TH Rogers Middle School
Course Descriptions

Core Academic Classes

TH Rogers is committed to meeting the instructional needs of all students. Our academic classes are English, reading, math, science and social studies.

Gifted and Talented (G/T): Pre-AP instruction with differentiation for more depth, complexity and pacing is the G/T curriculum. Students who meet district criteria for G/T identification receive Pre-AP/G/T instruction in homogeneous classroom settings. Pre-AP curriculum for G/T students is designed to provide these students more opportunities to demonstrate skills in self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication as evidenced by the development of innovative products and performances that reflect individuality and creativity.

French 7: (7th Grade) Full Year

Students will learn basic greetings, vocabulary, grammar structures, verb conjugations in the present and command forms in order to communicate with salesclerks, waiters, and others in French. Students will also learn about the culture and geography of France and other Francophone countries around the world. French 7 is a pre-requisite for French IA/IB in the 8th grade (a high school credit course). The emphasis is on the 5 C’s: Communication, Culture, Comparison, Connection, and Community.

Core Elective Classes

French 1A/B: (8th Grade *high school credit) Full Year

French 1A/B students will further develop basic and intermediate communication and reading skills in French, as well as verb conjugations in the present, command, and past tenses. They will continue to expand on important grammar structures and vocabulary through building of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. The students will also learn about culture, geography, and the festivities of Francophone countries. Quizzes, tests, projects, both written and oral will be used to assess students. The midterm and final exams, which are required for high school credit, will count as twenty percent of each semester grade.

*Prerequisite: 7th Grade French – Full Year

Mandarin Chinese 7: (7th Grade) Full Year

In the 7th grade Chinese class, students will begin to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing Mandarin Chinese. Topics revolve around the students’ immediate world: introducing self, family, friends, professions, daily routine, colors, and body parts. Students will learn Pinyin Romanization system along with the Chinese writing system and progress to recognize Chinese characters 汉字(Hanzi). In addition, students also examine the uniqueness of Chinese culture, using their own culture and experiences to detect cultural differences in and outside of the Chinese speaking world.

Mandarin Chinese 1A/B - (8th Grade *high school credit) Full Year

In the 8th grade Chinese class, students will continue to develop proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing Mandarin Chinese. Topics revolve around the students’ immediate world: subjects of study, making phone calls, weather, season, hobby, vegetables, fruits, and community. In addition, students also examine the uniqueness of Chinese culture, using their own culture and experiences to detect cultural differences in and outside of the Chinese speaking world. *Prerequisite: 7th Grade Spanish – Full Year

Spanish 7: (7th Grade) Full Year

Students will learn basic greetings, vocabulary, grammar structures, and verb conjugations in order to communicate with sales clerks, waiters, and others in Spanish. Students will also learn about the culture and geography of all the Spanish-speaking countries around the world. Spanish 7 is a pre-requisite for Spanish IA/IB in the 8th grade (a high school credit course). The emphasis is on the 5 C’s: Communication, Culture, Comparison, Connection, and Community.
General Elective Classes

Spanish 1A/B: (8th Grade *high school credit) Full Year
Spanish 1A/B students will learn basic and intermediate communication and reading skills in Spanish, as well as present and past tense conjugations of verbs and important grammar structures of the language. The students will also learn culture, geography, and festivities of Spanish-speaking countries. Quizzes, tests, projects, and oral quizzes will be used to assess students. The midterm and final exams, which are required for high school credit, will count as twenty percent of each semester grade.
*Prerequisite: 7th Grade Spanish – Full Year

Art 1A/B: (8th Grade *high school credit) : – Full Year *Teacher Approval Only
The high school art one course develops four basic strands of visual development— perception, creative expression, historical and cultural heritage, and critical evaluation. The parameters of this course provide broad, unifying structures for organizing the knowledge and skills students are expected to acquire. They express their thoughts and ideas visually, while challenging their imagination, fostering reflective thinking, and develop a disciplined work ethic. The art one curriculum will begin with two dimensional studies including the medium of drawing and painting, and continue into three dimensional studies including multi-media projects in relief and sculpture. Art One lectures will analyze artistic styles and historical periods with an emphasis on respect for the traditions and contributions of diverse cultures.

Art 6 (6th Grade) 1 Semester
Students will create works of art by applying elements and principles of design to all forms of art production, produce a self portrait using chiaroscuro, and understand and create two point perspective from a bird’s eye, ant’s eye and eye level. Students will also demonstrate aesthetic perception by understanding aesthetics and the importance of it in our environment, demonstrate knowledge of artistic process and techniques, recognize the relationship of art to culture, and explore the work of art which reflects subjective feelings and ideas. Lastly, students will develop knowledge of art heritage by becoming familiar with a variety of historical styles.

