



James Hogg Middle School

An IB World School in the Heart of the Heights

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2025 – 2026

Hogg Middle School is an International Baccalaureate World School, and all our students participate in the **Middle Years Programme (MYP)**. The MYP aims to develop active learners and internationally minded young people who can empathize with others and pursue lives of purpose and meaning. The *programme* empowers students to consider a wide range of issues and ideas of significance locally, nationally, and globally, which results in young people who are creative, critical, and reflective thinkers.

Students are REQUIRED to take a class in each of the following subject groups: Design, Language Acquisition, Physical Education, and Performing/Visual Arts. ***We will do our best to honor your requests and ask that you and your child be open-minded regarding their assigned classes.***

Design (Choose one (1) full year course)		
Course	Grade Level(s)	Description
Career and College Exploration (Career and Coll Expl I F/S)	6 Only	This course is designed to guide students through the process of investigation and the development of a college and career readiness achievement plan. Students will use interest-based inventory software to explore college and career areas of personal interest. Students will use this information to explore educational and financial requirements for various colleges and a variety of chosen career paths.
Culinary Arts (ENRICHMENT 6/7/8 GY)	6, 7, 8	In this course, students will learn all about how to stay safe and organized in the kitchen while whipping up tasty recipes from around the world! They will explore food's global connection as they learn about where our food comes from. Students will also gain hands-on gardening experience and use their harvested ingredients in the Cultivated Classroom.
Computer Power/Computer Coding (TECH APPL F/S)	6, 7, 8	Computer Power is an introductory course for 6th - 8th grade students (mixed classes) that covers topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices. Computer Power uses code.org for our curriculum guide and coursework.
Computer Concepts/Graphic Design (COMPTR CONCEPTS F/S)	6, 7, 8	In this course, students will learn the use of digital software, including Adobe InDesign during the introductory course, Adobe Photoshop during the advanced 2nd-year course, and Adobe Illustrator during the advanced 3rd-year course.



Principles of Applied Engineering (PRIN APL ENG A/B)	7 Only	Principles of Applied Engineering is about researching, creating, and designing. Students research past inventions, learn how to use CAD, create marketing campaigns for "new student robots", and, when time permits, students build and code robots.
Principles of Informational Technology (PRIN INFO TECH A/B)	8 Only	Principles of Informational Technology is more about technology. Students learn how to manipulate cloud software such as Powtoon and websites that allow students to create their own websites. Students also prep for job searches and interviews, and add skills to their resumes, such as Microsoft Excel. The goal is to showcase their skills and talents on a website they create with hopes of continuing to add to it through high school so they will have a digital portfolio for college or job interviews.
Exploring Sciences (EXPL SCI 7Y/8Y)	7, 8	This hands-on course introduces students to core scientific principles through the exciting lens of 3D printing technology. Students will explore topics in physics, engineering, and materials science while designing, modeling, and printing their own creations. Emphasis will be placed on the scientific method, problem-solving, and real-world applications of 3D printing in fields such as medicine, environmental science, and manufacturing.

Language Acquisition		
Course	Grade Level(s)	Description
Beginning Spanish (SPAN 6 - BEG F/S)	6 Only	ALL 6th-grade students must take ½-year introductory course in two of the languages (one per semester). <i>Choose two of the three options.</i>
Beginning French (FRENCH 6F/6S)		
Beginning German (GERMAN 6F/6S)		
Spanish Language Arts (SPNSPKR 1A/1B)	6 Only	This is a full-year course for 6th-grade Dual Language students and Native Speakers. Students are expected to already know how to read, write, and speak Spanish fluently..
Spanish (7th Grade: SPANISH 7Y) (8th Grade: SPANISH 1A/1B)	7, 8	For this course, students select the one language they would like to take for the next two years. Students will continue with the same language they took in 7th grade. During this time, they will have the opportunity to earn one high school credit through a foreign language.
French (7th Grade: FRENCH 7Y) (8th Grade: FRENCH 1A/1B)		
German (7th Grade: GERMAN 7Y) (8th Grade: GERMAN 1A/1B)		



LOTE II: 7th Grade (SPNSPKR 2A/2B) LOTE III: 8th Grade (SPNSPKR 3A/3B)	7, 8	Dual Language and Native Speakers only.
AP Spanish (AP SPAN LANG A/B)	8 Only	LOTE II and a credit by exam (CBE) for LOTE II is a prerequisite for this course. Teacher approval and credit by exam are required before approval.

