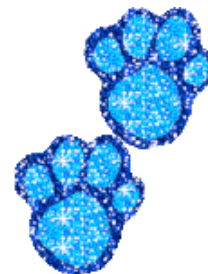


**FAIRFIELD-SUISUN
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Course Description
Guide**

2018-2019



B.Gale Wilson

MIDDLE SCHOOL

3301 Cherry Hills Ct.
707-421-4225
<https://www.fsusd.org/Domain/36>
@BGaleWilson1 on Twitter

Rebecca Dinwiddie, Principal
Travis Nelson, Assistant Principal
Victoria Escobar, School Counselor
Tammy Nguyen, School Psychologist
Kaitlyn Poole, Attendance/Scheduling Clerk

B.Gale Wilson will provide a safe community in which all students are challenged to become productive workers, lifelong learners, and responsible citizens.

WELCOME TO B.Gale Wilson!
We are a PBIS Silver Medal School!

Our middle school is built upon the foundations of PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) practices where students are regularly taught our expectations of their character in weekly advisory lessons. Students are rewarded for meeting these expectations through our PBIS Rewards App and we offer incentives throughout the year in which students have the opportunity to purchase with their PBIS points. Our focus is for our students to embody our ROAR(Respect, Opportunity, Achievement, Responsibility) expectations on their path to becoming successful and productive citizens as adults.



Required Courses for 7th and 8th Graders:

P.E.	History
Mathematics	Science
English	Electives

ENGLISH

English 7: This course is designed to increase language development in reading, writing, and grammar. Using literature as a base, students develop reading skills which build vocabulary and increase comprehension. Students also learn to research for and write effective informational, argumentative, and narrative essays.

English 8: This course is a reinforcement of reading and writing skills. Emphasis is placed upon the use of critical thinking skills in reading and writing about short stories, poetry, plays and novels, as well as developing analytical writing skills.

GATE/Honors* English 7th and 8th :Students who are GATE identified are clustered in these classes to learn from one another at a greater depth and complexity. Emphasis is placed upon high-level skills in composition and literature. GATE identified students are often paired with honors students in these classes. **GATE students must be GATE identified. For Honors Requests, students must have:**

***High performance on both Winter Map ELA and Writing Assessment, a grade of B or higher in previous English class, and/or Teacher Recommendation.**

SCIENCE

Science 7 & 8 :Science 7 and 8 will cover integrated content from three Science domains: Earth and Space Science, Physical Science and Life Science organized so that student understanding of concepts is built progressively throughout the courses sequence. These courses will also include the Science and Engineering Practices aligned in the NGSS framework. Students will improve their problem solving skills, analyzing and interpreting data, and communicating, in order to understand the interconnectedness of the scientific topics covered throughout the year through a hands-on approach and the integration of technology.

Science Honors/GATE 7 & 8: This course includes the basic aspects of the 7th & 8th grade science program. Additionally, student assignments and projects will demand more critical thinking and problem solving at a greater depth and complexity. ***GATE identified students are automatically placed in this course in a cluster. Honors requests to join the course must have a grade of B or higher in their previous science class, and/or Teacher Recommendation.***

MATHEMATICS

Common Core 7: This course emphasizes Integer operations, Rational Numbers, Ratios, Proportionality, Percent, Expressions, Equations, Inequalities, Geometric Figures, Circumference, Area, Volume, basic statistics and probability This course stresses modeling real life problems involving justification, writing of steps, and explanations.

Common Core 7 Accelerated: Students in this course will learn all of math 7 and be introduced to concepts from math 8 throughout the year. Eligibility is dependent upon scores on placement test, MAP, CAASPP, Grade in previous math class and/or teacher recommendation. Due to the rigor of this course, students will not be placed if data does not show they are fully prepared.

Common Core 8: This course emphasizes Real Numbers, Exponents, Scientific Notation, Proportional and Nonproportional relationships, Functions, Solving Linear Equations, Solving Systems of Equations, Transformations, Congruence, Similarity, Angle Relationships, Pythagorean Theorem, Volume, Scatter Plots and Two Way Tables. This course stresses modeling real life problems involving justification, writing of steps, explanations and using mathematical tools.

Common Core Math 8 Accelerated: **Prerequisite Grade of B or above in Common Core 7 Accelerated, strong MAP and CAASPP scores, and/or teacher recommendation.** This course will include Common Core 8 Standards as well as an introduction of nonlinear functions from Math 1.

HISTORY

World History 7: This is a course in which the student is introduced to the physical, cultural and geographical aspects of medieval world history. Emphasis will be placed on map and graph skills, organization, study skills and the analysis of major geographic features and historical events that affected mankind during the Middle Ages.

