



TH McDonald Junior High
7th grade
Course Selection
2023-2024



MDJH People to Know

Principal:

Carrie Caruso



	Assistant Principal	Counselor
6th Grade	Dr. Kristie Floyd Hargrove	Kimberley Costello
7th Grade	Mark Balsler	Ruben Espinosa
8th Grade	Giovanni Serna	Guenevere Cargill



MDJH

Mascot: Panthers

Colors: Purple and White

Grades: 6th-8th grade

School Hours: 8:55 AM- 4:05 PM



7th Grade Schedule

- 8 class periods: (45 minutes)
- Lunch (30 minutes)
- Passing period between classes (4 minutes)

Class List

- 5 core classes
(English/Reading Block, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- 1 Fine Art
- P.E. / Athletics
- Advisory

Promotion to the 7th Grade

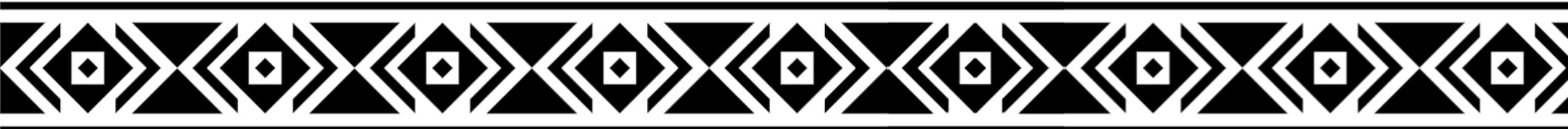
You must also have an overall average of 70 or higher in 3 of the 4 core subject areas:

∅ English/Reading Block

∅ Math

∅ Science

∅ Social Studies



Course Selection Process

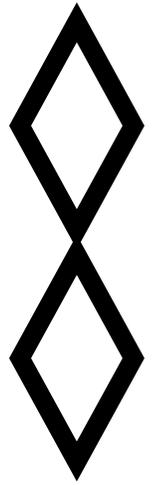
1. Take your course offerings sheet home to share with your parents.
2. Enter your request in Schoolinks in Course Planning - (You must do Onboarding first)
3. Return your completed, course selection sheet to your Counselor by January 31st.
4. The Counselors will be meeting with you to discuss your course selections.





KAP Math

How much
more is
taught in
KAP Math ?



5th grade – 60 objectives

6th grade Academic – 64
objectives

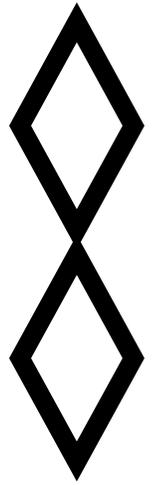
6th grade KAP – over 90
objectives with many
being 7th grade
objectives

***6th grade KAP Math puts you on track for
Algebra I in 8th grade**



KAP Math

Can I take
KAP Math in
7th grade if I
did not take
in 6th grade?



YES (things to consider)

- must have passed 6th grade Math with a high A
- passed STAAR preferably with Masters level
- take the bridge course over the summer
- remember you have missed out on 7th grade TEKS so you might struggle

Course Options

Academic

- For everyone
- On grade level
- More time to review concepts
- More tutoring provided
- Prepares students for college as well as other post secondary education

KAP

- More challenging
- Fast- paced,
- Requires independent learning
- Prepares students for AP classes in high school

