphasized. This is a specialized class for students who enjoy art. Students may enter their artwork in the school's spring art exhibit.

## **ART II**

Grade: 8	1 semester	1/2 credit
----------	------------	------------

### **Prerequisite: ART I**

This course is designed to complement Art I by continuing to enhance students' skills in line, value, and color drawings as well as painting and sculpture.

## **BUSINESS/COMPUTERS**

### **COMPUTERS (Mini Course)**

Grade: 7	1 quarter (9 weeks only)	1/4 credit
----------	--------------------------	------------

This course focuses on establishing basic computer skills. Computer terminology and keyboarding skills are stressed. Also included are units on word processing, drawing, painting, and hypermedia. This is a hands-on class where students are involved in entering and editing data, saving, and printing their work.

### **COMPUTERS I**

Grade: 7/8	1 semester	1/2 credit
------------	------------	------------

This course examines various uses of computer hardware and software utilizing a Macintosh computer and laser printer. Basic skills in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet, database, and integration are emphasized. Other application programs using drawing, painting, hypermedia, and basic desktop publishing are introduced. Various topics such as careers in computers and computer ethics will be explored.

### **COMPUTERS II**

Grade: 8	1 semester or 1 year	1/2 or 1 credit
----------	----------------------	-----------------

### **Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation**

This course includes the study of advanced word processing, database, and spreadsheet applications, and Desktop publishing including layout and design, graphics, and multi-media projects. In addition, students will learn to use E-mail, explore the worldwide web, and create and maintain a homepage.

### **INTRODUCTION TO BUSINESS**

Grade: 8	1 semester	1/2 credit
----------	------------	------------

This course is designed to introduce students to basic business elements. Students will explore the concepts of management, product development, spreadsheet management, finance, marketing, sales & selling, public speaking, word processing, and product distribution while also learning numerous computer packages. Students will be involved in the development, marketing and selling of various goods as well as the development of a major business event within the school community.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM/NEWSPAPERS**

Grade: 7/8	1 semester	1/2 credit
------------	------------	------------

This course incorporates basic concepts of beginning journalism including writing, editing and photography into a student publication.

## **YEARBOOK**

Grade: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
------------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: Completed application and teacher recommendation**

This course creates a 100+ page volume of junior high memories. Students in this class are people who are idea oriented, creative, original, and hardworking. Photographers, graphic artists, and budding writers are encouraged to apply. Competent writing skills and computer literacy are advantages. Students in this class will gain an understanding of layout design, desktop publishing, marketing, sales, interviewing, copy writing and editing, and photography. Students will work in groups where cooperation, responsibility and effort are a must. Attendance at before school, after school, and lunch staff meetings will be required periodically.

## ***FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES***

---

### **INTRODUCTION TO FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES (Mini Course)**

Grade: 7	1 quarter (9 weeks only)	1/4 credit
----------	--------------------------	------------

This course is an introduction to Family and Consumer Science. This class will include nutrition, kitchen safety, sanitation, understanding recipes, and microwave and conventional cooking methods. Other areas of study are childcare, career introductions, hand-sewing techniques and cooperative learning.

### **LIFE DRJHS ONLY**

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course is a combination of the Life Skills and the Clothing semester classes. Students will be introduced to skills needed for success in life. Included in the course is nutrition as it relates to physical and mental health, eating disorders, weight control, money management, time management, self-esteem, decision-making, and basic cooking skills. Students will also receive basic instruction in the areas of clothing construction, fabric crafts, and hand and machine sewing techniques. Students will be required to sew at least one clothing item using a commercial pattern.

### **LIFE SKILLS**

Grade: 8	1 semester or 1 year	1/2 or 1 credit
----------	----------------------	-----------------

This course is an introduction to skills needed for success in life. This course includes nutrition as it relates to physical and mental health, safety-sanitation, eating disorders, weight control, money management, time management, self-esteem, decision-making, career exploration, and basic cooking skills. Demonstrations, group activities, food labs, guest speakers, and cooperative learning experiences enhance the course. The yearlong class includes all elements above, in addition to a clothing/sewing unit.

### **CLOTHING**

Grade: 8	1 semester	1/2 credit
----------	------------	------------

This course offers basic instruction in the areas of clothing construction, fabric crafts, and hand and machine sewing techniques. Students will be required to sew at least one clothing item using a commercial pattern. Other areas of study will include grooming, money management, wardrobe maintenance, and career exploration.

