

NAME : _____

ID # : _____ DOB : _____

13-14 TM : _____

THOMAS E. WEIGHTMAN

MIDDLE SCHOOL

EIGHTH GRADE 2014 – 2015

REQUIREMENTS (4)

- Pre-Algebra / Algebra I*** (must meet criteria)
- Language Arts ___Advanced (must meet criteria)
- U.S. History ___Advanced (must meet criteria)
- Science ___Advanced (must meet criteria)

ELECTIVES

Rank order AT LEAST 5 choices (1 being what you want most).

- ___ Art, Adv.* (___) (year-long)
- ___ Band, Intermediate*(___) /Advanced* (___) (year-long)
- ___ Band, Beginning (year-long)
- ___ Spanish 1* / *** (___) (year-long)
- ___ Peer Program# (year-long)
- ___ P.E. (year-long.)
- ___ P.E. (sem.)
- ___ Art (sem.)
- ___ Guitar (sem.)
- ___ Technology (sem.)
- ___ Culinary Careers (sem.)
- ___ Computer Applications (sem.)
- ___ T.V. Production (sem.)
- ___ Agriscience (sem.)
- ___ Agriscience Foundations*/*** (___)@ (year-long)

All high school courses taken at the middle school level count toward high school Grade Point Average and class rank

PER STATE REQUIREMENT, if P.E. is NOT selected, waiver on back side of this form must be completed.

Intensive Reading and/or Intensive math may be assigned in place of elective(s) depending upon standardized test results.



Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date _____

Counselor Signature: _____ Date _____

NOTE:

*(___) Indicates that teacher approval is necessary. Final placement will be determined using multiple criteria.

*** High school credit earning class. High school policy applies.

(sem.) Indicates that course is a semester-long class

Indicates that an application is required

@ Indicates that the course counts towards a high school science credit

Policy: One of the goals at Thomas E. Weightman Middle School is to offer a variety of courses designed to meet state and district requirements, as well as the unique needs of each student. **In the event the curriculum rules of the State of Florida or Pasco County change, required and elective courses will be adjusted accordingly. Teacher availability may impact course selection.**

Placement: Available advanced classes will be offered to those students who meet eligibility requirements with teacher recommendation.

Course Requests: Student requests for courses are used to determine the number and type of teachers a school will need. Once decisions about this are made, it is difficult to make changes. It is the policy at TEWMS that every effort will be made to schedule the courses requested by students, though we cannot guarantee students will receive every choice they request. Once they are scheduled, it is the student's responsibility to complete the course(s).

Schedule Changes: Students who struggle with the course content may be granted changes only after parent, teacher, and student confer to discuss progress and identify a plan of action for student improvement. We are interested in the success of our students and are willing to work with the student and parent to help the student succeed. These procedures have been developed to ensure stable classroom environments for all students at TEWMS. Any schedule change must be approved by administration.

Exceptional Student Education (ESE): The final choices of classes for ESE students will be made at the time of the IEP/parent conference. The selections on this form will be used only for planning purposes.

Teacher Initials: The teacher's initials indicate ONLY that the student has met or is currently meeting the prerequisites of the course chosen. They are not to be construed as any type of recommendation on the part of the teacher or any prediction by the teacher concerning the likelihood of student success or failure.

Students must successfully complete Math, Language Arts, Science, and U.S. History by earning a grade of "D" or higher to be promoted to high school. If a course is not completed successfully, the student must recover the class.

FCAT Reading Level _____ FCAT Math Level _____

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR 8TH GRADE:

Algebra I: This course is for high school credit. Students in this class have demonstrated proficiency with the grades 6-8 middle school math content. Topics include expressions, equations, inequalities, rational numbers, variables, graphs, sets, number theory, factoring and polynomials. Students in advanced math courses must meet placement criteria (classroom performance, standardized test scores, and placement test results) and should maintain an average at or above 80%.

Math: Students will work extensively with linear and non-linear functions in various forms. Other topics include inequalities, properties of angles and polygons, creating and interpreting graphs, and properties of exponents.

Language Arts: Language Arts emphasizes the structure of language through the study of literature, writing, research, and oral communication skills. Students will be introduced to a variety of literature and literary devices through guided and independent reading. In addition, by modeling and with practice, students will expand the use of writing for appropriate audiences.

