

Pershing Middle School
Academic Planning Guide
2009-2010



John J. Pershing Middle School

established 1928



Spring, 2009

Dear Parents,

It is time to begin planning for the 2009-2010 school year and we trust that our new Academic Planning Guide will assist you and your child in this endeavor. The guide contains course expectations for pre-AP and GT academic classes, as well as course descriptions for both academic and elective classes. Any classes that require prerequisites or auditions are noted in the description.

Your child will complete a course selection sheet during advisory and submit it to the counselors. We are asking that you sign and return a second course sheet to indicate your approval of their choices.

We know that middle school is an exciting time for both parents and students alike and we hope to make this transition as smooth as possible for you and your child. Should you have any questions regarding course selection, please do not hesitate to contact one of our counselors or deans.

As always, we are here for you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin Lowe".

Robin Lowe
Principal

Pershing Middle School

Course Requirements at each grade level and academic level.

Sixth Grade

All Students

Core: Math x 2
Reader/Writer x 2
Science
Social Studies
PE

Elective: 1 Personal Choice

Seventh Grade

Grade Level Students

Core: Math x 2
Reader/Writer x 2
Science
Social Studies
PE

Elective: 1 Personal Choice

Pre-AP Students

Core: Math
Reader/Writer
Science
Social Studies
PE

Elective: 3 Personal Choices

Pre-AP/GT

Core: Math
Reader/Writer
Science
Social Studies
PE
Foreign Language or Reader/writer

Electives: 2 Personal Choices

Eighth Grade

Grade Level Students

Core: Math x 2
Reader/Writer x 2
Science
Social Studies

Elective: 2 Personal Choice

Pre-AP Students

Core: Math
Reader/Writer
Science
Social Studies

Elective: 4 Personal Choices

Pre-AP/GT

Core: Math
Reader/Writer
Science
Social Studies
Foreign Language or Reader/writer

Elective: 3 Personal Choices

Pershing Middle School Academic Levels

Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade:

Grade Level students are students who have scored less than 2200 on TAKS reading or math. They are taught using the HISD clear curriculum. Students are also given a second math class to ensure their success in their classes as well as standardized testing. Social Studies in 6th grade is comprised of World History, in 7th grade the focus is on Texas History, and 8th grade focus is US History.

Pre-AP students are students who have scored above 2200 on TAKS reading and math. This level of academics are taught using the HISD clear curriculum utilizing Pre-AP methodologies that include higher level questioning and problem solving skills. Social Studies in 6th grade is comprised of World History, in 7th grade the focus is on Texas History, and 8th grade focus is US History.

Pre-AP/GT students are students who are in GT classes have scored 85 or above in Total Reading and Total Math on Stanford. This level of academics is taught using the HISD clear curriculum, which includes utilizing Pre-AP methodologies with an integration of higher level questioning and problem solving skills. The GT program is a rigorous program with dedicated students that are asked to research and write using both primary and secondary sources that require independent thinking, analysis and interpretation. Social Studies in 6th grade is comprised of World History, in 7th grade the focus is on Texas History, and 8th grade focus is US History. Students in 6th grade math take a combination of the 6/7th grade curriculum, 7th graders take Pre-Algebra, and 8th graders take Algebra I.

PERSHING MIDDLE SCHOOL
SEVENTH GRADE

DRAFT

PRINT OR TYPE

STUDENT ID# _____ GRADE LEVEL 09/10 _____

NAME: _____
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

Zoned students: Choose 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices in each semester box.

Magnet students: Write "MAGNET" beside your magnet elective.