World History Honors/GATE 7: Gate History includes all aspects of the 7th grade history program as well more in-depth investigations into critical events that shaped the medieval world. Student assignments and research projects will demand more complex writing and critical thinking skills. ***Students who are Gate identified will automatically be placed in this course. Students requesting Honors will be given an application upon receiving their request for review by our History Department.***

US History 8: The emphasis in this course is on skill building and writing. Students will do research, analyze charts and graphs, interpret maps, make oral presentations, think critically and present their work in an organized fashion. History 8 explores periods in American history, with special emphasis on Colonial America, the Constitutional era, and the Civil War and aftermath.

US History Honors/GATE 8: This course is for students who are highly motivated and have been recommended by their seventh grade history teacher. It is structured similar to regular eighth grade history, but also includes an in-depth study of the evolution of citizenship and the changing American way of life from 1790-1860. Emphasis is placed on higher-level critical thinking skills, independent and group projects and historical analysis of key events, people and ideas from the American Revolution to the Civil War. ***Students who are Gate identified will automatically be placed in this course. Students requesting Honors will be given an application upon receiving their request for review by our History.***

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education 7&8 : Physical Education classes are co-ed and incorporate a daily writing component. Students meet challenges and are graded upon their ability to perform individual, Dual Sports and writing activities. They are tested in health related fitness concepts both in their ability to perform as well as to evaluate and explain the processes.

ELECTIVE OPTIONS

May depend on teacher credentialing and subject to availability

During the course request process, we put out numerous electives that we anticipate being able to offer during the school year. We ask students to identify their top three choices for electives, based off of these anticipated choices. This allows us to have a better idea of which options students are interested in, so that we can offer more higher interest electives, so long as we have enough staff who are credentialed to teach those courses. Not all courses are guaranteed to occur, especially ones that either lack student interest or ones in which are difficult for us to staff. Students are not guaranteed their top choice and in the end, although we do try to accommodate student choice, the ultimate decision is made based off of how an elective aligns with a student's schedule.

Dual Immersion (DI) Students

In order to provide our students access to literature in both English and Spanish, Dual Immersion students forego the option of being able to pick an elective and instead are enrolled in a literature course in Spanish. This serves as their elective in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade.

7th/8th Electives **BASED ON AVAILABILITY AND TEACHER CREDENTIAL

Academic Language Development (Selective): This class is for students who need intensive English Language Development, based off of their home language survey and CELDT Scores. Students who will need this course will be notified.

Teen Leadership: Curriculum for this course comes from the Flippen Group and is aimed to teach students critical, life-changing skills including taking personal responsibility, expressing themselves well, and making good decisions when problems arise. It is a leadership development and character education elective that supports our PBIS framework and allows us to consider student voice when making decisions.

Spanish I 8TH GRADE ONLY: This is a semester class where students will be exposed to and learn the basics of speaking Spanish. Students will learn letters, numbers, verb tense, and more. Students who took 7th grade Intro to Spanish are best prepared to be successful in this course.

STEM/STEAM: STEM/STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering (Art) and Math. Students in course explore how all things relate to each other, in school and outside of school. This hands on learning encourages students to code, create, produce, critically think, inquire, and develop!

Teacher Assistant: Teacher assistants work in the school office or with classroom teachers to perform a variety of services like running errands, organizing materials, and helping other students. Students requesting to be a teacher assistant will have their grades reviewed and may be asked for a teacher recommendation.

Beginning Band: This class is for students who wish to learn a band instrument - flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, tuba, and drums - with no prior experience. Additionally, students with six months to one year of musical experience will be enrolled in this class. Students will move to advanced band when appropriate. Basic instrument care, music theory and motor skills are taught to novice students. The study of musical terms, scales and composers are introduced. Instruments may be available on a limited basis. Students are required to perform at school concerts and district festivals. Students are to provide their own instruments except as noted above, large brass and drums are provided on a limited basis. Skills learned will allow them to proceed to advanced band.

Advanced Band: Students requesting Advanced band should either have taken Beginning Band the year prior, or have more than a year's experience reading music and playing their instrument.

7th Grade Intro to Spanish: This course provides students an introduction to the Spanish language through Edgenuity, an online program that allows students to learn at work at their own pace in order to begin to grasp the basic foundations and beginning vocabulary of the Spanish language. Students enrolled in this class are more well prepared to take Spanish 1 in 8th grade.

Directed Studies (Selective): Some students with Individualized Education Plans will have a directed studies course in lieu of an elective choice. Students who are enrolled in this class will receive support in understanding concepts taught and work assigned in their General Education classes. Students are only enrolled in this class through their IEP.

PLEASE CLICK BELOW TO REGISTER YOUR STUDENT FOR NEXT YEAR'S CLASSES:

[7th Grade Registration](#)

[8th Grade Registration](#)