

# **Kwajalein Junior High School Course Descriptions**

**2019 - 2020**



Kwajalein School System  
Kwajalein Jr/Sr High School  
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## Message to Students

Dear Student,

You are an important member of the Kwajalein Junior/Senior High School team which is made up of you, your parents, faculty and staff. It is our goal to work together to create an educational pathway that helps you strive for high academic achievement and create positive memories that come from attending a premier high school.

As a student, one of your foremost responsibilities is to choose a course of study which best suits your needs as you begin planning for life after high school. The purpose of this course description guide is to provide you information on all our course offerings which will assist you and your parents in matching your educational needs and interests with the courses we offer. Please read through the enclosed material carefully and discuss with your parents the classes you feel will best suit your needs, as well as our graduation requirements.

I am confident the coming school year will be a great success and that you will be an active participant of our Spartan community. You have many opportunities before you which will prepare you for any adventure you wish to pursue. Choose wisely and apply yourself daily!

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We are here for you. Your success as a student and young adult is our number one goal!

Happy Spring!

Tarah Yurovchak  
KHS Principal

# Graduation Requirements

## Class of 2022 and Subsequent School Years

Students entering 9th grade during SY 2018-2019 (Class of 2022) and subsequent school years

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

| Content Area*  | Course Requirements   | Standard Diploma | Honors Diploma  |
|--|---|------------------|---|
| * AP and/or IB courses may be used to meet KSS requirements.   |   |                  |   |
| English Language Arts  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (ELA 9)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (ELA 10)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (ELA 11)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (ELA 12)</li> </ul>   | 4.0 credits      | 4.0 credits   |
| Social Studies   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (World History 9 or 10; or Honors Integrated World History 9 or 10)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (U. S. History)</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (U. S. Government)</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (Social Studies elective)</li> </ul> | 3.0 credits      | 3.0 credits   |
| Mathematics<br>Note: Three credits must earned in grades 9-12. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (Algebra I)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Geometry)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Algebra II or identified equivalent course)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Elective Math course)</li> </ul>                                       | 4.0 credits      | 4.0 credits<br>Note: Honors diploma requires completion of one additional math course beyond Algebra II or identified equivalent. |
| Science  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (Biology)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Chemistry or Physics)</li> <li>● 1.0 credit (Science elective)</li> </ul>  | 3.0 credits      | 3.0 credits   |
| World Language   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2.0 credits (WL course)</li> </ul> Note: Credits must be in the same WL course.  | 2.0 credits      | 2.0 credits   |
| Career Technical Education                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.5 credits</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (Computer technology CTE course)</li> </ul>  | 2.0 credits      | 2.0 credits   |

| <b>Content Area*</b>                                     | <b>Course Requirements</b>  | <b>Standard Diploma</b> | <b>Honors Diploma</b> |
|--|---|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Physical Education                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 0.5 credit (Lifetime Sports)</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (Personal Fitness)</li> <li>● 0.5 credit (Activity &amp; Nutrition or equivalent PE)</li> </ul> Note: Two years of JROTC taken in high school fulfills the 0.5 credit requirement for Lifetime Sports | 1.5 credits             | 1.5 credits           |
| Fine Arts  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1.0 credit (Course in visual arts, music, theater, and/or humanities)</li> </ul>   | 1.0 credit              | 1.0 credit            |
| Health Education   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 0.5 credit (Health education course offering)</li> </ul>   | 0.5 credit              | 0.5 credit            |
| Honors Diploma   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 0.5 credit in Economics</li> </ul>   | Not Required            | 0.5 credit            |
| <b>Summary</b>   |   | <b>Standard Diploma</b> | <b>Honors Diploma</b> |
| Minimum Total Credits                                    |   | 26.0 credits            | 26.0 credits          |
| Required Courses   |   | 21.0 credits            | 21.5 credits          |
| Elective Courses   |   | 5.0 credits             | 4.5 credits           |
| Advanced Placement and/or IB Courses and requisite exams |   | Not Required            | 4 courses             |
| Minimum GPA  |   | 2.0 GPA                 | 3.8 GPA               |

## College Entrance Requirements

College entrance requirements are dependent upon the individual college/university and the selected course of study. Students should discuss this with their counselor when planning class schedules.