Fall Semester

- ___ Art
- ___ **Band (year long)**
Circle One:
 - ___ Beginner Woodwind
 - ___ Beginner Brass
 - ___ Beginner PercussionYears of Experience _____
- ___ **Book Club**
- ___ **Choir**
- ___ **Computer Power**
- ___ **Creative Writing**
- ___ **Dance – Beginner**
Years of Experience _____
- ___ **Drama**
- ___ **Foreign Language: (year long)**
 - ___ Chinese
 - ___ French
 - ___ Spanish
- ___ **Guitar – Beginner**
Years of Experience _____
- ___ **Gymnastics – Beginner**
Years of Experience _____
- ___ **Multi Media**
- ___ **Music Production**
- ___ **Orchestra – Beginner (year long)**
Circle one:
 - ___ Bass/Celio/Harp
 - ___ Viola/Violin/HarpYears of Experience _____
- ___ **PE ALTERNATIVE**
 - ___ Athletics
 - ___ Weights
- ___ **Recorder Ensemble**
- ___ **Ropes**

Spring Semester

- ___ Art
- ___ **Band (year long)**
Circle One:
 - ___ Beginner Woodwind
 - ___ Beginner Brass
 - ___ Beginner PercussionYears of Experience _____
- ___ **Book Club**
- ___ **Choir**
- ___ **Computer Power**
- ___ **Creative Writing**
- ___ **Dance – Beginner**
Years of Experience _____
- ___ **Drama**
- ___ **Foreign Language: (year long)**
 - ___ Chinese
 - ___ French
 - ___ Spanish
- ___ **Guitar – Beginner**
Years of Experience _____
- ___ **Gymnastics – Beginner**
Years of Experience _____
- ___ **Multi Media**
- ___ **Music Production**
- ___ **Orchestra – Beginner (year long)**
Circle one:
 - ___ Bass/Celio/Harp
 - ___ Viola/Violin/HarpYears of Experience _____
- ___ **PE ALTERNATIVE**
 - ___ Athletics
 - ___ Weights
- ___ **Recorder Ensemble**
- ___ **Ropes**

OTHER ELECTIVES: (Audition/Application Only)

Native Speaker Spanish PE Alternative: Cheerleading
Yearbook Journalism (Newspaper)

ALL ADVANCED CLASSES: (Audition Only)

Drama Intermediate Dance Advanced Dance Advanced Art Gymnastics
Symphonic Band Wind Ensemble (Band) Jazz Band Int & Adv Guitar Adv. Mixed Choir

We understand that the electives we choose now are the courses that will be taken next year and that no changes will be made unless there is a scheduling conflict.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

Due Date _____

PERSHING MIDDLE SCHOOL
EIGHTH GRADE

DRAFT

PRINT OR TYPE

STUDENT ID# _____ GRADE LEVEL 09/10 _____

NAME: _____

LAST

FIRST

MIDDLE

HOME TELEPHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

**Zoned students: Choose 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices in each semester box.
Magnet students: Write "MAGNET" beside your magnet elective.**

Fall Semester

- ___ Art
- ___ Book Club
- ___ Choir
- ___ Computer Power
- ___ Composition
- ___ Creative Writing
- ___ Drama
- ___ Guitar – Beginner
- ___ Multi Media
- ___ Music Production
- PE ALTERNATIVE**
- ___ Archery
- ___ Martial Arts
- ___ Pilates
- ___ Swimming
- ___ Walk for Life
- ___ Weights
- ___ Recorder Ensemble
- ___ Research
- ___ Speech

Spring Semester

- ___ Art
- ___ Book Club
- ___ Choir
- ___ Computer Power
- ___ Composition
- ___ Creative Writing
- ___ Drama
- ___ Guitar – Beginner
- ___ Multi Media
- ___ Music Production
- PE ALTERNATIVE**
- ___ Archery
- ___ Martial Arts
- ___ Pilates
- ___ Swimming
- ___ Walk for Life
- ___ Weights
- ___ Recorder Ensemble
- ___ Research
- ___ Speech

OTHER ELECTIVES: (Audition/Application Only)

Native Speaker Spanish
Yearbook
Journalism (Newspaper)

Athletics (Coach signature _____)
Teacher Assistant (Teacher Signature _____)
PE Alternative: Cheerleading

ALL ADVANCED CLASSES: (Audition Only)

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Drama | Orchestra | Dance Company | Adv. Mixed Choir |
| Intermediate & Advanced Dance | Advanced Art | Gymnastics | Int. & Adv. Guitar |
| Symphonic Band | Wind Ensemble (Band) | Jazz Band | Intermediate Guitar |

We understand that the electives we choose now are the courses that will be taken next year and that no changes will be made unless there is a scheduling conflict.

