



TH McDonald Junior High
8th 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 Balser	Ruben Espinosa
8th Grade	Giovanni Serna	Guenevere Cargill



8th Grade Schedule

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

Class List

- 4 core classes
(English, Math, Science, Social Studies)
 - PE/Athletics
 - 2 Electives
- Advisory

Promotion to the 8th Grade

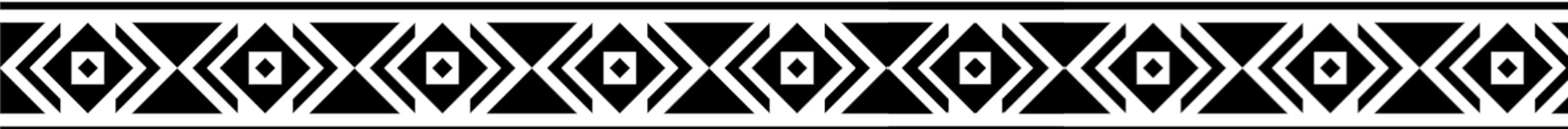
You must also have an overall average of 70 or higher in 3 of the 4 core subject areas:

∅ English 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.



Algebra

Can I take
Algebra in 8th
grade if I did
not take KAP
Math in 7th
grade?

YES (things to consider)

- must have passed 8th grade STAAR Math test
- Took the 8th grade Credit by Exam Test

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.



Electives- You get 2 choices

you will have the choice of high school or Junior high courses

- Band
- Orchestra
- Choir
- Art
- Theater
- Career Investigations
- Lead Worthy JH
- Publications - must turn in an application
- Student Aide
- Peer Assistance Leadership 

FYI: some courses might not make so very important that you list your alternates



Electives- You get 2 choices

you will have the choice of high school or Junior high courses

High School Credit

- HS Art
- Spanish 1
- Spanish for Spanish Speakers
- Principles of Human Services
- Principles of Manufacturing
- Principles of Info Tech
- Touch System Data (sem) - High School Credit
- Web Communications (sem) - High School Credit

FYI: some courses might not make so very important that you list your alternates



Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL)- 8th grade only

Students must fill out an application and/or be nominated for this program/course and then wait for an approval/selection letter. Only students who have been accepted into the program may register for this class. It is strongly recommended that students entering the PAL program successfully complete a LeadWorthy class prior to entering this class.

The Peer Assistance Leadership (PAL) program teaches students how to use their potential to make a difference with peers, schools and communities. This course nurtures and builds capacities to help youth increase resiliency and build protective factors to help them achieve school and social successes which lead to a productive life. It creates environments in which students participate in productive pursuits with peers and community members, using decision making, higher order thinking skills, and resiliency building. Students may be required to purchase a shirt.



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



Dance

- Dance students gain fundamental knowledge of dance steps and terminology, music and choreography as they create and participate in dance combinations and performances. NOTE: Counts as the third year P.E. requirement.

Course is not available at all campuses.

Course Fee: See fee schedule (excludes optional entry fees and social events)



Athletics

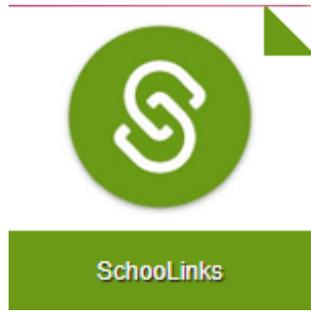
- Coaches will give us a list
- Must have a physical on file
- Athletic Code of Conduct
- Please coaches if you are interested in playing 8th sports
- Team sports:
 - Volleyball
 - Football
 - Basketball
 - Track and Field
 - Tennis
 - Soccer



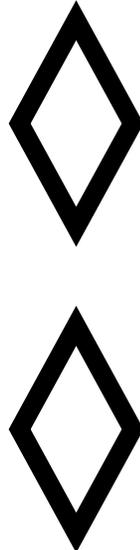
NCAA INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS TAKING High school credit courses

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.





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

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 should review all course guidelines and course selections should be made based on the student's individual strengths, interests and commitment.