## ***FINE ARTS***

---

### **DRAMA (Mini Course)**

Grade: 7	1 quarter (9 weeks only)	1/4 credit
----------	--------------------------	------------

This course is study of various aspects of theatre. Topics will include acting, movement, stage vocabulary, and oral speaking. Units of study will include monologues, skit writing, improvisation, theatre design, one-act-plays, and creative dramatics.

## **DRAMA I**

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
-------------	--------	----------

This course is an introductory study of various aspects of theatre. Major topics will include acting, movement, stage vocabulary, and oral speaking. Units of study will include monologues, skit writing, improvisation, theatre design, one-act-plays, and creative dramatics.

## **DRAMA II**

Grades: 8	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: DRAMA I, Teacher recommendation or audition</b>		

This course expands on the concepts learned from DRAMA I. Major Units include: technical aspects of stage production, theatre direction, script writing, advanced acting, and improvisation.

## **ADVANCED DRAMA**

Grades: 8	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: DRAMA I and Teacher recommendation</b>		

This course is for advanced drama students and those interested in technical aspects of the theatre. Other features will include participation in school assemblies, after-school activities and filming.

# ***INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY***

---

## **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY I**

Grade: 7/8	9 weeks or 1 semester	1/4 or 1/2 credit
------------	-----------------------	-------------------

This course is designed to teach the basics in graphic communication, construction, manufacturing, and communication using problem solving, life management, and academic skills.

## **INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY II**

Grade: 7/8	1 semester	1/2 credit
------------	------------	------------

This course explores the concepts, processes, and effects of various types of technology. Laboratory and computer-based activities allow students to discover and expand their own skills - from design to fabrication.

## **FUTURE CITIES**

Grade: 7/8	1 semester	1/2 credit
------------	------------	------------

This course is designed to promote technological literacy and engineering concepts through the framework of the National Future City Competition. Students will also explore the world of work through various activities.

## **ADVANCED ROBOTICS HJHS ONLY**

Grade: 8	1 semester	1/2 credit
<b>Prerequisite: Instructor application is required.</b>		

This is an advanced course where students will explore the concepts and processes of visual communication through the use of technical drawings, sketches and pictures to plan for and document the construction of a robot. Laboratory and computer based activities allow the students to discover and expand their skills for practical use in today's world. Students will participate in NARLee (North American Robotic League Educational Experience).

---

## MISCELLANEOUS

---

### **AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination)**

**HJHS, DRJHS, GrJHS, GJHS**

Grades: 7/8	1 Year	1 Credit
-------------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: Application and teacher approval**

This course is a structured, college preparatory system. Students will be supported in a rigorous college preparatory path. Students must complete an application process and be selected to participate in this program.

### **CITIZENSHIP/RESPONSIBILITY (Mini Course)**

Grade: 7	1 quarter (9 weeks only)	1/4 credit
----------	--------------------------	------------

This course includes the foundations for self-confidence, skills for verbal and non-verbal communication of feelings, instruction in critical thinking and decision-making, and facts concerning alcohol, drugs, and tobacco. An emphasis on healthy living is also a part of this course.

### **ARIZONA ECOLOGY MJHS ONLY**

Grade: 7/8	1 semester	1/2 credit
------------	------------	------------

This course is a one semester elective. It focuses on Arizona plants and animals as well as environmental issues relevant to our community. Students will also run the on-campus recycling program as well as maintain the desert wildlife garden.

### **FITNESS TRAINING**

Grade: 7/8	1 semester or 1 year	1/2 or 1 credit
------------	----------------------	-----------------

This elective class provides students with information on overall fitness, the advantages of being fit, and how to reach personal fitness goals. It includes activities that can be used for lifelong fitness and recreation. Students of all abilities and interests are welcome.

### **ADVANCED VIDEO TECHNOLOGY MJHS, GrJHS**

Grade: 8	1 semester	1/2 credit
----------	------------	------------

This is a course for 8th grade students interested in the art of video editing. Students will use various software packages to create videos that document activities taking place on campus. Students will be required to film extra-curricular events outside of the regular school day.