Parent Signature

Student Signature

PERSHING MIDDLE SCHOOL
ELECTIVE CLASSES 2009-2010

ART

6th Grade beginning art.....Students will learn fundamental skills needed to create art in a variety of media including drawing, painting, ceramic, collage, and printmaking. Students will learn art vocabulary and be introduced to the elements of design (line, shape, form, value, texture, color, space) and principals of design (balance, unity variety, emphasis, rhythm & movement, proportion, pattern). Students will be exposed to art from different cultures and begin studying art history.

6th Grade Magnet Art Class....Open to students by audition only. Students who have had prior art experience will continue to develop their draftsmanship and their skills to express themselves in a variety of art media including drawing, painting, ceramic, collage, and printmaking. Students will begin exploring the elements and principles of design and use vocabulary correctly while responding to and analyzing visual artworks. Students will be exposed to art from different cultures and develop and appreciation for artists throughout history.

7th Grade beginning Art.....Students will learn fundamental skills needed to create art in a variety of media including drawing, painting, ceramic, collage, and printmaking. Students will learn art vocabulary and be introduced to the elements of design (line, shape, form, value, texture, color, space) and principals of design (balance, unity variety, emphasis, rhythm & movement, proportion, pattern). Students will be exposed to art from different cultures and begin studying art history.

7th Grade Advanced Art Class ... Open to students by audition only. This class requires 1 year of beginning art. Advanced students will build on skills already learned and continue to develop their draftsmanship to produce art that demonstrates refined observational skills, reflection, and sustained attention to complex problems using a variety of art media. J students will understand and apply art elements and principles effectively to express their thoughts and ideas creatively. Students will use appropriate vocabulary while responding to analyzing visual artworks. Auditions for this class take place in April.

8th Grade beginning Art.....Students will learn fundamental skills needed to create art in a variety of media including drawing, painting, ceramic, collage, and printmaking. Students will learn art vocabulary and be introduced to the elements of design (line, shape, form, value, texture, color, space) and principals of design (balance, unity variety, emphasis, rhythm & movement, proportion, pattern). Students will be exposed to art from different cultures and begin studying art history.

8th Grade Advanced ArtOpen to students by audition only. This class requires 2 year of beginning art. Students will continue to develop their draftsmanship to produce art that demonstrates refined observational skills, reflection, and sustained attention to complex problems using a variety of art media. Students will understand and apply art elements and principles effectively to communicate personal meanings and solve challenging visual problems, demonstrating skill and in-depth understanding of media and processes. Students will use appropriate vocabulary while responding to and analyzing visual artworks. Works produced in this class will lead to the creation of portfolio quality work. Auditions for this class take place in April.

Advanced 6th, 7th, 8th grade Art.....Advanced students will build on the skills already learned. Students will continue to develop their draftsmanship, continue to study art history, and be given opportunities to create more advanced art projects and to display their work.

BAND

Beginning Band Woodwind: this class is open to all students that complete an interview with Mr. Smith for instrument selection (clarinet, flute, saxophone, and oboe). Students learn music theory and foundational technique on their particular woodwind instrument. Performances include Winter Concert and Spring Concert.

Beginning Band Brass: this class is open to all students that complete an interview with Mr. Smith for instrument selection (trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, and tuba). Students learn music theory and foundational technique on their particular brass instrument. Performances include Winter Concert and Spring Concert.

Beginning Band Percussion: this class is open to all students that complete an interview with Mr. Smith for instrument selection. Students learn music theory and foundational technique on all percussion instruments. Performances include Winter Concert and Spring Concert.

