

Pasadena Independent School District

INTERMEDIATE

COURSE GUIDE



• 2009-2010 •

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A student's intermediate school years are spent strengthening skills developed in the elementary grades, putting those skills to new and more complex uses, and building the kind of foundation necessary for success in high school and the years beyond. These years are critical to the student's academic success and emotional development. We encourage parents to be active participants in the total educational experience. The first step for next year is planning course selection. This booklet has been designed to help parents and students in this important decision-making process. The intermediate **school counselor** and **principal** are there to help, so please call them whenever assistance is needed.

Beverly Hills Intermediate 11111 Beamer, Houston 77089 713-740-0420	Principal: Alyta Harrell Counselors: Pamela Andrews Tamara Williams
Bondy Intermediate 5101 Keith Road, Pasadena 77505 713-740-0430	Principal: Dan Connolly Counselors: Margaret Belcher Teresa Urquiaga
Jackson Intermediate 1020 E. Thomas, Pasadena 77506 713-740-0440	Principal: Paula Sword Counselors: Katherine Holling Pam Mayfield
Miller Intermediate 1002 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena 77504 713-740-0450	Principal: Joe Saavedra Counselors: Bettye Glenn Rumalda Rivera
Park View Intermediate 3003 Dabney, Pasadena 77502 713-740-0460	Principal: Rob Hasson, Jr. Counselors: Shannon Cuevas Olga Sanchez
Queens Intermediate 1112 Queens Road, Pasadena 77502 713-740-0470	Principal: Troy Jones Counselors: Floreeda Chedid Andrea Lynn
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Southmore Intermediate 2000 Patricia Lane, Pasadena 77502 713-740-0500	Principal: Lana Stahl Counselors: Kristi Moore Mandy Wells
Thompson Intermediate 11309 Sagedowne, Houston 77089 713-740-0510	Principal: Dr. Angela Stallings Counselors: Prudencio Reyna Erin Richardson
Challenger School 11111 Beamer, Houston 77089 713-740-0303	Principal: Stan Honeycutt Counselors: Mary Dodge Fran Michetich

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Park View Intermediate and Queens Intermediate serve grades six, seven, and eight. The following intermediate schools serve **only** grades seven and eight; Beverly Hills, Bondy, Jackson, Miller, San Jacinto, Southmore, South Houston, and Thompson. The school year is divided into the traditional two semesters. The number of class periods per day, the length of each class period, the school starting time, and the ending time are site-based decisions. In addition, individual campuses may offer unique classes, have different programs for the gifted and talented, or structure classes differently to meet campus needs. Contact the individual intermediate school for specific information.

CORE COURSES/REQUIRED COURSES

Core courses are the required courses at each grade level students must complete for promotion. In addition eighth grade students must successfully pass the math and reading portions of the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) for promotion to the ninth grade. Eighth grade students have three opportunities during spring and summer to take the test and meet the passing standards. Seventh grade students take a TAKS test in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. Sixth grade students take a TAKS test in the areas of reading and mathematics. The promotion policy for grade six and seventh does not require passing all portions of the TAKS exam.

A full year of English, mathematics, reading, science, and social studies is required in grades 6-8. A language arts block (English and reading) is offered at some intermediate schools.

Sixth	A fine arts elective course is required (<i>art, band, choir, general music, orchestra, theatre arts/speech</i>) Two semesters of <i>Physical Education</i> is required
Seventh	One semester of <i>Physical Education</i> (or athletics) is required
Eighth	One semester of <i>Physical Education</i> (or athletics) is required

Intermediate campuses have the flexibility of offering **Technology Applications** as a specific class or as an integrated component of language arts, math, science, and social studies curriculum in grades seven and eight. The remainder of the student's schedule consists of elective courses.

English (Required)

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

English language arts is a writing and literature-based program, which incorporates reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing to promote effective communication. Students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills, increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and written compositions. Some campuses offer English and reading as a two-period language arts block. English language learners will be assigned to an English as a Second Language (ESL) course.