Performing and Visual Arts (Choose one (1) full year course)		
Course	Grade Level(s)	Description
Beginning Band (6th Grade: BEG BAND Y) (7th Grade: BAND 2F/2S) (8th Grade: BAND 3F/3S)	6, 7, 8	Open to all 6th graders. 7th and 8th graders who would like to join the band need to talk to Mr. Sells if they are interested. Beginning Band does not require previous knowledge. It is recommended that students rent their own instruments from a music store (we have an instrument drive hosted by H&H Music each September). The school does have a limited number of instruments available. Students may choose one of the following instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, or Percussion. Students will learn how to read music and play their chosen instrument with a characteristic sound. Students will also learn how to play in a small and large ensemble and participate in 2 concerts.
Concert Band (INT BAND 2/3Y)	7, 8	A performing band open to returning Hogg Band students or students with previous instrumental knowledge. Students must audition and have passed the written band final from the previous year. Students in the Concert Band will continue to expand their musical knowledge learned in Beginning Band, work on sight reading techniques, participate in Solo and Ensemble competitions, and perform in multiple concerts and contests. Concert Band members will also be eligible for the Spring Trip to San Antonio.
Symphonic Band (ADV BAND 2/3 Y)	By audition only	This top-performing band at Hogg Middle School is only available through an audition. Symphonic Band members will improve on knowledge gained in Concert Band, master sight reading techniques, perform at musical contests including UIL, Waltrip Festival, and the South Texas Music Festival, perform in 3 Hogg Concerts, audition for the Region Band, and participate in the Solo and Ensemble competition. All Symphonic Band members will be required to attend weekly one-hour sessions after school. Symphonic Band members will also be eligible for the Spring Trip to San Antonio.



Choir (CHOIR 1/2/3 Y)	6, 7, 8	No prior experience necessary. Content focuses on basic theory, ear-training skills, and sight-reading music from a variety of periods and styles. Includes an introduction to traditional choir, show choir, musical theatre, and seasonal concerts. Music includes traditional, popular, and musical theatre styles of music.
Introduction to Music (GEN MUSIC 6/7/8 Y)	6, 7, 8	This is an entry-level course that explores the fundamental elements of music, such as melody, rhythm, harmony, and form, across various genres and historical periods. Students will develop listening skills, learn basic music terminology, and gain an appreciation for different musical styles and cultural influences.
Beginning Orchestra (BEG ORCHESTRA 6/7/8 Y)	6, 7, 8	Open to all 6-8th graders; no prior experience necessary. Involves the following four main stringed instruments: Violin, Viola, Cello, and Bass. Focuses on proper instrument posture, note reading, rhythms, developing intonation, rhythm, shifting, vibrato, bow technique, ensemble performance, and sight-reading skills.
Intermediate Orchestra (INT ORCHESTRA 2Y)	6, 7, 8	Open to all 6th- 8th graders who can demonstrate a basic mastery of the basic skills necessary (students who have successfully completed beginning orchestra at Hogg advance to this level). Students learn advanced bow skills, dynamic differentiation, proper intonation, and ensemble playing.
Chamber Orchestra (ADV ORCHESTRA 2/3 Y)	7, 8	Open primarily to 7th-8th graders who have successfully completed intermediate orchestra at Hogg. Students learn further advanced bow skills, part independence, proper intonation in extended positions, and polyphonic ensemble playing. This level occasionally competes.
Beginners Theatre (THTRE ART 1Y MS)	6, 7, 8	This is an entry-level, participation-based, performance course designed to help students gain self-confidence through the discipline of Theatre Arts. All students are required to participate in class and perform in groups and individually. This course will also assist students in developing effective writing skills. This class has two levels: A 6th-grade beginner's level and a mixed 7th and 8th-grade level. No prerequisite is required.
Intermediate Theatre (THTRE ART 2Y MS)	7, 8	Prerequisite: Grade of C or better in Beginners Theatre. This course is open to 7th-grade students only and is designed to allow student actors to continue developing their acting and building self-confidence and characterization. This course focuses on specific acting exercises and approaches that will expand and refine the actor's skills.
Advanced Theatre (THTRE ART 3Y MS)	8 Only	This is an audition-based class that will strengthen and enhance skills in ensemble work, movement, voice, scene and play analysis, playwriting, student directing, and musical theatre. Students will participate in theatre festivals (UIL competition) and experience live theatre. This course provides serious acting students with the opportunity to continue their training in characterization, advanced improvisation, movement, auditioning, scene work, script