Jazz Band: this class is available through auditions only. In this course students learn jazz history and how to perform different styles of jazz (Bebop, Latin, Blues, and Funk) through music in a Big Band setting. Performances include local contests/ festivals and Spring Concert.

Symphonic Band: this course is available through auditions only. The Symphonic Band is an Intermediate Band. Student will learn to perform different styles of wind ensemble literature. This course will extend the music theory and foundational technique that has been learned in beginning band. Performances include Pep Band, Winter concert, Spring concert, Waltrip Concert and Sight-Reading festival, Band Trip contest, All-city Auditions, Region Auditions, Solo & Ensemble Try-outs.

Wind Ensemble: this course is available through auditions only. The Award Winning Wind Ensemble is the Band Program's Advanced Band. Student will learn to perform different styles of wind ensemble literature. This course will extend the music theory and foundational technique that has been learned in beginning band. Performances include Pep Band, Winter concert, Spring concert, Waltrip Concert and Sight-Reading festival, UIL Concert and Sight-Reading, Blinn Music Meet, Band Trip contest, All-city Auditions, Region Auditions, Solo & Ensemble Try-outs.

BOOK CLUB: This course will is a year long course. Students will read books of choice, work in groups, discuss the book and make summative projects based on their findings.

CHEERLEADING: Tryouts are in early spring for 7th and 8th grade students for the following year.

COMPUTER POWER:

Advanced topics" is a self-directed learning course utilizing module work stations. Students work in a team of two to complete a variety of activities. Activities are designed to be hands-on. Modules have been developed to allow students to interact with audio, computer-controlled machines, and other "high-tech" equipment. As the student proceeds through each module, they will be required to read information that will help them learn about that particular technology. Students will be evaluated on the daily activities, projects, writing assignments and quizzes.

COMPOSITION: Advanced English Language and composition focuses on preparation for academic writing at the high school level. It's recommended for middle school eighth graders who plan to take AP or IB English at the high school level. This course emphasizes high-level skill development. Students are expected to have strong language and writing skills, and to read a variety of prose from many different time periods, disciplines and contexts. The goal for this class is for all students to become skilled writers for a variety audiences and purposes. Students will compose narrative, expository, and argumentative papers. At the end of the course, students will be prepared to ghigh school AP or IB English classes.

CREATIVE WRITING: Students will explore writing by learning to create imaginatively constructed fiction and poetry. They will also read and critique fiction and poetry by published writers.

CHOIR:

Beginning 6th Choir ... learns beginning theory and basic tenets of performance. This group participates in 6th grade competitions. Members of this choir are prepared to attend Fine Arts High Schools.

Intermediate Choir ...includes review and advancing to 3pt repertoire.

Advanced Mixed Choir—Mixed (boys and girls) choir is open to students who have been in choir the previous year. This choir consists of 7th and 8th graders. No new 8th graders accepted (unless coming from another school and can audition) This choir performs outside of school, participates in UIL activities (Region, Solo and Ensemble, etc) sight reading and is expected to make all rehearsals and performances The Girls /Boys ensembles are chosen from this choir.

General music choir - 6th, 7,8th –for students who enjoy music. The students are introduced to singing, theory and history. Students in general music may perform with the choir if they attend extra rehearsals.

Recorder ensemble...One of the best in town...soprano, alto, tenor and bass is taught.

Beginners welcome. Practice at home required.

Gospel Choir...is an award-winning optional choir for all grades and any student who enjoys singing.

DANCE

Beginning Dance is open to all students at Pershing Middle School. Students will learn Ballet, Modern, and Jazz techniques. Students are responsible to purchase specific dance clothes and shoes. Students participate in two performances each school year.

Intermediate and Advanced Dance are available by audition only with the dance teacher. Students are evaluated at the end of each year for placement in the next year's class. New students must audition for placement. In these classes students learn more advanced skills in ballet, modern and jazz dance techniques. Students may have extra opportunities for performance in these classes. Eighth grade intermediate and advanced students are eligible to participate in the annual trip to New York.