Mathematics (Required)

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

Mathematics 6-8: Throughout mathematics in Grades 6-8, students build a foundation of basic understanding of numbers, operations, quantitative reasoning, patterns, relationships, and algebraic thinking, geometry and spatial reasoning, measurement, and probability and statistics. Students use concepts, properties, and computations of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use problem solving, language and communication, connections within and outside of mathematics, and formal and informal reasoning. Manipulative materials and technology are used to develop conceptual understanding and solve meaningful problems as they do mathematics. The eighth grade curriculum is a pre-algebra curriculum focus centered on using the basic principles of algebra.

Reading (Required)*

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

The intermediate reading program provides instruction that reinforces and refines the student's use of fundamental reading strategies and promotes his/her development of interpretative and critical reading procedures to promote better comprehension. Content reading strategies that help students achieve success in all academic areas, develop effective study habits, and provide vocabulary development are components of the curriculum. Levels of placement exist in order to meet each student's learning needs appropriately. English language learners will be assigned to an ESL reading course.

**A language arts block (English and Reading) is offered at some intermediate schools.*

Science (Required)

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

Science 6-8: Students will use a variety of scientific tools and methods to conduct science inquiry. Critical thinking skills and scientific problem solving with application to real world connections are emphasized to prepare the student to make well informed decisions and become a productive contributor to society. Field and laboratory investigations are conducted using safe, environmentally appropriate, and ethical practices. Each course requires the application of science process skills in investigating and conducting science activities, including identifying and defining problems, formulating hypotheses, using measurement tools and equipment, designing and conducting investigations, drawing and communicating valid conclusions, solving problems, making informed decisions, and/or applying content knowledge. These courses emphasize the understanding of natural processes and phenomena rather than the memorization of isolated facts and information. Each grade level will explore concepts and principles of life, earth and physical science.

Social Studies (Required)

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

Sixth grade social studies begins with a review of United States history to set the stage for a study of and comparison with the cultures of Europe and the Middle East. Students compare institutions common to all societies and learn about the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary developments. Seventh grade focuses on Texas. Students gain an understanding of factors that have influenced the state's history, growth, and development. In grade eight, students study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. This is the first part of a two-year study of U.S. History, which continues in high school.

Physical Education (Required)

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

All students are required to take at least four semesters of physical education in an intermediate school setting (grades 6, 7, and 8). For campuses with 7th and 8th grades only, each student must take one semester of physical education at each grade level. A second semester may be taken as an elective at each grade level. Exercises, games and activities which promote the physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being of the student are provided. A balanced curriculum offers opportunities for students to: develop personal fitness and healthy lifestyles; acquire knowledge and motor skills basic to efficient movement; and participate in leisure/recreational activities, individual, dual, and team sports which will lead to increased health literacy. Students are required to have moderate to vigorous daily physical activity at least 30 minutes for at least four semesters in grades 6, 7, and 8 (two semesters for 7 and 8). For students in grades using a block class schedule moderate to vigorous physical activity is required for at least 225 minutes during each period during two school weeks. Students in grades 6-8 will be assessed annually with the Fitnessgram. Upon request results are sent to the parent or guardian with an explanation of the results. Participation in the school's competitive athletics program in grade 7 and/or grade 8 will satisfy the physical education requirement for that grade level. (See also **Athletics**.)

Technology Applications (Required)

Grades: 7 and 8

Course offerings in Technology Applications will vary from campus to campus. Intermediate campuses have the flexibility of offering Technology Applications as a specific class or as an integrated component of the core curriculum in grades seven and eight. However, all campuses assure that students will demonstrate competencies in the following areas by the end of the eighth grade:

Foundations

1. Demonstrating knowledge and use of hardware components, software programs, and their connections.
2. Using data input skills appropriate to the task.
3. Compliance with laws and examining issues regarding the use of technology in society.

