Haile Middle School

Course Description Guide

2020-2021

OVERVIEW

It is important for students to be enrolled in courses that will challenge them, but also allow for academic success. That balance is achieved by considering FSA scores, report card grades, work ethic, course pre-requisites and teacher recommendations.

Textbooks are purchased, the Master Schedule is created, and teachers are hired based on student registration in classes. Schedule changes are NOT made after the school year begins, unless there has been a clerical error or a student has been misplaced. Students and parents need to carefully select classes based on course descriptions, teacher recommendation and counselor advice.

We make every effort to honor students' elective choices, but Class Size Amendment which limits the number of students in core courses does have an effect on our master schedule This may mean that it is not possible to balance classes and give all students their first or second choice of electives. Students with low FSA scores will be in remediation classes instead of electives.

Teacher recommendations for the level of classes are important because the teacher observes the student's work ethic, organizational skills, and maturity. Advanced and honors classes require extra time and commitment on the part of the student.

ADVANCED/HONORS/DUAL ENROLLMENT CLASSES

Advanced and honors courses have several FSA and course pre-requisites and have an expectation of considerable homework, class participation, good behavior & attitude, required outside projects, and outside-of-class preparation. ***Comprehensive semester exams will be given.***

High school dual enrollment classes have higher FSA pre-requisites, an expectation of nightly homework, outside reading and preparation, outside projects, and expectations of good behavior & attitude. ***Comprehensive semester exams comprise at least 20% of the semester report card grade. Students must pass a state End-of-Course Exam in math classes to receive credit for the class, regardless of grades.***

Dual enrollment classes establish the student's high school Grade Point Average (GPA) and will appear on high school transcripts. Students and parents should discuss the number of dual enroll classes that a student can handle at one time because of the daily out-of-class-time required to prepare for these classes. Grades of an A or B in Dual Enrollment courses indicate success. A "C" average means the student would carry a 2.0 GPA on the high school transcript. Students earning a quarter grade of D or F will be removed from the class.

AVID

Seventh and eighth grade students who need extra support to be on a college-bound track may apply for acceptance to the AVID program. These students have an AVID elective each day in place of another elective. AVID is an elective course designed to prepare students for college readiness and success. Students who apply for and are accepted into the course must also take at least one advanced level or high school course. The AVID curriculum supports students as they undertake the most rigorous courses, with emphasis on writing as a learning tool, the inquiry method, collaborative grouping, organization, and academic reading. Guidance counselors have application packets.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts 6 Students learn several techniques to improve their expository and persuasive writing skills. Grammar mini lessons are presented, as a strong understanding of English grammar translates into solid writing. Greek and Latin roots are studied in order to create expansive vocabularies. Reading strategies such as KWL Plus, selective highlighting, and text coding are emphasized, and literature study includes award winning young adult fiction, short stories, plays, and poetry.

Language Arts 7 Greek and Latin roots are studied in order to create expansive vocabularies. Literature study includes fiction, nonfiction, short stories, drama, and poetry. Grammar lessons are presented to help students identify patterns and rules found in the English language. Techniques and devices are taught to improve expository and persuasive writing skills. Literary techniques and devices are used in comprehension and creation of written, oral, and visual communication. Multimedia tools are used to enhance communication, presentations, and information relevant to the course.

Language Arts 8 Curriculum focuses on reading, writing, listening, speaking and viewing competencies, which are integrated throughout students' learning experiences. Major emphasis is on the implementation of the writing process with both formal and informal writing situations. Eighth grade students will learn several strategies to improve their expository and persuasive writing skills, which prepare students for FSA Writes. Eighth graders will study elements of literature, grammar, and vocabulary while reading young adult fiction, nonfiction, short stories, plays, and poetry.

Advanced Language Arts 6, 7, or 8 Advanced classes are more rigorous than regular classes with expectations of more advanced writing and reading assignments requiring more out-of-class time and homework. Unit Performance Assessments will be at a higher level. Writing and reading are more mature and challenging.
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

English I Honors This is a High School Dual Enrollment course that is offered to eighth grade students who meet academic requirements and have teacher recommendation. Grades will be on the high school transcript. Unit studies and themes are consistent with the ninth grade honors language arts curriculum. Class requirements include extensive outside reading, writing and projects. A cumulative exam counts for at least 20% of the semester grade.
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

MATHEMATICS

Intensive Math 6, 7, or 8 This course covers the same material as regular math but provides extra remediation for students who scored below proficiency on the FSA Math the prior year.