## MODERN LANGUAGES

---

### **MODERN LANGUAGE EXPLORATION**

Grade: 7/8	1 semester or 1 year	1/2 or 1 credit
------------	----------------------	-----------------

This course is a study of French and Spanish with emphasis on simple conversation patterns, culture, geography, and history. The course will also compare each language and culture to our own. *Eighth graders may take the course if space is available.*

### **SPANISH I**

Grade: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
------------	--------	----------

**Recommended Prerequisite: Modern Language Exploration**

This course is a study of the skills necessary to gain a background in the Spanish language. The major topics covered will include speaking, oral comprehension, reading, writing, and grammar and spelling. The course will also feature a study of social customs, as well as the historical background of the Spanish-speaking countries.

## SPANISH II

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

**Recommended Prerequisite: Modern Language Exploration or Spanish I**

This course incorporates enhanced language acquisition using storytelling, reading, writing, and cultural activities allowing students to experience conversational language in context.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Completion of a year of Spanish I and Spanish II will prepare students for entry into Spanish II as a freshman.

## FRENCH

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

**Recommended Prerequisite: Modern Language Exploration**

This course is a study of the skills necessary to gain a background in the French language. Major topics will include listening and comprehension, self-expression, pronunciation, and grammar. A study of the culture and civilization of French-speaking countries will be included.

## MUSIC

### CHORUS 7

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course is a study of beginning and intermediate music fundamentals: sight-reading skills with emphasis on solfège, good intonation, sound production, and performance skills. The intent of this course is to encourage and achieve competency in areas of unison to three-part choral singing. The chorus also serves as a school representative at various community, district and statewide events.

### CHORUS 8

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

This course is a study of intermediate music fundamentals: sight-reading skills with emphasis on solfège, intonation, appropriate performance techniques, and good sound production. The intent of this course is to encourage students to achieve competency in three to four-part choral singing. The chorus also serves as a school representative at various community, district, and statewide events.

### ADVANCED CHORUS 8

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: Previous choral experience and audition**

This course is a study of intermediate and advanced music fundamentals: sight-reading skills, good intonation, musicality, and solo performance. The intent of this course is to achieve competency in intermediate to difficult choral literature. The chorus also serves as a school representative at various community, district, and statewide events.

### BOYS CHORUS

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
-------------	--------	----------

This course is a study of beginning and intermediate music fundamentals: sight-reading skills with emphasis on solfège, good intonation, sound production, and performance skills. The intent of this course is to achieve competency in areas of unison to three-part singing. Special attention is given to understanding and development of the boys' changing voices. The chorus also serves as a school representative at various community, district, and statewide events.

### ORCHESTRA 7

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
----------	--------	----------

**Prerequisite: Previous string experience required**

This string ensemble covers fundamental and intermediate orchestra skills including tuning, vibrato, scales, third and second positions. Concerts will include classical, fiddling, and pops music.

## ORCHESTRA 8

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: Previous orchestra experience required. Advanced 7th graders may enter only by audition with the consent of the conductor.</b>		

This course is a continuation of intermediate scales, bowings, and techniques including fourth position, as well as chamber music ensemble experience. Performance attendance is required.

## BEGINNING BAND

Grades: 7/8	1 semester or 1 year	1/2 credit or 1 credit
-------------	----------------------	------------------------

This course is a study of the basic elements of music tonal production and skill development. The major topics covered in this class will be Band Method I and concert preparation. This is for students interested in learning to play a band instrument for the first time or learning a new instrument. Some students enrolled in the beginning band will continue their course of study in Band 7 or Band 8 second semester.

## BAND 7

Grade: 7	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: Previous band experience</b>		

This course is a study of basic fundamental technical development and large ensemble performance. The major topics covered in this class will be Band Method II and traditional and contemporary band music. Other features of this course are participation in school assembly programs and evening concerts. This is for seventh grade students who have played their band instruments for more than one year.

## BAND 8

Grade: 8	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: Previous band experience</b>		

This course is a study of advanced fundamental technical development and large ensemble performance. The major topics covered in this class will be Band Method III and traditional and contemporary band music. Other features of this course are participation in school assembly programs and evening concerts. This is for eighth grade students who have played their band instruments for more than a year.