Information Acquisition

4. Using a variety of strategies to acquire information from electronic resources.
5. Acquiring electronic information.
6. Evaluating electronic information.

Solving Problems

7. Using appropriate computer-based skills to create and modify solutions to problems.
8. Using research skills and electronic communication to create new knowledge.
9. Using technology applications to facilitate evaluation of work.

Communication

10. Formatting digital information.
11. Delivering the product electronically in a variety of media.
12. Using technology applications to facilitate evaluation of communication.

Fine Arts Requirements for 6th Grade (Required)

Grades: 6

The following courses fulfill the requirements in Fine Arts for 6th grade students.

Art	Band
General Music	Orchestra
Choir	Theatre Arts

Refer to pages 7-10 for description of elective courses.

PRE-AP/HONORS PROGRAM

Students in each intermediate school have the opportunity to take advanced classes in English, math, science, and social studies or may begin a foreign language. Not every intermediate school will offer the same courses because of demand and the availability of teachers. The pace in these classes is faster and students explore subjects in greater depth and intensity. Eligible students need to carefully consider participation in one or more of these courses because of the increased time commitment and effort required beyond the classroom. Completion of these courses in intermediate school affords students the opportunity to take advanced placement classes at the high school level. Advanced Placement classes are college-level courses taken during high school.

A student shall be considered for an honors course if a majority of the following criteria are met:

1. Recommendations from the appropriate subject area teacher
2. Grades of mostly A's earned in previous courses in that subject
3. Parent and student notification prior to entry
4. Pre-AP placement is determined by individual campus

English

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

Pre-AP English Language Arts: Students in Pre-AP English Language Arts will work on strategies and tools needed to engage in higher-level learning that will enable them to be successful in upper-level courses later in their education. Thinking will shift from concrete to abstract as students examine works in greater depth. Four major areas of focus in reading and writing are: thinking skills, close reading, grammar, and composition.

Mathematics

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

Pre-AP Math 6: Students in Pre-AP Math 6 focus on using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals, fractions, and integers in problem solving situations. They use proportional relationships in numbers, geometry, measurement, and probability as well as use statistical measures to describe data. Students prepare for the systematic study of algebra by using tables and symbols to represent relationships and formulating equations from problem situations. Students apply mathematics to problem solving situations connected to everyday experiences as well as activities inside and outside of school. Students are expected to show mastery of both 6th and 7th grade TEKS.

Pre-AP Math 7: Students in Pre-AP Math 7 focus on the use of basic algebraic principles to analyze and represent proportional and non-proportional relationships. As a part of this pre-algebra curriculum, they use concepts, properties, and computation of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use probability to describe data and make predictions. They continue to use geometric properties and relationships, spatial reasoning, and measurement principles and procedures to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students are expected to show mastery of both 7th and 8th grade TEKS, and meet entry level criteria in order to take Algebra I in the 8th grade.

Mathematics

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

Algebra I: *Pre-requisite: Pre-AP Math 7, entry criteria* Algebra students use symbols in a variety of ways to study relationships among quantities. They use functions to represent and model problem situations and to analyze and interpret relationships. Students use a variety of representations, tools, and technology to model mathematical situations and to solve meaningful problems. As they do algebra, students continually use problem solving, computation in problem-solving contexts, language and communication, connections within and outside mathematics, and reasoning, as well as multiple representations, applications, modeling, and justification and proof. The successful completion of the Algebra course will count for a high school graduation credit. However, the grade earned for the Algebra course will not be included when computing the student's high school grade point average and class rank.

NOTE: Reading in mathematics is an expectation in all mathematics courses.

Science

Grades: 6, 7, and 8

Pre-AP Science 6-8: TEKS are the guiding concepts and skills of this course. The focus of this program goes beyond the basics in preparing students for depth, complexity and rigor of advanced science courses. The foundations for study, discussions, and analysis of science concepts, experiments and data are intricate parts of these courses.