Mathematics 6 This course covers the operations with whole numbers, decimals and fractions, exponents, ratio and proportions, basic geometry, data displays, statistical measures, expressions and 1-step equations and inequalities.

Advanced Mathematics 6 For the highly motivated student who earned As & Bs in fifth grade math and has teacher recommendation, along with above average FSA scores. This course goes beyond the standard sixth grade course by including operations with integers, number theory, proportional reasoning and algebraic reasoning.
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

Mathematics 7 This course covers a variety of general math topics from core curriculum, including basic statistics, number theory, algebraic reasoning, proportional reasoning, percentages, probability and basic geometry.

Advanced Math 7 This course is primarily a Pre-Algebra course that prepares students for high school level Honors Algebra in eighth grade. This course has a strong emphasis on the use of variables in equations and inequalities, operations with integers, number relationships, number theory, patterns and functions, basic geometry and problem-solving strategies.
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

Mathematics 8 This course is primarily a Pre-Algebra course that is designed to prepare students to take Algebra I in high school. This course has a strong emphasis on the use of variables in equations and expressions and focuses on operations with integers and fractions. Basic geometric concepts are taught with an emphasis on algebraic thinking. In addition, the course covers word-problem solving strategies, probability and data analysis.

Algebra I Honors This course meets high school dual enrollment credit requirements. Students must complete and demonstrate mastery of the material covered in advanced 7th grade math and have earned a 3, 4 or 5 on the most current FSA Mathematics. Emphasis is on algebraic solutions to complex word problems, including functions and systems of equations, polynomials, irrational numbers and quadratic equations. Students are required to take the same cumulative semester exams that are given in high school, counting at least 20 percent of the semester grade. 7th grade students may qualify for this course by taking and scoring at least a high 8 on the IOWA Test as a 6 grader, along with a minimum grade of an A in advanced 6th Math and teacher recommendation.
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

Geometry Honors This is a high school dual enrollment course that will be on the high school transcript. The primary objective is to teach students how to reason mathematically through visualization, analysis and deductive reasoning. Proficiency with geometric skills is developed and applied to the understanding of geometric concepts. Topics include angle measurements and relationships, parallel line relationships, properties of polygons and solids, congruent triangles, similarity, right triangle trigonometry, circles, constructions, area, volume and coordinate geometry. Emphasis is on logic and proofs. A variety of applications and general problem-solving techniques, including algebra skills, are required. Pre-requisites are a recommendation from the algebra teacher and a grade of 85 % or better in Algebra I Honors.
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

SCIENCE

Science 6 This course studies general concepts, theories, and processes relating to these core questions: *How do we learn about our world and ourselves? What are the parts of living things and how do they work? Why do some parts of our world change while others stay the same? How do natural forces affect our lives? How can we use models to learn about our world?* The content includes scientific method, laws and theories, cell structure and function, organization levels, body systems, classification, rock cycle, Earth structures, weathering and erosion, energy, weather, and force and motion.

Science 7 This course studies general concepts, theories, and processes relating to these core questions: *In what ways do living things interact with each other and the environment? Why does the Earth change over time? How does energy move in the environment? What is our role on Earth?* The content includes the scientific method, environmental organization, food chains and webs, ecosystems, resource conservation, fossils, evolution, endangered and extinct species, genetics and heredity, continental drift, plate tectonics, and energy and waves.

Science 8 This course studies general concepts, theories and processes relating to these core questions: *How are science and technology used to solve problems and improve our way of life? How are objects in the universe organized? What does the structure of an object tell us about how it works? Why are both stability and change necessary for sustaining life?* Content includes the scientific method, seasonal changes, lunar phases, sun and planets, space exploration, electromagnetic spectrum, matter, atoms, periodic table, acids and bases, chemical reactions, and cellular respiration.

Advanced Science 6, 7 or 8 Designed for the highly motivated above-average student who can read and work independently outside of class to prepare. Requires more homework and out-of-class reading. Advanced students need to demonstrate time management and multi-tasking skills.
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History This course focuses on the development of the world community within the context of history by examining connections to the past to prepare for the future as participating members of a global society. Students will use knowledge of history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, and social and employment settings.