Students planning to enter a four (4) year college or university need to adhere to the following guides:

Minimum expectation:

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| English          | 4 years                 |
| Math             | 3 years (incl Alg II)   |
| Social Studies   | 3 years                 |
| Science          | 3 years                 |
| Foreign Language | 2 years of one language |
| Computer         | 1 semester              |

Preferred program:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| English          | 4 years                                   |
| Writing          | 1 semester                                |
| Social Studies   | 4 years                                   |
| Math             | 4 years (incl Alg II plus one additional) |
| Science          | 4 years                                   |
| Foreign Language | 3 or 4 years, one language                |
| Fine Arts        | 1 year                                    |
| Computer         | 1 semester                                |

SAT and/or ACT plus writing college entrance exams.

SAT Subject Tests. Two tests are needed for many selective schools.

# **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

**TITLE OF COURSE:** ENGLISH 7  
Grade Level: 7  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

## Brief Description of Course:

The primary purpose of 7<sup>th</sup> grade English is to establish a foundation for critical analysis of literature and to compose coherent, logical paragraphs leading to formal, multiple paragraph essay construction. Additionally, students will continue to develop speech and discussion techniques, grammar, listening and organizational skills, and vocabulary. To accomplish this, students will read from a variety of literary selections (see reading list), analyze these works, develop original theses, and share their ideas in formal compositions, class discussions, and oral presentations.

Reading Choices (minimum 4): Student selected novels and additional titles may include but are not limited to the following: *Dragonsong*, *The Hound of Baskervilles*, *The Light in the Forest*, *The Call of the Wild*, *Downriver*, *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle*, *D'Aulaires Book of Greek Myths*, *selections from the literature book*, and a variety of nonfiction texts and articles.

**TITLE OF COURSE:** ENGLISH 8  
Grade Level: 8  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

## Brief Description of Course:

The primary purpose of 8<sup>th</sup> grade English is to build on the foundation established in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will heighten their critical literary analysis and formal composition skills as they read more challenging texts and compose with greater sophistication. Additionally, students will continue to develop speech and discussion techniques, grammar, listening and organizational skills, and vocabulary. To accomplish this, students will read from a variety of literary selections (see reading list), analyze these works, develop original arguments about them, and share their ideas in formal compositions, class discussions, and oral presentations. They will also participate in a range of writing activities including narrative writing, analytical/argumentative writing, and poetry.

Reading List: Students will read independently from a wide range of fiction and nonfiction texts. Texts read by the whole class may include, but are not limited to, the following: *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, *The Giver*, *The Outsiders*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Messenger*, and various works of short fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

**TITLE OF COURSE:** ADVENTURES IN READING I  
Grade Level: 7 & 8  
Length of Course: 1 semester

## Brief Description of Course:

The ADVENTURES IN READING course is designed to provide explicit instruction in reading and comprehension strategies to help students meet grade-level expectations in reading ability as defined in the DoDEA standards. The course is organized around a workshop model in which students will learn and practice specific reading strategies and behaviors to increase vocabulary, reading

comprehension, fluency, and enjoyment.

With the support of frequent teacher modeling and individual coaching, students will apply the strategies and behaviors they learn to a wide variety of literary and informational texts drawn from all content areas, and engage in frequent formal and informal writing and discussion activities to practice drawing inferences from texts, synthesizing information, and using textual evidence to support arguments and analysis. Throughout the course, students will be expected to engage effectively with texts of increasing complexity.

Although there will be some texts that are common to the entire class, student choice of reading materials (independently and in small groups) will be an important aspect of the ADVENTURES IN READING course.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                    **ADVENTURES IN READING II**  
Grade Level:                            7 & 8  
Length of Course:                      1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

The ADVENTURES IN READING course is designed to provide explicit instruction in reading and comprehension strategies to help students meet grade-level expectations in reading ability as defined in the DoDEA standards. The course is organized around a workshop model in which students will learn and practice specific reading strategies and behaviors to increase vocabulary, reading comprehension, fluency, and enjoyment.

With the support of frequent teacher modeling and individual coaching, students will apply the strategies and behaviors they learn to a wide variety of literary and informational texts drawn from all content areas, and engage in frequent formal and informal writing and discussion activities to practice drawing inferences from texts, synthesizing information, and using textual evidence to support arguments and analysis. Throughout the course, students will be expected to engage effectively with texts of increasing complexity.