Social Studies

Grades: 8

Pre-AP Social Studies Gr.8: Pre-AP social studies is an on-grade level academically advanced course designed to challenge motivated students to understand rigorous content in American History to 1865. The coursework requires students to engage in independent and analytical assignments and analysis of U.S. History political, social and economic events. The curricula for this course are built on the core academic curriculum following the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) expectations for U.S. History.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Elective courses help students discover and develop personal interests, abilities, and choices related to their future education, careers, and lives.

Grade Level Elective Offerings include the following:

Sixth Grade

Art 6
Band 6
Choir 6
General Music 6
Orchestra 6
Physical Education 6
Teen Leadership 6

Seventh Grade

Art 7
Athletics 7*
Band 7
Career Investigation
Choir 7
General Music 7
Health 7
Life Management Skills/
Homemaking 7
Media Production 7
Orchestra 7
Physical Education 7
Robotics
Spanish 7**
Study Skills 7
Teen Leadership 7
Theatre Arts 7

Eighth Grade

Advanced Technology
Art 8
Athletics 8*
Band 8
Career Investigation
Choir 8
General Music 8
Health 8
Journalism 8 (Newspaper/Annual
Life Management Skills
Homemaking 8
Media Production 8
Orchestra 8
Physical Education 8
Robotics
Spanish 8**
Student Assistant 8***
Study Skills 8
Teen Leadership 8
Theatre Arts 8

Not all electives are available at all schools, and schools may offer electives not listed in this guide. Your school counselor has specific information concerning the campus offerings.

**Selection based on meeting criteria for class; may not take concurrently with P.E.*

***Spanish 7 is a prerequisite for Spanish 8.*

Satisfactory completion of two years of intermediate school Spanish or two years of intermediate school French comprise high school credit for Level I of that foreign language. Spanish for Native Speakers is offered on some campuses.

****Principal/Counselor approval required*

Advanced Technology

Grades: 7 and 8

An elective overview course designed to increase the student's understanding of the development of the uses of technology. This course provides an introduction to technology in the areas of Bio-Technology, Communication Technology, Computer Technology, Production and Manufacturing Technology, and Energy, Power & Transportation Technology. Using hands-on problem solving and creative activities, students develop an understanding of technology and its impact. Activities may include designing and making products, assessing technologies, constructing structural models, using computers, investigating energy types, and using tools and machines.

ArtGrades: 6, 7 and 8

In each art class, students will create two-and three-dimensional artwork. Students will become familiar with art in their environment and will research the lives and works of artists. A student wishing to be better qualified for available art scholarships in high school should consider taking art each year in intermediate school. Each art course is a two-semester offering, but the student may enroll for one semester if this is all his/her schedule permits. In Art 6, 7, and 8, students will produce art for fun, displays, and possible contest prizes. Each art course includes a review of prior learning for beginning students. The school district furnishes basic materials and tools for all art classes, while students may be asked to bring a few personal supplies.

AthleticsGrades: 7 and 8

The PISD competitive athletics program actually begins in the seventh grade, and one semester of athletics in grade 7 or 8 will count as the required physical education course in that grade level. Students interested in more than one sport may elect to participate in athletics all year, which is encouraged. Boys' sports include football, basketball, cross-country, and track, while girls' sports include volleyball, basketball, cross-country, and track. Each school will have two grade level teams in boys' football and basketball and girls' volleyball and basketball. Students compete only with other grade level teams from within the Pasadena Independent School District. All games are played in the afternoon after school. Teams may also be invited to participate in one out-of-district tournament in each season. Participation in athletic programs requires meeting the criteria for selection. (See also **Physical Education**.)