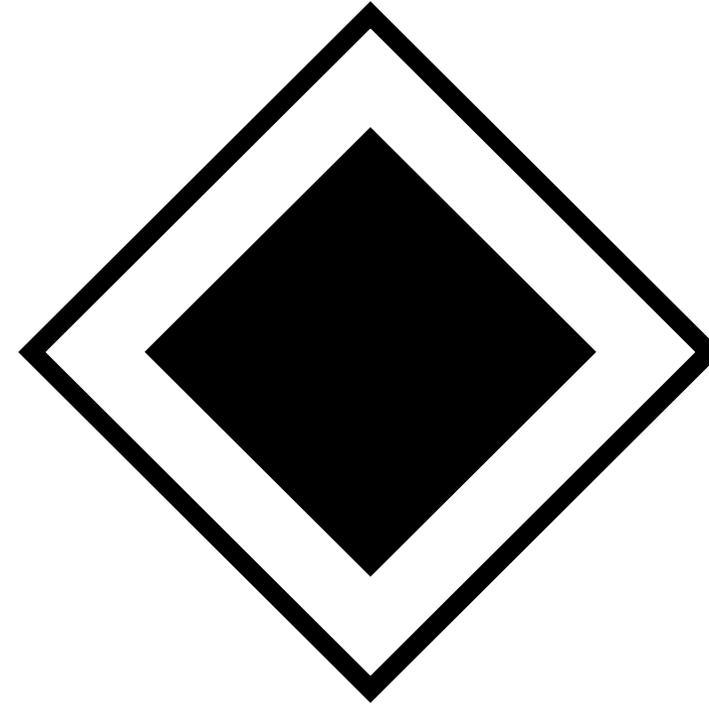
GT

Students must be screened and identified



How to learn more about KAP ?

1. www.katyisd.org
2. Departments
3. Gifted and Talented and
Advanced Academic Studies



Academic vs KAP/GT at McDonald Junior High

English & Reading Block

KAP/AP courses are designed to challenge motivated students and prepare them for success in college level coursework in high school and beyond. These advanced or above grade-level courses move at a faster pace, are more academically challenging and require more independent learning than academic courses.

*Students who enroll in KAP, KAP/GT, and AP/GT English Courses in grades 6-12 are expected to complete a **summer reading assignment**.

All students in junior high school ELA have the same curriculum.



Social Studies

All classes cover the same state standards, but KAP classes are differentiated in the following ways:

- Rigor of tests: Higher level test questions, require students to apply knowledge at a greater depth.
- Projects: Differentiated Requirements
- Writing assignments- Inquiry Questions
- Activities that prepare KAP students for AP courses in High School

Math

There is a big difference in the # of objectives covered.

For example:

5th grade – approx. 60 objectives

6th grade Academic – approx. 64 objectives 6th grade KAP – over 90 objectives with some being 7th grade objectives

* 6th grade KAP: covers all of 6th and approximately 1/2 of 7th grade math KAP level of instruction will focus on preparation for taking **Algebra I (HS credit)** in the 8th grade.



Science

KAP & KAP/GT courses provide for the development of skills and concepts necessary for success in Advanced Placement courses in high school

All students in middle school science have the same curriculum.

Tests: KAP/GT students have a writing portion (Open Ended Response-OER) in addition to the multiple choice portion of the test.

Menus: KAP/GT students will have “menus” in which they will have approximately one week to complete a product of their choice. Menu requirements will be discussed at the beginning of each unit.

Extension labs and activities will be planned throughout the year.



Exiting KAP & Differentiation between GT and KAP Cluster classes

Exiting KAP

- ★ Student/Parent Driven Request
 - Student must complete Petition
 - Conference with teacher & implement recommendations for improvement
 - Attended all Recommended tutorials
 - Complete all Assignments * Grade transfers with student
 - Conference with counselor
- ★ Automatic Exit
 - Failed at 6 weeks.
- ★ Schedule changes will only be made after progress report or 6 week grading periods.

Moving into KAP afterschool starts

- ★ If a student would like to move from academic to KAP after the school year has started they may pick up a schedule change request form in the counselor's office.
- ★ The student's current academic teacher must approve the move from academic to KAP.
- ★ Schedule changes will only be made after a grading period (Progress report or Report card)

How is GT differentiated if the students are in the same classroom as KAP?

- ★ GT identification is designed to address the particular educational needs of the gifted learner.
- ★ The teacher must have 30 hours of GT training
- ★ The teacher is aware of the GT identification and can address the unique needs of gifted learners in that class.



Math Lab

- ★ Required if you fail Math STAAR

Strategic Reading

- ★ Required if you fail Reading STAAR

If unsuccessful on STAAR: Math Lab or Strategic Reading will take the place of your PE or Elective.