Language Arts (Advanced): A student's current Language Arts teacher will complete the placement recommendation based on items such as: FCAT reading scores (level 4 or 5), previous/current grades, FAIR scores, consistency in completion and success of assignments, attendance, prior grades on tests, writing samples, and PMP designation.

U.S. History: Students will use skills of historical and geographical analysis to explore the early history of the United States and understand ideas and events that strengthened the union. Students will continue to learn fundamental concepts in civics, economics, and geography as they study United States history in chronological sequence and learn about change and continuity in our history. They will also study documents and speeches that laid the foundation of American ideals and institutions and will examine the everyday life of people at different times in the country's history with primary and secondary sources.

U.S. History (Advanced): A student's current Social Studies teacher will complete the placement recommendation based on items such as: FCAT reading scores (level 4 or 5), previous/current grades, consistency in completion and success of assignments, attendance, prior grades on tests and writing samples.

Science: Science builds and organizes knowledge through the application of testable explanations and predictions about the real world. All grade levels begin with a focus on the Nature of Science, emphasizing the practice of science through the scientific method, theories, laws, and models. During 8th grade, the priority switches to Properties of Matter, Matter and Energy Transformations, and Earth in Space and Time.

Science 3 (Advanced): A student's current Science teacher will complete the placement recommendation based on items such as: FCAT reading and math scores (level 4 or 5 in both areas), CORE K-12 end of year results, previous/current grades, consistency in completion and success of assignments, attendance, prior grades on tests.

Physical Education: PE is a fitness based course so that students can achieve the skills necessary to attain a healthy lifestyle. Students will learn the rules and strategies for many different individual and team sports, such as tennis, golf, archery, soccer, basketball, and volleyball. Locker fee required.

Art, Advanced: Students will work with different three-dimensional media, along with two-dimensional media. Students will produce a portfolio.

Band, Intermediate/Advanced: This band will concentrate on more advanced musical literature and skills. Students in this band will also be a part of our Wildcat Marching Band.

Band, Beginning: Students will study the fundamentals of music and learn to play a musical instrument through direct instruction from the Band Director.

Spanish, 1B: Spanish 1A is a prerequisite to this course. Upon successfully completing both level 1A, and level 1B, the student will receive (1) high school credit. Students will expand their base of knowledge from Spanish 1A and will be pushed toward total immersion within the classroom.

Peer Program: Through this elective class, students will participate in activities that assist other students, faculty, staff, and/or administrators. Peer helpers will be assigned to assist in one of the following areas: media, back office, special education. Media peers assist the media staff in all areas of operation of the Media Center. Office peers may assist new students and play a key roll in the completion of various administrative-related assignments. Special education peers assist teachers in special needs classrooms and work directly with students in these programs. Enrollment in the class is limited. This course requires the completion of an application and teacher recommendation for consideration.

Art Appreciation: This course develops skills in drawing, one-point perspective drawing, painting, design, sculpture, computer generated art, and other aspects of art.

General Music/Guitar: Students will study the basics of playing the acoustic guitar. This is a beginner level class.

Spanish, Beginning: This semester class includes the basics of Spanish grammar, vocabulary building, as well as geography and culture. This course acquaints the student with Spanish through experience in the five language skills of understanding, speaking, reading, writing and culture. This class is for 7th and 8th grade students.

Exploring Agriscience: This course provides students with a brief introduction to agriculture history and an introduction to animal science. Students will focus on the journey food travels through—starting with the producer and ending with the consumer. Students will also plant a vegetable garden and work with livestock.

Computer Applications in Business: This course provides opportunities for study in business computer applications where all learning experiences are hands-on. In the business lab, the latest technologies are used to enhance business and computer skills. Desktop publishing, word processing, Excel spreadsheet, PowerPoint, and Web page design applications are taught in this class.

Culinary Careers: Students learn how to take care of themselves and their family both now and in the future. They explore areas such as home safety and maintenance, foods and nutrition, children and the family as they relate to home and career choices.

Technology: This course is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the kinds and levels of work in the areas of graphic communication, construction, manufacturing, and power transportation systems. The class centers around hands-on experience and modular learning.