Although there will be some texts that are common to the entire class, student choice of reading materials (independently and in small groups) will be an important aspect of the ADVENTURES IN READING course.

## **MATHEMATICS**

The mathematics department offers a range of year long sequential courses. The nature of mathematics is such that satisfactory completion of specified prerequisites is necessary for appropriate placement and continued success. Thus, when selecting a course, students and parents are advised to follow department recommendations.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                    **PRE-ALGEBRA**  
Grade Level:                            7 & 8  
Length of Course:                      2 semesters

Brief Description of Course:

Pre-Algebra is a course designed as an introduction to algebraic concepts. The course is similar in scope and sequence to an accelerated middle school Pre-Algebra course, but accommodates students

from a wide range of skills and backgrounds. The students will extend their knowledge of math in the areas of variables, solving equations and inequalities and roots, scientific notation, graphing and geometry. A great deal of emphasis will be given to word problem applications.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                    **ALGEBRA I**  
Length of Course:                    2 semesters  
Credits:                                    .5 per semester (High School Credit)  
Prerequisite:                            Pre-Algebra  
Recommended:                        “C” or better in Pre-Algebra

Brief Description of Course:

Algebra I continues the Pre-Algebra transition from arithmetic to higher levels of abstraction. Emphasis is placed on the language of algebra and the order of operations used to evaluate, simplify, and solve algebraic expressions and equations. Major topics include solving linear and quadratic equations and inequalities, factoring, operations with algebraic fractions and radical expressions, solving systems of linear equations, graphs of linear equations, and an introduction to functions and relations. Applications of algebraic techniques in solving real world situations (word problems) are used throughout the course.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                    **JUNIOR HIGH PE**  
Grade Level:                            7 & 8  
Length of Course:                       1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

Each semester, students will concentrate on team and individual sports ranging from flag football, indoor and outdoor soccer, floor hockey, softball, basketball, bowling, jogging, and life-long fitness. Our objective in this class is to discover activities and exercises that will help guide students to life-long activity, social interactions, basic sports knowledge, and physical fitness.

## **SCIENCE**

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                    **EARTH SCIENCE**  
Grade Level:                            7  
Length of Course:                       2 semesters

Brief Description of Course:

Earth Science is the study of the earth and the universe around it. It consists of directing the student’s awareness and understanding to the processes that formed the earth and the universe. Major topics of study include geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy, with a focus on what we know about the natural world around us as well as the methods used to gain that knowledge.



**TITLE OF COURSE:**               **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**  
Grade Level:                       8  
Length of Course:               2 semesters

Brief Description of Course:

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic ideas of physics and chemistry. Topics include scientific measurement, physical and chemical change, atoms and molecules, phases of matter, motion and forces, forces in matter, energy and work, and sound and light. Lab work, activities, and student projects are an important part of the course.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

**TITLE OF COURSE:**               **WORLD GEOGRAPHY**  
Grade Level:                       7  
Length of Course:               2 semesters

Brief Description of Course:

World Geography provides students insights into the world around them, promoting global citizenship and understanding of the challenges and attributes of our world today. This course covers both physical and human geography for all seven continents on earth, and the people inhabiting them.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**               **WORLD HISTORY I**  
Grade Level:                       8  
Length of Course:               2 semesters

Brief Description of Course:

This is a course designed to educate the student as to the various events in world history from the earliest beginnings to the year 1500 C.E. By studying different civilizations, students will discover how events of the past continue to affect the world today. Cultures from all over the world will be studied, and the learning emphasis will be on the “why and how”, rather than on the “when and where”. Religions, philosophies, geographical features, governments, economies, ethnicities and rulers will all be studied. Learning will be accomplished through classroom presentations, personal research, video presentations, text questions, class and group discussions, and various writing assignments. Reading and writing skills will be stressed throughout the course.