Dance Company is open to students only through audition. Students continue to work on advancing skill level and participate in a variety of performances and workshops. All Dance Company members are eligible to participate in the annual trip to New York.

DRAMA

Beginning drama classes taught by Miss Broadhead focus on play production. The student will learn theatre terminology and how to be a successful actor. The student will perform in 3 plays during the course of the year. Other subjects covered are improvisation and set design. After completing a beginning class, the student is eligible to audition for an advanced class.

7th Grade Advanced Drama is by audition only. This class requires 1 year of beginning drama. The students in this class perform 4 plays. 2 of the plays are in the auditorium. One of the plays is Shakespeare in the spring.

8th Grade Advanced Theatre is a performance oriented class. The students will participate in various productions throughout the year to showcase their talent and learn how to work together. The class also focuses on various acting exercises and techniques throughout the rehearsal process.

Musical Theatre Class: This class is by audition only and requires 1-2 years of drama. This class also requires a good deal of after school rehearsals, especially during January and February. The musical is usually in February. The students also perform a Shakespeare play in the spring. This is for 7th and 8th grade only.

Drama Tech – is open to 7th and 8th graders only. Technical theatre encompasses costume, box office, set construction and design and lighting design. Students get hands on experience working on various shows through out the year.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

7th grade: Learn the basics of Chinese, French or Spanish including greetings, numbers, the calendar, classroom items, food, and basic verb conjugations. Prerequisite is a score of 85% on the sixth grade Stanford reading test.

8th grade: Expand your vocabulary and knowledge of Chinese, Spanish or French including more complex grammatical structures and the past tense. Successful completion of this class earns high school credit for Chinese 1 Spanish 1 or French 1. Prerequisite is 7th grade Chinese, Spanish or French.

Exploratory Languages: A one semester course that gives students the opportunity to be exposed to several different languages including Spanish and French. This course ties with Computer Concepts.

GUITAR

6th Grade Beginning Guitar Class: This class is open to any 6th grader with little or no musical experience. Students will learn basic music theory, music appreciation, and how to play their guitar in the 1st and 2nd positions. Students will perform two concerts: one in December and one in May.

7th Grade Beginning Guitar Class: This class is open to any 7th grader with little or no musical experience. Students will learn basic music theory, music appreciation, and how to play their guitar in the 1st and 2nd positions. Students will perform two concerts: one in December and one in May.

8th Grade Beginning Guitar Class: This class is open to any 8th grader with little or no musical experience. Students will learn basic music theory, music appreciation, and how to play their guitar in the 1st and 2nd positions. Students will perform two concerts: one in December and one in May.

Intermediate Guitar Class: This class is open to any student who has successfully taken beginning guitar, has at least one year experience playing their guitar/reading music or by audition. Students will learn how to play their instruments in the 1st through 4th positions, intermediate music theory, and music history. Students will perform three major concerts and have opportunities for other small performances through out the school year.

GYMNASTICS:

Beginning Gymnastics: 6th and 7th grade. There is no tryout for this class.

This class is for students with little or no previous gymnastics experience and wants to learn gymnastics. You will learn the gymnastics safety rules, terminology, and learn the following skills;

Various rolls, handstands, cartwheels, back bends and kickovers on the mats.

Various beginning vaults, swings and hip circles on the bars, and beginning beam and dance steps.

Skills in the beginning competition routines.

Intermediate Gymnastics: Students must tryout for this class. This class is for students who have learned the gymnastics safety rules, terminology, and accomplished the beginning gymnastic skills mentioned above. You will learn the following skills:

Front and back limbers/walkovers, headsprings and handsprings, flip flops if capable, mill circles, front hip circles, glide kips, mushroom circles, various vaults, and other intermediate equipment skills.

Advanced Gymnastics: You must tryout for this class. This is for level 6 and up gymnasts.

?these gymnasts can perform advanced routines on all the equipment and can perform roundoff-Oflop flop-back flip.