Summer School might be an option in order to obtain your hours.



Electives– Must take one!

- Band
- Orchestra
- Choir
- Art
- Theater
- Career Investigations
- Lead Worthy JH
- Publications - must turn in an application
- Touch System Data (sem) - High School Credit
- Web Communications (sem) - High School Credit
- Peer Assistance Leadership 



Peer Assistance Leadership - 8th grade only

Students who are selected to be in the PAL program work together as a team to learn skills and processes that create a strong positive school experience.



Electives– High School Credit

- ▶ Web Communications (J2026) semester
 - This high school credit course will provide students with the necessary skills to navigate the world wide web, use digital technology to work collaboratively with others, and learn to create a positive on-line footprint.
- ▶ Touch System Data Entry (J8560) semester
 - This high school credit course provides students with technical skills to address business applications of emerging technologies. Students enhance reading, writing, computing, communication, and reasoning skills and apply them to the business environment. Students will need to apply touch system data entry for production of business documents using correct formatting.



Physical Education

- Both boys and girls (separate gyms)
- Graded class/ attend everyday
- Dress out in uniforms
- Lockers in gyms



Athletics

- Must have a physical on file
- Athletic Code of Conduct
- Please coaches if you are interested in playing 7th sports
- Team sports:
 - Volleyball
 - Football
 - Basketball
 - Track and Field
 - Tennis
 - Soccer



NCAA INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS TAKING High school credit courses

In reviewing the broad range of possible courses, students must keep in mind career and personal goals. Students and parents should consider information in this planning guide about high school requirements. Students who might pursue college athletic opportunities **should** , visit the NCAA website, www.ncaa.org to review “NCAA requirements”. A successful Junior High School course of study also allows time for involvement in extracurricular and community activities and interests.



Advisory

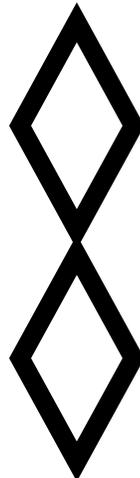
- 30 minutes
- Character Education lessons once/week
- Quiet study hall
- Opportunity to ask questions
- Library
- Tutorials





Typical 7th grade schedule

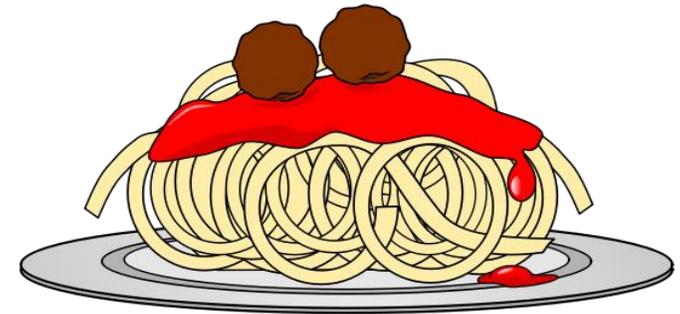
Example:



Period	Subject	Room #
1	English	149
2	Reading	149
3	Science	136
Lunch	Lunch	Cafeteria
4	Band	Band Hall
5	Math	153
6	Advisory	151
7	P.E. (boys or girls)	Gym
8	Social Studies	141

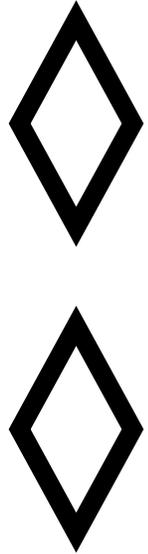
Cafetería

- **Respectful dining room etiquette**
- **Hot tray, Snack Bar/Pizza Bar**
- **Must stay seated and keep area clean**





Course
Selection
Timeline



- January 20th : Course Selection in Schoolinks Opens
- January 31st: Course Selection Closes
- March 20th: Course Verification Opens
Review requests in Schoolinks for accuracy
- March 28th: Course Verification Closes

Please continue to contact your Elementary Counselor with any questions up until May