Art 7 (7th Grade) 1 Semester
Students will create works of art by creating a linoleum print and understanding the basic principles of color using Berol colored pencils. Students will also demonstrate aesthetic perception by understanding aesthetics and the importance of it in our environment, demonstrate knowledge of artistic process and techniques, recognize the relationship of art to culture, and explore the work of art which reflects subjective feelings and ideas. Lastly, students will develop knowledge of art heritage by becoming familiar with a variety of historical styles.

Art 8 (8th Grade) 1 Semester
Students will create works of art by using various different media to create art themes based on myths from around the world and understanding of the importance of art to portray the students’ ideas. Students will also demonstrate aesthetic perception by understanding aesthetics and the importance of it in our environment, demonstrate knowledge of artistic process and techniques, recognize the relationship of art to culture, and explore the work of art which reflects subjective feelings and ideas. Lastly, students will develop knowledge of art heritage by becoming familiar with a variety of historical styles.

Digital Media: (7th – 8th Grade)
Digital Media is an advanced technology class. This class is an extension of the required Technology Applications class. This class allows students to experiment with graphic design, animation, audio production, video production, and web design. Throughout the semester, the curriculum will cover HTML, Photoshop, Magic and Inspiration software. In addition, students will also learn the principles of website design. The class also gives students the opportunity to design and create assorted products using 3-D printer.

Fundamentals of Computer Science— Grade 8 ONLY - HS School Credit - Full Year *Teacher Approval Required
Fundamentals of Computer Science is intended as a first course for those students just beginning the study of computer science. Students will learn about the computing tools that are used every day. Students will foster their creativity and innovation through opportunities to design, implement, and present solutions to real-world problems. Students will collaborate and use computer science concepts to access, analyze, and evaluate information needed to solve problems. Students will learn the problem-solving and reasoning skills that are the foundation of computer science. By using
computer science knowledge and skills that support the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create solutions, and evaluate the results.
General Elective Classes – Continued

Technology Applications 6 (6th Grade) 1 Semester (Required for all 6th graders in the Fall Semester)
This is a basic computer literacy course essential to new sixth graders. It covers technology operations and concepts, research and information fluency, and digital citizenship. Students will become proficient in Keyboarding (Form, Speed, and accuracy), learn to use MS Office (Word Processing, Presentations, Spreadsheets, and Databases), and use the internet and its resources appropriately to become model Digital Citizens.

Technology Application 7 (7th Grade) 1 Semester (Required for all 7th graders in the Spring Semester)
Computer Literacy through creativity and innovation, communication and collaboration, and critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making is the focus in this class. It is prepared by learning many programs and languages and expressed through the end of the year products. Many programs such as MS Office, Photoshop, Gimp, Illustrator, HTML, Dreamweaver, Moviemaker, Magix, Adobe After effects, will be used by students.

Orchestra Beginning : (6th Grade) – Full Year
This class is for any student interested in learning how to play an orchestra instrument for the first time. Beginning Orchestra is a pre-requisite for Intermediate or Advanced Orchestra. Instruction is offered for violin, viola, and cello which are held in the evening time. The students will learn how to hold the instruments, properly pluck the strings, learn different notes and rhythms, and finally learn how to use the bow. Information about how to obtain an instrument will be provided by the director at the instrument selection interview.

Orchestra Intermediate : (6th - 7th Grade) – Full Year
Intermediate Orchestra is the second level of orchestra at TH Rogers. Students must have at least one year of orchestra experience. Class participants will review skills and concepts learned in Beginning Orchestra and develop a more advanced skill set of finger patterns, rhythm patterns, and bowing patterns. Basic ensemble skills are taught as well. Performances are scheduled outside of the school day and participation in evening performances is mandatory.

Orchestra Advance/Sinfonia: (6th-8th Grade) Full Year
Advanced Orchestra is the top level of orchestra at TH Rogers. Our award-winning orchestra groups have fun playing together in performances held throughout the year on campus and in the community. Students without prior experience have a great opportunity to study a stringed instrument for the first time in our beginner class as they build skills, musicality, and confidence. Advanced Orchestra participates in the performances scheduled throughout the year, as well as in the UIL Concert and Sight Reading Contest and other competitions. Orchestra is a year-long course with opportunities.

Orchestra Chamber(6th– 8th Grade) Full Year
This orchestra is an extension of the Advanced Orchestra, and is by audition only. This ensemble will perform the same repertoire as the Advanced Orchestra, but will also focus on chamber music (such as string quartets) and Region Orchestra excerpts. Participation in Region Orchestra auditions and/or UIL Solo and Ensemble is required.

Beginning Theatre 6 (6th Grade) 1 Semester (Spring)
This beginning level is a general exploration of performance, stage movement, improvisation and theatre history. Students will take part an array of theatrical activities by exploring improvisation and interpretation. Toward the end of the 6th grade, students have an opportunity to audition for an advanced theatre class.