## JAZZ BAND

Grades: 7/8	1 year	1 credit
<b>Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation or audition. All jazz band students must be enrolled in another music course to be considered for this class. Advanced 7th graders may enter only by audition with the consent of the conductor.</b>		

This course is a study of introductory jazz ensemble literature--traditional swing and contemporary pop styles. Students will also participate in school assembly programs and evening concerts. This is for students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, piano, and bass and are interested in auditioning for this select group.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION CHART**

**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH**

SEVENTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE	NINTH GRADE
LANGUAGE ARTS 7	ENGLISH 8/LANGUAGE ARTS 8	ENGLISH I
HONORS LANGUAGE ARTS 7	HONORS ENGLISH 8	HONORS ENGLISH I
ELL LANGAGE ARTS (APPROPRIATE LEVEL)		

**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE**

SEVENTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE	NINTH GRADE
SCIENCE 7	SCIENCE 8	LAB BIOLOGY
HONORS SCIENCE 7	HONORS SCIENCE 8	HONORS LAB BIOLOGY

**JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL MATH**

SEVENTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE	NINTH GRADE
MATH 7	MATH 8	MATH TOPICS 1-2
HONORS MATH 7	HONORS MATH TOPICS 1-2	MATH TOPICS 3-4 or HONORS MATH TOPICS 3-4

The chart above shows the relationship between the Junior High coursework a student takes and the corresponding course they will take as a freshman in High School.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## Counseling

The guidance counselors are available to all students and parents who wish to discuss academic or social concerns. Any parent who needs to consult a counselor should call the school for an appointment.

## Golden Scholars

Full-time students who earn high grades and demonstrate good character traits will be honored at an annual ceremony.

Golden Scholar requirements:

1. An overall average grade point of 3.80 for the first three grading periods (1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks, semester, 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks).
2. No F's or I's on transcript.
3. Students receiving non-competitive grades are not eligible for recognition.

## Grading System

The following grading scale is in effect at the junior high school.

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = Below 60%
- Non-competitive (P) grades are calculated as a C

## Honor Roll

Honor Roll recognition will be given for students earning 3.50 to 3.79 GPA. Principals Honor Roll recognition will be given to students who earn a 3.80 GPA or higher.

## Homework

Homework will be assigned at the discretion of the teacher and is considered a part of the total school curriculum.

Homework activities may include, but are not limited to:

1. Unfinished class assignments or make up due to absences;
2. Reinforcement of skills learned in the classroom;
3. Projects which supplement content studied in the classroom;
4. Work that permits the application of skills being developed.

## **P.R.I.D.E. Program**

The P.R.I.D.E. (Personal Responsibility in Daily Effort) program is an extension of the school day. The Governing Board mandates participation in this program. The ninth hour will last approximately 30 minutes, which will be added to your school dismissal time. Ninth hour will be used for study-hall purposes including tutoring, study skills, and special lessons. We recommend that all students use a 3-ring notebook with pockets and index dividers to keep organized in the P.R.I.D.E. Program. Bus transportation will be provided for students who have attended the ninth period.

**Students may *earn an early dismissal*** by arriving on time to each of their classes, being prepared with completed homework, notebook, textbook, pen or pencil and other required classroom materials. Responsibility checks will be made by each teacher every hour of the day to see that all students are ready to learn. Each student will carry a P.R.I.D.E. assignment calendar that parents can check. Teachers will “stamp” Yes or No as to whether the student was responsible for that class period. If a student has received all yeses, they will earn an early release. Students who are responsible will also earn other rewards. They may be eligible for special drawings and assemblies.

Only students who have earned the P.R.I.D.E. reward will be allowed to participate in reward activities.

## **National Junior Honors Society (NJHS)**

Membership in the National Junior Honor Society is one of the highest honors that can be awarded to full-time secondary school students. An overall average grade point of 3.80 for the first three grading periods (1<sup>st</sup> nine weeks, semester, 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks) will be considered for NJHS membership. Leadership, service, character, citizenship and discipline issues will be evaluated. Membership requirements are the same for all candidates in each grade level.

## **Student Government**

The school provides an opportunity for students to participate in the decision making process through student government. Students are encouraged to participate in the student government organization and to make recommendations for the improvement of the school through their student body officers. A constitution and code of ethics will be used for all procedures involving our student government.

## **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL PROMOTION REQUIREMENTS**

All seventh and eighth-grade students enrolled in the junior high schools will be required to pass a minimum of six (6) credits a year in the required basic curriculum. Eighth grade students may be required to pass five (5) credits a year if they have achieved reading proficiency.