REQUIRED COURSES - 8th Grade		ELECTIVE COURSES	
ENGLISH AND READING		WORLD LANGUAGES-LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)	
J802	English 8	J6319	Spanish 1 *
J806	English 8 KAP	J6361	Spanish for Span Spkr I* (fall sem) (1 credit) (taken w/ 6362)
G806	English 8 KAP/GT	J6362	Spanish for Span Spkr II* (spr sem) (1 credit) (taken w/ 6361)
MATH		CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVE COURSES	
J811	Math 8	J8353	Principles of Human Services*
J0211	Algebra 1*	J8616	Principles of Applied Engineering*
G021	Algebra 1 GT*	J8043	Principles of Manufacturing*
SCIENCE		J8560	Touch Systems Data Entry* (sem) (taken w/ J2062)
J830	Science 8	J2026	Web Communications* (sem) (taken w/ J8560)
J833	Science 8 KAP	J8644	Principles of Information Technology*
G833	Science 8 KAP/GT	OTHER ELECTIVE COURSES	
SOCIAL STUDIES		J999	LeadWorthy
J820	Social Studies 8	J998	Peer Assistance Leadership ^
J824	Social Studies 8 KAP	J754	Career Investigation
PHYSICAL EDUCATION		J885	Publications 2 ^
J880	PE 8 - Boys	J300	Student Aide ^
J881	PE - 8 Girls	PLEASE LIST ELECTIVE CHOICE IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE- LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE IN SOME COURSES	
J887	Dance 8	1.	_____ (First Choice)
ELECTIVE COURSES		2.	_____ (Second Choice)
FINE ARTS		3.	_____ (Third Choice)
One year of junior high Fine Arts is required for all students.		4.	_____ (Fourth Choice)
J911	Art 1	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.	
J912	Art 2	Course Selection Key	
J913	Art 3	KAP	Katy Advanced Program
J7511	Art 1*	GT	Gifted and Talented
J921	Band 1 ^	GT course placement requires the student to meet specific KISD screening criteria.	
J922	Band 2 ^	LOTE	Languages other than English
J923	Band 3^	(sem)	Semester course
J931	Orchestra 1 ^	^	Program requires director/sponsor approval
J932	Orchestra 2 ^	*	High school credit course
J933	Orchestra 3 ^		
J941	Theatre 1		
J942	Theatre 2		
J943	Theater 3 ^		
J951	Choir 1 - Boys ^		
J952	Choir 2 - Boys ^		
J953	Choir 3 - Boys ^		
J961	Choir 1 - Girls ^		
J962	Choir 2 - Girls ^		
J963	Choir 3 - Girls ^		



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.
- Please turn in your course offering sheet to your Counselor no later than 1st.





SchooLinks

You must do the Onboarding section first if you have not done so already before you can select your classes.

Welcome to SchooLinks

SchooLinks is a career, college and future planning tool.

Let's get onboarding!

You're about to take the Find Your Path assessment (or Career Interest Inventory). Once you complete the assessment, you'll see your personality result and choose a career path that interests you.

If you're not sure what to choose, don't worry.

- 👉 The choices you make now are not permanent
- 👉 You can always retake this assessment after onboarding

Let's go →

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

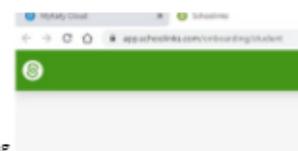


Password

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

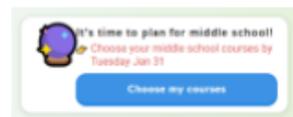
CURRENT 6th, 7th, & 8th Graders: Complete this step if it's your first-time logging in to SchoolLinks:

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.

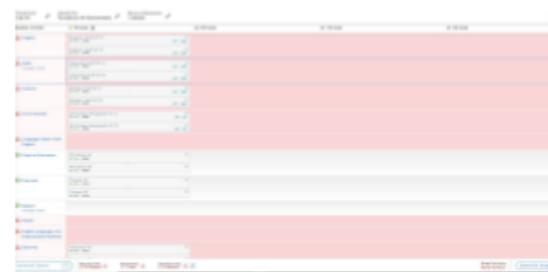
This will direct you to the course planner summary.

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:

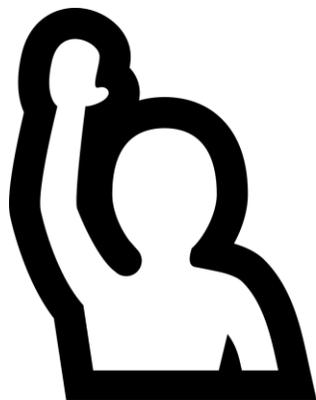
1. Error in scheduling by the school (data entry error);
2. Student has not met course prerequisites;
3. Student has already earned credit for the course;
4. Change in program (athletics, fine arts, etc.);
5. Level changes as recommended by the teacher and counselor, with parent and principal approval;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

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