Intermediate Theatre 7/8 (7th & 8th Grade) 1 Semester
This is a class for students who are interested in theatre, and want to learn more. The units of work use the sixth grade year as the foundation of knowledge and go further. This class offers the chance for 7th and 8th graders to be a part of the theatre department without the after-school commitments that come with the advanced classes. Intermediate students are encouraged to attend auditions in November for the spring musical. At the end of the year, students in the intermediate classes are eligible to audition for an advanced theatre class.

Advanced Theatre UIL One Act Play 7/8 (7th & 8th Grade) 1 Semester – Audition Required
This is a class for students for whom Theatre is their first love. These students will have to give full commitment to the class. Students in the advanced classes have even signed a contract expressing their commitment to theatre, to handing in their homework in ALL of their classes. In November, the UIL One Act Play class takes an 18-40 minute play to an HISD-sponsored contest. This means after-school rehearsals from early September through the week before Thanksgiving, students are required to attend at least one Saturday clinic during the rehearsal process, and
performances at school in late October. Beyond the fall, the UIL class shadows the same curriculum as the T.I.E. class: a unit on auditioning, a deeper unit on Shakespeare, a unit on Improvisation (with a research component), and a unit on a theatre practitioner.

**TPSP (Texas Performance Standards Project) Requirement for ALL GT students.**
The goal of the TPSP class is to offer GT students an opportunity to create professional quality work that meets the Texas State Plan for the Education of Gifted/Talented Students. It provides a plan for independent learning opportunities that involves research that emphasis on the foundation of the four core content areas (English language arts, science, and social studies) with interdisciplinary connections.

**Exploratory Science (6th & 7th Grade) 1 Semester** – Students will learn science through various explorations in and outside of science class. Students will learn by doing science, reflecting and analyzing their work. Observations and experiments will be reinforced through daily classroom discussions, review activities and assignments. Students will be exploring the components of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) through a variety of different projects and challenges utilizing our Science Lab and Makerspace. They will be learning to use laser cutters and 3D printers and doing hands-on science labs.

**American Sign Language (6th Grade) 1 Semester** – Students will learn basic ASL communication. The course includes sign vocabulary, finger spelling, numbers and expressive and receptive signing activities as well as the history of ASL and becoming knowledgeable about aspects of Deaf Culture which an integral part of meaningful language use.

**Name That Book (6th-8th Grade) 1 Semester** – The elective is for book lovers! Students will read and respond to books utilizing the strategies of the Name That Book competition format. Students not in this elective can still tryout for the competition team.

**General Music-Choir (Grades 6th-8th) 1 Semester** – The major emphasis of this course is to provide students with a variety of musical experiences and activities. The course develops the following skills: singing, listening, reading and writing music. The course provides opportunities for growth in understanding the following musical elements: rhythm, melody, form, tempo, dynamics, timbre or tone color, harmony, expression, articulation, and style. Students perform in select concerts.

**Piano (Grades 6th-8th) 1 Semester** – This course develops the skills necessary for playing piano and in reading music notation. Students study various composers and pianists (keyboardists), the history of keyboard instruments and develop discrimination and critical judgment in music that is heard or produced. The course also encourages interest in music from diverse cultures and historical periods. Audition required for intermediate and advanced piano classes.

**Yearbook (Grades 7th & 8th) 1 year** – This course is designed to develop students’ skills in yearbook production by providing experiences in selected aspects of yearbook production. Students learn basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines; digital photography; desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production

**School Clubs**

**Robotics:** Students build and program Lego Robots to complete challenges. Students are required to work in cooperative groups that will change throughout the quarter. Students work on a variety of engineering and programming skills, including:
- Building for strength
- Building for mobility
- Programming to complete a task
- Programming for interactivity
- Designing strategies for maximizing task completion
Students will become familiar with the current First Lego League challenge. Academic skills will focus on vocabulary, engineering, logic, and measurement.

**Quiz Bowl:**
An academic challenge competition Quiz Bowl is a game in which two teams compete head-to-head to answer questions from all areas of knowledge including history, literature, science, fine arts, current events, sports, and popular culture.
MathCounts: (Grade 6-8)
This is a middle school mathematics competition held in the United States. Its founding sponsors include the CNA Foundation, the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The competition is designed for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders only.

Chess Club is open to all students, Kindergarten through 8th grade. No experience is necessary; instructions are provided. Most of our chess players come to chess club in addition to their weekly chess class. It is the guided practice session. There are three coaches working with the students, and the emphasis is on learning tournament skills. For more experienced players, the emphasis is on playing games under tournament conditions. Newer students are taught these skills, including: how to use clocks, take notes, read pairing sheets, and play various endgames. This is a fee base class. Go to http://www.throgerschess.com/index.html to learn more.

Name That Book - HISD ‘s Department of Library Services sponsors the annual “Name that Book” Contest for 4 different levels: K-2, 3-6, Middle School and High School. School teams compete to “name that book” from the NTB Reading List. The announcer reads a quote or interpretative statement (or shows the kids a visual “physical” clue) that comes from one of the 30-35 books. The team members confer for 45-60 seconds, and when the time is up, all team captains stand and show their team answer.