Course Offerings for Current 6th graders
McDonald Junior High 2023 - 2024

*ALL course requests must be entered into SchoolLinks by Jan. 31, 2023

Student Name: Last, First		KISD Student ID	Birth Date:
Parent/Guardian Name: Last, First		Parent/Guardian Email:	
Address: Street		City / Zip	
Parent/Guardian Home Phone:	Parent/Guardian Cell Phone:	Parent/Guardian Work Phone:	

Use this list of courses as a guide to help you select your classes in SchoolLinks. Each student must select one course from each of the required areas: English, Math, Science, Social Studies and PE. Students planning for 7th grade will select one elective course and students who qualify for GT in ELA will select two elective courses and have no reading course. Students may not receive their first choice elective due to insufficient enrollment in a course, scheduling conflict, or over enrollment in course. Final placement into courses is contingent upon campus approval. GT placement requires the student to have met specific Katy ISD screening criteria.

DIRECTIONS: CIRCLE one course from each of the required areas of English, Math, Science, Social Studies and PE. Mark required courses by circling the course number for the course. **IMPORTANT: List Fine Arts/Elective choices in order of preference.** Student and parent signatures confirm that all course guidelines have been reviewed and course selections have been made based on the student's individual strengths, interests, and commitment.

REQUIRED COURSES - 7th Grade	
ENGLISH AND READING	
J706	English Language Arts and Reading Block 7
J726	English Language Arts and Reading Block 7 KAP
G726	English Language Arts and Reading Block 7 GT*
MATH	
J711	Math 7
J714	Math 7 KAP
G714	Math 7 KAP/GT*
SCIENCE	
J730	Science 7
J734	Science 7 KAP
G734	Science 7 KAP/GT*
SOCIAL STUDIES	
J720	Social Studies 7
J724	Social Studies 7 KAP
G724	Social Studies 7 KAP/GT*
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	
J785	Athletics 7 - Boys
J786	Athletics 7 - Girls
J780	PE 7 - Boys
J781	PE 7 - Girls
* GT course placement requires the student to meet specific Katy ISD screening criteria.	

ELECTIVE COURSES	
FINE ARTS	
One year of junior high Fine Arts is required for all students. ALL Fine Art Placement is based on Director Approval	
J911	Art 1 (6,7,8)
J912	Art 2 (7,8)
J921	Band 1 (6,7,8)
J922	Band 2 (7,8)
J931	Orchestra 1 (6,7,8)
J932	Orchestra 2 (7,8)
J941	Theatre 1 (6,7,8)
J942	Theatre 2 (7,8)
J951	Choir 1 - Boys (6,7,8)
J952	Choir 2 - Boys (7,8)
J961	Choir 1 - Girls (6,7,8)
J962	Choir 2 - Girls (7,8)
CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVE COURSES	
J8560	Touch System Data Entry (7,8) (high school credit)
J2026	Web Communications (7,8) (high school credit)
OTHER ELECTIVE COURSES	
J999	LeadWorthy (7,8)
J754	Career Investigation (7,8)
J755	Publications 1 (7)

PLEASE LIST ELECTIVE CHOICE IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE- LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE IN SOME COURSES

- _____ (first choice)
- _____ (second choice)
- _____ (third choice)
- _____ (fourth choice)

**Please be advised that scheduling conflicts may prevent your student from getting his/her first elective choice. Please list alternative choices.

Strategic Reading and Math Lab are intervention courses that may be required for students who did not pass the STAAR and/or based upon documented reading and/or math levels. These courses will take the place of the student's PE or Elective.

Reminders

- Course Selection Closes January 31st
- All courses need to be entered into Schoolinks no later than Jan. 31st.
- Course Catalog can be found in Schoolinks.
- Please carefully consider your elective choices. If you do not receive your first choice, your second or third choice will be put on your schedule.
- When entering your electives make sure you put the first choice in first, then the 2nd choice, then 3rd, and then 4th choice.



2023-2024 **Junior High** Course Request Step-by-Step Guide

The Course Requests process will be open from 7:00AM on January 20, 2023 through 11:59PM on January 31, 2023. Access will be available 24 hours a day during this time.