# **JUNIOR HIGH EXPLORATORY CYCLES**

## **REQUIRED EXPLORATORY COURSES FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE**

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                   **EXPLORATORY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
**Grade Level:**                         7  
**Length of Course:**                 One semester

Brief Description of Course:

This exploratory course into the world of computers includes an emphasis on typing accuracy and speed. Topics of discussion include the history of computers, the parts of a computer (inside and out), secure passwords, using Gmail, online privacy and cyber security. A brief introduction to computer programming and Microsoft Office applications is covered, as well.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                   **EXPLORATORY SPANISH 7**  
**Grade Level:**                         7  
**Length of Course:**                 One Semester

Brief Description of Course:

The course will introduce basic Spanish vocabulary and develop listening skills in Spanish. Students will learn to pronounce selected words and memorize meanings in English. Throughout the course, Hispanic culture will be presented to accompany the units of study.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**                   **EXPLORATORY WOODS 7**  
**Grade Level:**                         7  
**Length of Course:**                 One Quarter

Brief Description of Course:

This is a course designed to introduce the junior high student to the various skills in the Industrial Technology field. Students will receive instruction and practical experience in using hand tools; portable electric power tools; woodworking machinery; glues and fasteners; project design, parts creation, assembly and finishing; electrical components; basic bicycle repair, and industrial materials. Students will create a furniture project to take home at no cost. Safety will be stressed throughout the course, along with teamwork and problem-solving skills.

## REQUIRED EXPLORATORY COURSES FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**TITLE OF COURSE:**           **INTRO TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMING (CTE)**  
Grade Level:                   8  
Length of Course:             1 semester  
Credits:                         .5 per semester (High School credit)

Brief Description of Course:

This course is an introduction to the fields of computer science and computer programming. Students will learn about the history of computing, as well as the basics of computer hardware, software, networking and the internet. Students will also be introduced to the field of programming with an overview of key concepts in programming such as algorithms, variables, functions, and more. Students will learn about the software development process and write their own code to help understand key programming concepts.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**           **EXPLORATORY HOME ECONOMICS**  
Grade Level:                   8  
Length of Course:             One quarter

Brief Description of Course

In Home Economics class, students will learn relevant real-world skills and gain first-hand experiences that will foster independence and personal development. Subject matter for this course will include instruction in many valuable and practical capabilities, such as: making and staying within a reasonable personal budget, basic sewing construction and mending practice, proper laundering techniques for clothing and linens, and meal-planning and food preparation skills. These important abilities will support student success as they grow into young adulthood with confidence.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**           **EXPLORATORY FRENCH 8**  
Grade Level:                   8  
Length of Course:             One Semester

Brief Description of Course:

The course will introduce basic French vocabulary and develop listening skills in French. Students will learn to pronounce selected words and memorize meanings in English. Throughout the course, French culture will be presented to accompany the units of study.

## ELECTIVE EXPLORATORY COURSES FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

**TITLE OF COURSE:**               **EXPLORATORY ART**  
Grade Level:                       7-8  
Length of Course:                 One quarter

### Brief Description of Course:

This is an exploratory class that will be educational and enjoyable. Students will have the opportunity to work with several types of media (schedule permitting) in creating stylized artwork through drawing, painting, sculpture, print-making, design, and collage. Each assignment will be centered on the Art Elements and Principles of Design and will be connected with a particular cultural and geographical focus. Students will be introduced to various genres and artistic styles from around the world in order to encourage appreciation of not only the artwork of others, but also their own.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**               **EXPLORATORY HOME ECONOMICS**  
Grade Level:                       7-8  
Length of Course:                 One quarter

### Brief Description of Course

In Home Economics class, students will learn relevant real-world skills and gain first-hand experiences that will foster independence and personal development. Subject matter for this course will include instruction in many valuable and practical capabilities, such as: making and staying within a reasonable personal budget, basic sewing construction and mending practice, proper laundering techniques for clothing and linens, and meal-planning and food preparation skills. These important abilities will support student success as they grow into young adulthood with confidence

**TITLE OF COURSE:**               **INTRODUCTION TO ENGINEERING PRINCIPLES**  
Grade Level:                       7-8  
Length of Course:                 One Quarter

### Brief Description of Course:

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of engineering. Students will complete units that involve researching, designing models, and testing designs. The course will guide students through the engineering process and focus on critical thinking and problem solving skills. Strong reading, writing, and math skills will help students succeed in this STEM course. Additionally, students will be exposed to the variety of opportunities that exist in engineering careers.

**TITLE OF COURSE:**               **EXPLORATORY WOODS**  
Grade Level:                       7/8  
Length of Course:                 One Quarter

### Brief Description of Course:

This is a course designed to re-introduce the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student to the various skills in the Industrial Technology field they learned as 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will receive RefTRA (refresher training) in using hand tools; portable electric power tools; woodworking machinery; glues and fasteners; project design, parts creation, assembly and finishing; electrical components; basic bicycle repair, and industrial materials. Students will create a furniture project to take home at no cost. Safety will be stressed throughout the course, along with teamwork and problem-solving skills.