Advanced World History Designed for the highly motivated student who can read and work independently outside of class. ***
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

Civics This state-required course provides a study of the foundations of government and what it means to enjoy the freedoms and liberty that a democracy provides its citizens. The course work also integrated economics, and geography. **In order to be promoted from middle school, students must pass and End-of Course Exam.**

Advanced Civics Designed for the highly motivated student who can read and work independently outside of class. ***
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

United States History The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand the development of the United States within the context of history by examining connections to the past to prepare for the future as participating members of a democratic society. Students will use knowledge pertaining to history, geography, economics, political processes, religion, ethics, diverse cultures, and humanities to solve problems in academic, civic, social, and employment settings.

Advanced United States History Designed for the highly motivated student who has teacher recommendation and can read and work independently. Completion of a History Fair project is mandatory.***
*******Note**: the timing of the History Fair project and Science Fair project dates overlap. Advanced students need to demonstrate time-management and multi-tasking skills.*
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

ELECTIVES

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture I The agricultural program is a fun hands-on course that offers an opportunity for students to learn about the endless possibilities in the world of agriculture. Students will be exposed to the many areas of agriculture such as wildlife, aquaculture, small animals, career explorations, dairy products, greenhouse plant management, landscaping, beef cattle, leadership, and food safety.

Agriculture II Students will have an expanded opportunity to work closely with the land lab and several different types of small animals. This course also allows students to compete in local, state, and national competitions. Exploration of the many careers in agriculture are explored and experienced in a fun and challenging way.

Advanced Agriculture III-FFA Building on the prior years of agriculture, students in this class will participate in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) and meet the requirements for participation in this organization, including competitions and academics. The ability to work independently is necessary**.** ***Ag teacher recommendation required.***

Agriscience Foundations
******This is a high school dual enrollment course for eighth graders that affects a student's high school GPA. Students can earn an industry certification in this course.*** This course is designed to develop competencies in the areas of agricultural history and the global impact of agriculture; career opportunities; scientific and research concepts; biological and physical science principles; environmental principles; agriscience safety; principles of leadership; and agribusiness, employability, and human relations skills in agriscience. Laboratory-based activities are an integral part of this course. These include the safe use and application of appropriate technology, scientific testing and observation equipment.
Application and Agriculture teacher approval is required.

ART

Studio Art 1 Students explore media and techniques used to create a variety of 2-D artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provide a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Studio Art 2 Students refine techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional (2-D) artworks through developing skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, and collage. Students manipulate the structural elements of art to promote creative risk-taking in 2-D artwork. Investigation of artworks from Western and non-Western cultures provides a means for students to expand their understanding and appreciation of the role of art in global culture. Student artists use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Studio Art 3 Students will be placed based on prerequisites and/or experience.

BAND

***All students may sign up for Beginning Band. Other bands require an audition and recommendation from the Band teacher.*
Beginning Band This course is for students with no previous band experience. Students will choose from several different band Instruments. No previous music reading knowledge is necessary. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is part of this course.

Symphonic Band This course is for seventh and eighth grade students with at least one year of band instruction. The purpose of this course is to continue to develop playing skills and related non-playing concepts. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is a required part of this course.

Jazz Band This course is for any student that has successfully completed Beginning Band, except for certain instruments by audition only (Drum, Piano, Bass, Guitar). The purpose of this course is to introduce Jazz concepts, styles and history. To be in Jazz Band, all students except guitar and piano players MUST be in Symphonic Band or Wind Ensemble as well. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is a required part of this course.

Wind Ensemble For eighth graders with at least one year of band instruction, the course continues to develop playing skills and related non-playing concepts. Advanced seventh grade band students may be placed in this group with teacher approval. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is required.

CHORUS

Chorus Designed for students to learn proper vocal technique to become better singers & musicians. This class incorporates learning to read music lyrics, notation and symbols. Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is part of this course.