Band (See Music)Grades: 6, 7, and 8

Career InvestigationGrades: 7 and 8

A one-semester elective course designed to provide students an opportunity to gain an understanding of their interests, abilities, and aptitudes, and to assist them in making meaningful and informed educational and career choices. Course culminates in the development of a graduation plan based on the career objective selected by student.

Choir (See Music)Grades: 6, 7, and 8

Foreign Language: (Spanish)Grades: 7, and 8

In the seventh and eighth grades, students may elect to take two-year sequential courses in Spanish. Students who satisfactorily complete grades 7 and 8 of the same foreign language will be awarded one credit toward high school graduation requirements.

Accelerated eighth grade Spanish courses may be provided for native Spanish speakers allowing them to complete the two-year intermediate school foreign language sequence in a single year. This is a campus option where enrollment justifies. Students who complete the eighth grade Spanish I course may enroll in Spanish II for native speakers in high school.

General Music (See Music)Grades: 6, 7, and 8

HealthGrade: 7 and 8

Students gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge and behaviors they use to safeguard their health, particularly pertaining to health risks. Students will also be given the tools and knowledge to acquire health literacy skills for a lifetime. Topics include health and wellness, successful decisions and goals, building self-esteem, physical fitness, nutrition and your health, encouraging healthy relationships, and conflict and violence. Health at the middle /intermediate school is part of the coordinated school health initiative as mandated by state law.

Journalism (Annual/Newspaper)Grade: 8

Journalism, a one- or two-semester elective, is designed for students who have an aptitude for composition and English language arts skills. Students work as a class on the school newspaper and yearbook.

Life Management Skills/HomemakingGrades: 7 and 8

A one-semester elective course that focuses on the importance of the family, effective communication skills, management skills, getting along with others including family members and peers, decision making, accepting responsibility, and child care practices that promote positive development. Other areas emphasized include positive self-image, nutrition, wellness, personal appearance, managing multiple roles, and career options.

Media ProductionGrades: 7 and 8

Media Production is a one or two-semester course that fulfills the campus Technology requirement for 7th and 8th grade students. Students are exposed to the fundamentals of broadcasting techniques. Students learn how to conduct interviews and background research, summarize news briefs and apply effective public speaking skills. Students create video products which incorporate scriptwriting, acting, basic camera, lighting, and audio techniques. The course introduces technologies and processes related to the selection, care and use of digital camera equipment, production, and design. Students utilize technology such as digital cameras, video, and computer editing software to produce news features. Computer programs often used are: Microsoft Power Point, Adobe Premiere Elements, Movie Maker and Photo Suite.

MusicGrades: 6, 7, and 8

Performing music classes in the intermediate school consist of Band, Choir, and Orchestra. Performing music courses are two-semester electives. At the high school level, participation in marching band can substitute as a P.E. credit. Through the development of actual individual and group performance skills, students learn appropriate music literature, history, and theory, as well as sight reading. Students develop mental and physical discipline that can be applied to everyday life. **Band** serves students who wish to play woodwind, brass, or percussion instruments, while students interested in string instruments should enroll in **Orchestra**. Students wanting to learn vocal and choral techniques may take **Choir**. Band, choir, and orchestra are all two-semester courses. Instruments needed for band and orchestra may be purchased or rented through private vendors. Each school has a few school-owned instruments that can be used for a fee for the Instrument Protection Plan. Details are available from the instrumental music teacher. General Music is a one-semester elective course available at each grade level. This course is designed for students who do not wish to join a performing group but would like to increase their basic knowledge and appreciation of music. Students will explore music careers, music of other past and present cultures, and music literature including the evolution of contemporary music.

Orchestra (See Music)	Grades: 6, 7, and 8
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Robotics	Grades: 7 and 8
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This course introduces students to careers in technology and engineering. The students learn the mechanics of motion, engineering concepts, trace the history and development of automation and robotics, and team building skills. Teacher/Counselor approval is necessary for enrollment.