# **ELECTIVES**

**TITLE OF COURSE: JUNIOR HIGH BAND**

Grade Level: 7-8  
Length of Course: 2 semesters

Brief Description of Course:

Participation in Junior High Band is dependent on the acquisition in grades five and six of fundamentals, rudiments, and musical terms commonly used in the study and performance of music.

Through study of intermediate level repertoire, these performance skills are refined. Because ensemble skills are developed throughout the year, it is expected that students will commit to both semesters. Four concerts a year are performed. Repertoire includes significant works by classical composers, contemporary serious band compositions, holiday selections for the December concert, and lighter musical styles. New Students are encouraged to contact the band director before signing up.

**TITLE OF COURSE: MIXED CHOIR**

Grade Level: 7-8  
Length of course: 2 Semesters

Brief Description of Course:

This course is designed to develop fundamentals of vocal technique and music literacy. Vocal music learning experiences include developing sight-singing skills; rehearsing in one-, two-, three-, and four-part music; basic music theory. Students will experience a wide variety of choral literature in small and large groups, a cappella, and with accompaniment while gaining the confidence to perform for large audiences.

## Blended Learning – Online Edgenuity Elective Courses

Blended learning instruction is a mix of online curriculum and classroom teacher support.

**TITLE OF COURSE: CAREER EXPLORATIONS**

Grade Level: 7/8  
Length of Course: 1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

This course prepares middle school students to make informed decisions about their future academic and occupational goals. Through direct instruction, interactive skill demonstrations, and practice assignments, students learn how to assess their own skills and interests, explore industry clusters and pathways, and develop plans for career and academic development. This course is designed to provide flexibility for students; any number of units can be selected to comprise a course that meets the specific needs of students.

**TITLE OF COURSE: MIDDLE SCHOOL JOURNALISM: TELL YOUR STORY**  
Grade Level: 7/8  
Length of Course: 1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

Who? What? When? Where? Journalism provides us with the answers to these questions for the events that affect our lives. In this course, students will learn how to gather information, organize ideas, format stories for different forms of news media, and edit their stories for publication. The course will also examine the historical development of journalism and the role of journalism in society.

**TITLE OF COURSE: MIDDLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHY: DRAWING WITH LIGHT**  
Grade Level: 7/8  
Length of Course: 1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

Students see photographs every day on television, on the Internet, and in magazines and newspapers. What makes a great photograph? How did the artist capture a story? What makes a great picture? What are careers in photography? In this course, students learn and apply fundamental skills to use a camera and take photographs of animals, people, and landscapes. Students gain an understanding of how photography can be a means of documentation or high art. Students examine photographic careers and explore self-reflection to progress their creative growth as they develop a photographic portfolio. This course helps students select subjects, take a photograph, and print and display memories!

Required Materials:

- Digital camera: “point and shoot” or above
- A Smartphone may be used for most required tasks; however, appropriate applications will need to be installed to allow the student to make the necessary adjustments to the camera mode, shutter speed, --- and aperture.
- Paper and Pen/Pencil for note taking
- Camera cord to transfer images to the computer
- Image Editing Software
- Lighting tools for side, front, and back lighting

**TITLE OF COURSE: ONLINE LEARNING AND DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP**  
Grade Level: 7/8  
Length of Course: 1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

This blended learning course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to online learning, including how to work independently, stay safe, and develop effective study habits in virtual learning environments. Featuring direct-instruction videos, interactive tasks, authentic products, and rigorous assessments, the course prepares students for high school by providing in-depth instruction and practice in important study skills such as time management, effective note-taking, test preparation, and collaborating effectively online. By the end of the course, students will understand what it takes to be successful online learners and responsible digital citizens.

**TITLE OF COURSE: STRATEGIES FOR ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

Grade Level: 7/8

Length of Course: 1 semester

Brief Description of Course:

This blended learning course offers a comprehensive analysis of different types of motivation, study habits, and learning styles, this course encourages middle school students to take control of their learning by exploring varying strategies for success. Providing engaging lessons that will help students identify what works best for them individually, this course covers important study skills, such as strategies for taking high-quality notes, memorization techniques, test-taking strategies, benefits of visual aids, and reading techniques.