Haile Singers For seventh and eighth graders who have completed a prior course of Chorus as a semester or year-long elective. The purpose of this ensemble is to continue to develop vocal and choral techniques as well as overall musicianship. *Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is part of this course. Teacher recommendation is required.*

Men's Ensemble A chorus for male singers of any ability level and voice stage. Students will learn healthy vocalization techniques for the middle school male voice, develop music reading skills, and perform as a group at Chorus events.

Swing Choir* For seventh and eighth graders, this is an *audition-based advanced performance* group that combines singing with choreography. Students learn proper vocal technique and sing various styles of music, focusing on jazz, Broadway, and pop. Members of this ensemble are required to attend many outside of school performances in the community, at school and for competition, which affect the grade. *Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is part of this course. Auditions and teacher recommendation are required.*

DANCE

Dance I This course is designed for girls and boys with little to no previous dance experience. Students will learn basic dance technique, various styles, and terminology from a wide range of dance genres (including modern, jazz, lyrical, hip hop, ballet, and dance styles from other world cultures). There will be multiple performances throughout the year requiring participation beyond normal school hours.

Dance II This course is designed for girls and boys who have at least one year of dance experience. This class will build upon the students' previous training and allow them to layer skills within each of the techniques and refine their style. There will be multiple performances throughout the year, requiring participation beyond normal school hours. This class requires teacher recommendation.

Dance III* This is an advanced dance class that requires an audition and teacher recommendation. To be a part of this class you must have multiple years of dance experience and a higher level of dance technique and training. The class will be geared toward refining and mastering many dance techniques and styles. This group will be considered the Dance Company Performance Team, and must be able to commit to multiple performances outside of school. (Not all students may qualify for all performances.)

ORCHESTRA

Beginning Orchestra This course is for students with no previous string playing experience. Students will choose to play the violin, viola, cello, or bass. No previous music reading knowledge is necessary. *Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is part of this course.*

Concert Orchestra This course is for string students with at least one semester of string instruction. The purpose of this course is to continue the development of playing skills and further general knowledge of related non-playing concepts. *Participation in performances beyond the regular school hours is a required part of this course.*

Symphonic Orchestra This course is for eighth grade students with at least one year of string instruction. The purpose of this course is to continue to develop playing skills and related non-playing concepts. Advanced seventh grade string students may be placed in this performing group with teacher approval. *Participation in performances beyond regular school hours is a required part of this course.*

Chamber Orchestra This course is an advanced orchestra course for students with at least one semester of string instruction who are also taking concert or symphonic orchestra. The purpose of this course is to continue to develop playing skill and related non-playing concepts. The music performed in this class has an emphasis on pop music. *Participation in performances beyond the regular school hours is a required part of this course.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education/ Computer Technology Required for sixth graders, this course develops competence in: physical fitness, body management, throwing and catching, striking, striking with objects and strategies for physical activities. Students will also learn about health-related topics, including personal health and individual wellness planning. This is paired with a semester of computer technology.

Physical Education This course explores the relationship between physical education and other disciplines, assessment of health-related fitness, fitness program design, components of fitness, evaluation of physical activities and fitness, maintaining and improving health-related fitness, and learning to play team and individual sports. *Includes 7th- 8th graders in same class.*

READING

Intensive Reading This course is required as remediation for those who need to increase reading skills. The purpose of this course is to develop and strengthen reading through the integration of reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and critical thinking. Depending on FSA reading level, the class may be for one period or a block of two.

SPANISH

Spanish I This is a high school dual enrollment course for seventh and eighth graders that affects a student's high school GPA. Students must have a Level 5 on FSA and recommendation of the current language arts teacher. Students begin to acquire proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. ***Students must take a cumulative exam that counts for at least 20 percent of the semester grade.***
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

Spanish II This is a high school dual enrollment course for eighth graders that affects a student's high school GPA. Students must have successfully completed Spanish I. Students continue to develop their Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the continuation of listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills and on furthering the fundamentals of applied grammar. ***Students must take a cumulative exam that counts for at least 20 percent of the semester grade***
****** Students will be placed based on the requirements in the Student Progression Plan***

CODING

Coding I This is an introductory course that empowers beginning coders to engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. Students will gain practical experience in coding, first in HTML which will allow them to create their own Web pages and "Web Portfolio," then in block coding which will allow them to create their own animated projects in which they will create "sprites" (characters) that move, speak, and interact in scenarios and games.