Study Skills	Grades: 7, and 8
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Study Skills, a one-semester elective, provides opportunities for students to strengthen their academic skills in all content areas, improve skills in test taking including TAKS, and develop the traits of successful people such as persistence, problem solving, and personal responsibility.

Teen Leadership	Grades: 6, 7, and 8
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Teen Leadership is a program in which students develop leadership, as well as professional and business skills. They learn to develop a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships, and learn to understand the concept of personal responsibility. They will develop an understanding of emotional intelligence and the skills it measures, which include self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, and social skills. Students will develop skills in public speaking and communication and an understanding of personal image. They will develop an understanding of the concept of principle-based decision-making and learn to make responsible financial decisions. They will develop an understanding of the effects of peer pressure, will develop skills to counteract those effects, and will develop problem solving skills. They will develop an understanding of the principles of parenting, enabling them to become better family members and citizens. They will also develop an understanding of the need for vision in goal-setting, both personally and professionally.

Theatre Arts	Grades: 6, 7, and 8
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Theatre Arts is an elective course which studies the history of plays and the role of the actor. Students will read and act in plays and learn about play production and set design.

PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

The information in this guide is designed to assist students and parents with the selection of courses for the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades and to provide information for long-range planning. When selecting a program of study it is important to remember that course choices at the intermediate level greatly influence decisions in the high school program. For your future reference and to assist in planning, the program chart outlines the course requirements for earning a high school diploma.

Students Entering High School Fall 2007 and Beyond

Courses	Recommended High School Program												
	26 Credits												
English Language Arts	4 credits <i>English I, II, III, IV</i>												
Mathematics	4 credits <i>Algebra I, Geometry & Algebra II</i> <i>The fourth credit may be chosen from Math Models (Recommended Plan only) and/or Pre-calculus, AP Statistics, or AP Calculus required for Distinguished Achievement Program)</i> <i>*Students selecting Math Models as a fourth math credit must complete Math Models prior to enrollment in Algebra II.</i>												
Science	4 credits <i>Biology, Chemistry and Physics</i> <i>The remaining one credit may be chosen from the following areas</i> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><i>IPC</i></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><i>Aquatic Science</i></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><i>Environmental Systems</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>AP Chemistry</i></td> <td><i>Astronomy</i></td> <td><i>AP Environmental Science</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>AP Physics</i></td> <td><i>Engineering (Infinity Project)</i></td> <td><i>Geology, Meteorology, and</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>AP Biology</i></td> <td><i>Anatomy and Physiology</i></td> <td><i>Oceanography (GMO)</i></td> </tr> </table>	<i>IPC</i>	<i>Aquatic Science</i>	<i>Environmental Systems</i>	<i>AP Chemistry</i>	<i>Astronomy</i>	<i>AP Environmental Science</i>	<i>AP Physics</i>	<i>Engineering (Infinity Project)</i>	<i>Geology, Meteorology, and</i>	<i>AP Biology</i>	<i>Anatomy and Physiology</i>	<i>Oceanography (GMO)</i>
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Social Studies	4 credits <i>World History Studies – I;</i> <i>World Geography Studies – I;</i> <i>U.S. History – I;</i> <i>U.S. Government – ½; Economics – ½</i>												
Health Education	½ credit												
Physical Education	1 ½ credits <i>to include ½ credit in Foundations of Personal Fitness course;</i> <i>only 2 units of Physical Education may count toward the required credits</i>												
Languages (Foreign Language)	2 credits (Level 1 and 2) <i>must be from the same language;</i> <i>one additional credit is required to participate in the Distinguished Achievement Program</i>												
Fine Arts	1 credit <i>may not substitute speech</i>												
Speech	½ credit <i>Communication Applications</i>												
Technology Applications	1 credit												
Electives/Required Options	3 ½ credits <i>only 2 ½ additional credits are required for the Distinguished Achievement Program</i>												
Advanced Options	Distinguished Achievement Program - Completion of four advanced measures												