		analysis and interpretation, and appreciation of the Art of Theatre. This class is open to 8th graders only. Prerequisite: Intermediate or similar Theatre class and a passing grade of C or better when that class was taken.
Visual Arts (6th Grade: Art 1 Y MS) (7th Grade: ART 2 GEN MS) (8th Grade: ART 1A/1B)	6, 7, 8	<p>In addition to gaining confidence and proficiency working with a variety of media, students learn about history, culture, analysis, and interpretation of art. The MYP Visual Art classes aim to encourage and enable students to create art, develop skills, engage in creative exploration, make connections, understand context, respond to art, reflect on art, and use art to deepen our understanding of the world.</p> <p>8th Graders can take Art 1 for High School credit. Students must pass the final exam to receive high school credit.</p>

Physical Education (Choose one (1) full year course)		
Course	Grade Level(s)	Description
Traditional (Single Gender) PE (COED PE/HLTH 6Y/7Y/8Y)	6, 7, 8	This traditional single-gender PE class is designed to promote physical fitness, teamwork, and personal growth in a supportive environment tailored to students' developmental needs. Students will participate in a variety of individual and team sports, fitness activities, and skill-building exercises that emphasize cardiovascular health, strength, flexibility, and coordination.
Squash (6th Grade: BEG SPRTS 6Y) (7th Grade: INT SPRTS 7Y) (8th Grade: ADV SPRTS 8Y)	6, 7, 8	This course introduces students to the exciting and fast-paced game of squash. Students will learn the basic rules, techniques, and strategies of the sport, including proper grip, footwork, stroke mechanics, and court positioning. Through drills, games, and match play, students will develop hand-eye coordination, agility, and cardiovascular endurance. Emphasis is placed on sportsmanship, safety, and personal improvement. No prior experience is needed—just energy, focus, and a willingness to try something new!
Dance (Dance 1Y/2Y/3Y MS)	6, 7, 8	This dynamic course introduces students to the fundamentals of dance through a variety of styles such as jazz, hip hop, ballet, modern, and cultural dance forms. Students will explore rhythm, movement, coordination, and self-expression while building strength, flexibility, and confidence. Emphasis is placed on technique, creativity, performance skills, and teamwork. Whether students are new to dancing or have experience, this class provides a supportive environment where everyone can move, express, and shine!
Karate (6th Grade: KARATE BEG F/S)	6, 7, 8	This course teaches students the fundamentals of traditional martial arts in a structured, respectful, and engaging environment. Students will learn basic stances, strikes, blocks,



(7th Grade: KARATE INT F/S)		and self-defense techniques while developing discipline, focus, confidence, and physical fitness. Through partner drills, forms (kata), and controlled sparring, students build coordination, strength, and respect for themselves and others.
(8th Grade: KARATE ADV F/S)		