Coding II In this course, students will use Adobe Dreamweaver to build sophisticated Web Sites and learn the basics of more advanced programming languages like Javascript and Python. Course content includes more advanced knowledge and skills related to computer coding and software development.

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

Business Technology I This class provides an overview of multiple software programs including Business related applications such as Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint and Graphic Designing Applications such as Adobe Photoshop. This class is for the student who enjoys technology and wants to learn more about graphic design or business related fields.

Business Technology II This course is designed for 7th graders who have taken Business Technology I and want to enhance their soft skills in Business related applications and Graphic Design. Students will dig deeper into programs such as Photoshop, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. They will also be introduced to Adobe Muse to learn how to create webpages. It is highly recommended that students join FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) to compete against other students from across the district and state in these technology areas.

Digital Information Technology

*********_**This is a high school dual enrollment course for eighth graders that affects a student's high school GPA. Students can earn an industry certification in this course.**_ This is an 8th grade course in which students receive dual credit for a high school technology course. Students must apply their 7th grade year and should have completed Business Technology I and II. Students should also already be an active member in FBLA and have the experience of attending a competition. This course is a high school course and is treated as such. Students work on intensive training for Industry Certification in Microsoft Office. Students are required to test and pass 3 different certifications in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint. They will also work in Adobe Muse to create dynamic webpages and work on advancing their Photoshop skills.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Digital Technology I

Introductory Adobe Photoshop courses familiarize users with the editing capabilities of Adobe Photoshop software. Students learn how to use the Adobe Photoshop interface and access its expansive set of features. Lessons cover the basics of saving and storing image files and defining the various processes used for image editing. When they complete this Adobe Photoshop course, students will know how to use the paintbrush, airbrush, stamp and pencil tools.

Digital Technology II

Layering images is one of Adobe Photoshop software's most powerful tools. This Adobe Photoshop courses give students an overview of layer features and layer management techniques, including adding, deleting, reordering, flattening and duplicating layers. Students taking this class often work with gradients, which involve blending two or more colors together, and masks, which allow users to add or remove backgrounds from a picture or image. Other lessons focus on isolating image layers in order to erase or add layers to a specific part of an image.

ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Engineering and Design Technology I This hands-on course includes introductory studies in areas of technology and engineering which introduce students to the development of abilities to calculate, make important observations, analyze and solve problems using manipulative skills while working cooperatively with others in team activities. Students will be introduced to 3D modeling software, racecar design and production, and product creation, etc.

Engineering and Design Technology II This course is designed for the student who has taken at least one year of technology, computer, or graphics design courses. Students will engage in advanced projects to include, robotics, product creation, structures, and to Adobe and/or 3D modeling software. Teacher recommendation required.

Engineering and Design Technology III This course is designed for the student who is interested in earning industry certifications in various programs through the creation of projects and program application. Although these may change from year to year, they may include: Adobe Photoshop CS5 and 6, Adobe Photoshop CC, Illustrator, Adobe Premier, Adobe InDesign or Solid works. Teacher recommendation required.

TSA Leadership TSA members who attended this year's state and/or national conference are eligible to apply for this class. Students will work in groups on set and nationally winning TSA projects as well as team and leadership building. In addition, they may work on learning programs needed to complete their projects.

Applied Engineering Technology

***This is a high school dual enrollment course for eighth graders that affects a student's high school GPA. Students can earn an industry certification in this course.

The purpose of this program is to provide students with a foundation of knowledge and technically oriented experiences in the study of applied engineering and its effect upon our lives and the choosing of an occupation. The content and activities will also include the study of electronics, alternative energies, advanced robotics, safety, and leadership skills. This program focuses on transferable skills and stresses understanding and demonstration of the technological tools, machines, instruments, materials, processes and systems in business and industry.

Engineering teacher approval is required.

YEARBOOK

Yearbook Production This course is open to seventh and eighth grade students who have already taken computer courses and have been selected through an application process and teacher recommendation. Using InDesign CS3, Photoshop CS3, and other great programs, students market, sell, create, and distribute the yearbook.

TV PRODUCTION

TV Production Students will produce the daily television newscast and learn how to create, direct, produce and be the on-air talent. The class will also do special video, web and audio productions throughout the year for the school and various projects. Students may also participate in TV production contests and competitions with their projects