In the seventh grade, two (2) credits must be earned in the following area: Language Arts (two-period block) and one (1) credit must be earned in each of the following areas:

- Math
- Physical Education \*
- Science
- Social Studies

In the eighth grade, two (2) credits must be earned in Language Arts unless the student has achieved mastery in reading as demonstrated on a state or district approved assessment. Students who achieve mastery will be enrolled in a one (1) credit English course. One (1) credit must also be earned in each of the following areas:

- Math
- Physical Education \*
- Science
- Social Studies

One-half (1/2) credit will be earned for each semester's work successfully completed in each area.

A maximum of two (2) credits per year can be earned through successful completion of the offered electives.

\*A maximum of one (1) credit of Independent PE may be used to fulfill the PE requirement.

## Approved Novel List

*Honors classes may use any of the works listed in their regular grade levels.*

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Acorn People, The  
Bearstone  
Bud, Not Buddy  
Call of the Wild, The  
Crash  
Death Walk  
Face on the Milk Carton, The  
Fighting Ground, The  
Freak the Mighty (The Mighty)  
Girl Who Owned a City, The  
House on the Gulf, The  
Lottery Rose, The  
Out of the Dust  
Sounder  
Sparrow Hawk Red  
Stargirl  
True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle, The  
Tuck Everlasting

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors

Adventures of Tom Sawyer, The (Unabridged)  
As You Like It  
Christmas Carol, A  
Comedy of Errors, A  
Glory Field, The  
Interstellar Pig  
View from Saturday, The  
Weirdo  
Westing Game, The  
Wind in the Door  
Z for Zachariah

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Breadwinner, The  
Cay, The  
Daniel's Story  
December Stillness  
Devil's Arithmetic, The  
Diary of Anne Frank, The  
Downriver  
Man Who Was Poe, The  
Nothing but the Truth  
Outsiders, The  
Pigman, The  
Sleeping Freshmen Never Lie  
Tangerine  
Touching Spirit Bear  
Watsons Go to Birmingham-1963, The  
Wave, The  
When Zachary Beaver Came to Town

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors

Great Expectations  
Miracle Worker, The  
Night  
Red Pony, The  
Romeo and Juliet (Folger Library)  
Treasure Island  
Wednesday Wars, The

## Gilbert Classical Academy

The Gilbert Classical Academy (GCA) is a unique learning community, which opened in 2007 serving grades 7-12. GCA focuses on the development of critical thinking skills through CyberSocratic instruction, a combination of the instructional methods of early Western Civilization and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century classroom.

The six-year, honors-level curriculum includes core courses in math, science, English, social studies, modern languages, Latin, physical education, music, and the arts.

Involvement in community service projects, extra-curricular activities, and 1A athletics is offered to provide academy students with a well-rounded experience.

For information on the Gilbert Classical Academy, please contact the school at 480-497-4024.

**Canyon Valley School  
7007 E. Guadalupe Rd  
Mesa, AZ 85212  
(480) 507-0519**

Canyon Valley School (CVS) serves as an educational opportunity for all Gilbert Public Schools students, grades 7-12. Emphasis is placed on credit recovery, acceleration, AIMS preparation and ultimately high school graduation.

**Mission Statement: Empower Students**

Empowering students to develop positive aspects of themselves in order to succeed in life.

**Registration:**

Registration at CVS is conducted throughout the course of each school year. Transfer students and boundary exemptions are welcome to enroll at various times each semester dependent on space availability. The registration process includes setting an appointment with the registrar, an intake meeting with administration, and scheduling of classes. In order to complete enrollment, families must provide a birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency, transcripts, and a withdrawal document. A parent must attend the appointment if the student is less than eighteen years of age. Call the CVS office to schedule an appointment: (480) 507-0519.

**Classes**

Junior High:	7:30 AM	to	3:40 PM
High School Sessions:	7:30 AM	to	11:25 AM
	11:50 AM	to	3:45 PM
	2:30 PM	to	6:15 PM

Students enrolled in the junior high program earn credits in five core academic areas: Math, English, Reading, Science, and Social Studies. Students may be assisted with recovering deficient courses at a rate of two per semester. High school students can choose from a variety of core academic courses, including all required English, Math, Science, History, and Business courses. Other options include Financial Applications, Math Standards, Student Council, Marketing, and Sociology. Credits are earned at the rate of one-half credit per class, per nine-week block. Attendance is required as stated in District policy, which can be viewed at [www.gilbertschools.net](http://www.gilbertschools.net)

**Curriculum:**

The curriculum at CVS is aligned to state standards and AIMS proficiency. Learning is achieved through direct teacher instruction and self-paced outcome-based curriculum.