You will perform/improve skills from competition routines.

You will have an opportunity to perform in a show.

JOURNALISM: This is an audition class for seventh and eighth graders who will become reporters, news writers and photographers on the school newspaper.

ORCHESTRA

Beginning Violin, Viola and *Harp Class: This class is open to any 6th, 7th or 8th grader with little to no music experience. Students will learn basic music theory, music appreciation, and how to play their violin or viola in 1st position. Students will perform two concerts; one in December and one in May.

Beginning Cello, Bass and *Harp Class: This class is open to any 6th, 7th or 8th grader with little to no music experience. Students will learn basic music theory, music appreciation, and how to play their cello or bass in 1st-3rd positions. Students will perform two major concerts; one in December and one in May.

Intermediate Orchestra: This class is open to any student who has taken beginning orchestra, has at least one year experience playing their violin/viola, or by audition. Students will perform three major concerts, participate in U.I.L. Solo/Ensemble Competition, and have opportunities for other small performances through out the school year.

* Students interested in learning harp must have at least one year of piano lessons. Due to the number of harps we have at school, each class will be limited to one Harpist.

Advanced Orchestra: This class is by audition only. Students must have a minimum of one year experience on their instrument. Students will learn advanced music theory, history and technique. They will perform four major concerts, participate in Region Orchestra, U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Competition, U.I.L. Concert and Sight-Reading Competition, and participate in the spring Schlitterbahn Soundwaves or other out of state music festival.

Chamber Orchestra: This class is by audition only. Students must have a minimum of two years experience on their instrument. Students will learn advanced music theory, history and technique. They will perform four major concerts, participate in Region Orchestra, U.I.L. Solo and Ensemble Competition, U.I.L. Concert and Sight-Reading Competition, and participate in the spring Schlitterbahn Soundwaves or other out of state music festival.

PE ALTERNATIVES: One semester classes. May be taken in addition to PE.

Archery – 8th only – Basic archery skills.

Athletics - 7th & 8th grade.

Cheerleading – Audition only. 7th and 8th only.

Martial Arts – 8th only – Basic of Tae Kwon Do

Pilates – 8th only - Physical fitness system that uses the mind to control the muscles.

Swimming – 8th only – Basic instruction on different strokes as well as life saving techniques.

Walk for life – 8th only –Provides a foundation for personal improvement of fitness and Nutritional wellness. Students will develop the ability to assess their own Individual needs and develop a personal wellness plan for a healthier Lifestyle. Students will be evaluated on their participation, setting and Working towards short and long term goals, fitness skills, and the development and implementation of a personal fitness program.

Weights – 7th and 8th Conditioning class which uses state of the art equipment and is monitored by a certified coach.

RESEARCH: This 8th grade class is designed to develop research skills, improve creative thinking, build teamwork skills, improve communication skills and utilizes problem solving strategies. This is a one semester course.

ROPES: Sixth graders or 7th graders who have not taken this class before. This course is the combination of Low and High Ropes Courses that challenge participants to grow at both the team and individual levels through properly sequenced games, initiatives, activities and elements. The Low ropes Course, which is either on the ground or only a few feet above the ground, focuses on collaboration, trust, communications, problem solving, making decisions and building self-confidence. The challenges of the High Ropes Course, which is usually constructed in trees or made of utility poles and required a belay for safety, allow participants to expand their comfort zones and personal development.

SPEECH: (Communication Applications) 8th grade only and will fulfill required ½ credit for high school graduation.

YEARBOOK: Yearbook will have two classes this year with opportunities for both 7th and 8th graders to participate. Students must apply and be accepted to this class. In this elective, you will create the spreads for the yearbook. This creation includes taking digital photos, writing summaries and lead-ins, getting teacher and student quotes, developing and arranging the layouts using a software program and completing your assigned spreads. You may need to stay after school a time or two to take photos or attend an event or two for the same purpose. Yearbook is fun but a lot of work! Only focused students need apply!