Accessing SchoolLinks to enter Course Requests

Go to www.katyisd.org

Click on the MyKaty login button in the center of the screen:



Or go to MyKaty Cloud, www.mykaty.katyisd.org and login using Student Username and

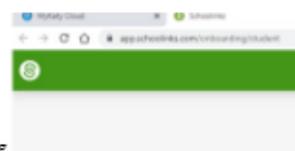


Password

Click the search arrow



Search the word SchoolLinks and click on the icon:



On-boarding

CURRENT 5th Graders: Skip this step because you do NOT have to complete on-boarding

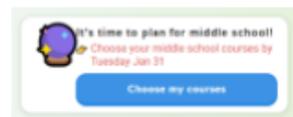
CURRENT 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders: Complete this step if it's your first-time logging in to SchoolLinks:

The first-time students log in to SchoolLinks, you will be prompted to complete an on-boarding questionnaire. You must complete the onboarding process now. This is a one-time process.

Entering Course Requests through Course Planner

Current 5th graders: To access the Course Planner, click the blue "Choose my courses" button on the right

side of the screen



Current 6th-8th graders: Once you are in SchoolLinks, click on the School Icon (apple) in the menu bar on the left. Then, select course planner:



Course Planner will be grayed-out at this time. It will become active January 20th-31st.

This will direct you to the course planner summary.

Current 5th graders: The Course Planner screen will show courses that have been preloaded for the upcoming school year. Please note you will have access to plan your courses for all remaining junior high years. **However, your main focus should be on correctly completing course selection for the upcoming school year.**

Current 6th & 7th graders: The Course Planner screen will show the courses the student has already completed. It will also include courses that have been preloaded for the upcoming school year. Please note you will have access to plan your courses for all remaining junior high years. **However, your main focus should be on correctly completing course selection for the upcoming school year.**

Current 8th graders: The Course Planner screen will show the courses the student has already completed. It will also include courses that have been preloaded for the upcoming school year. Please note you will have access to plan your courses for 9th - 12th grade. While your main focus should be on correctly completing course selection for the upcoming school year, you are encouraged to fill out as much of the four-year plan as possible.

*Students will review/edit requests each school year.



Make your selections until requirements are met. Then **submit plan**. 2023-2024 course requests will be finalized during your individual course selection meeting with your counselor.

Course Verification and Schedule Changes

IMPORTANT

Course verification is the time to make changes to the course requests.

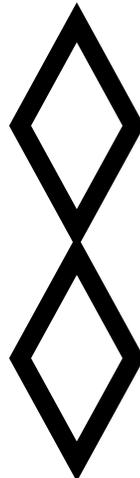
Following course selection verification selections, schedule changes for the 2023-2024 school year will be allowed only in the following cases:

1. Error in scheduling by the school (data entry error);
2. Student has not met course prerequisites;
3. Student has already earned credit for the course;
4. Change in program (athletics, fine arts, etc.);
5. Level changes as recommended by the teacher and counselor, with parent and principal approval;
6. Student did not meet standard on STAAR/EOC exam.



Helpful Websites



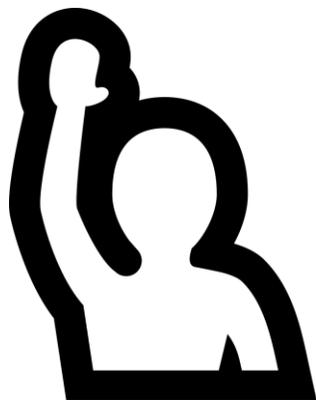
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- **Home Access Center:** Access to your student's grades, schedule and attendance.
 - **SpeakUp:** Anonymous reporting system
 - **Pay 'N Go:** Web-based service allows you to access your child's meal account and make payments online for school fees.

Important Note

- **Schedules may change at least once throughout junior high because:**
 - Classes need to be leveled/balanced
 - Courses did not make
 - School growth requires the addition of new teachers

Please be flexible and open-minded about schedule changes





Questions

Course Catalog

MDJH Counselors
Website

