

# Flowing Wells Junior High

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Catalog 2023 - 2024



*Home of the Mustangs*

Be sure to visit our school website at  
<http://www.fwjh.flowingwellsschools.org>

Flowing Wells Junior High School  
4545 North La Cholla Blvd.  
Tucson, Arizona 85705  
520-696-8550

**Principal** – Chad Miller

**Assistant Principal** – Erin Kearney

**Assistant Principal** – Chris Hitchings

**8<sup>th</sup> GRADE CURRICULUM OFFERINGS FOR 2023-2024**

**REQUIRED CLASSES**

**English, Math, and Science Meet Every Day**

1. **English 8** – This is a required course for all eighth grade students and meets daily. It focuses on the Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards for English Language Arts. Each quarter, students will analyze an essential question by reading an extended text and supplemental texts. Through this, students will develop and strengthen independent and close reading skills. Students will also work their way through the writing process to produce a variety of written assignments with an emphasis on explanatory and argumentative writing.

**OR**

**Accelerated English 8** – This self-selected course teaches the concepts and the standards of English 8 but in a more rigorous, student-led environment. This course focuses on more in-depth analysis of the extended texts through an emphasis on writing and in-class discussion. Students who will be successful in this course read at or above grade level, have a strong interest in both reading and writing, and are self-motivated.

**OR**

**Structured English Immersion Two-Hour Program** – The SEI Two-Hour program provides two hours of Targeted English Language Development. Instruction is based on Arizona’s English language Proficiency Standards and completion meets the requirements for English 8.

Students must meet eligibility requirements to enroll in this class which is offered in lieu of English 8 and one elective class.

2. **Math 8** – This grade level math course covers all eighth grade objectives in Arizona’s College and Career Readiness Standards. Upon completion of this course, students will have the skills necessary for Algebra 1 at the high school level. The course will develop students’ use of the eight mathematical practices, build basic algebraic skills, and encourage problem solving (independent and cooperatively) through the use of real-world problems and problem-based tasks.

OR

**Algebra 1 For High School Credit – Placement in this course is determined, in part, by testing.** This is a rigorous and challenging class, equivalent to high school Algebra 1. It is designed for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who, by the nature of their mathematical backgrounds and maturity, are ready for a comprehensive program aimed at developing the essential skills that a student needs for success in solving algebra problems and advancing to high school geometry. Students will earn a high school math credit by passing each semester with a D or higher. This semester grade will appear on the students’ high school transcript and count towards the student’s high school Grade Point Average (G.P.A). If the student earns an F for either semester, the student will have to retake the course during their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year or take the course via summer school at Flowing Wells High School at their own expense.

3. **Science 8** – This course will focus on ten core ideas for knowing science and the three core ideas for using science; all while looking at cross-cutting concepts. Students will look at patterns, cause and effect, structure and function, systems and system models, stability and change, scale, proportion, and quantity and energy and matter. We will study these topics through an inquiry-based approach to learning as often as possible. We will learn how to use the scientific method, explore some timely environmental issues, and examine how science impacts our world. This class will provide opportunities to learn about current science through reading and analyzing scientific articles, as well as writing responses to articles. It requires self-motivation and cooperative behavior and a genuine interest in learning science. Many assessments will be project based. Topics include: Scientific phenomena, Physical Science, Earth & Space Science, and Life Science.

OR

**Accelerated Science 8** – This course is self- selected for students who have a high interest in science, are strong readers and writers, are self-motivated and have an extraordinary work ethic! Students are expected to complete assignments and projects that encourage them to think, experiment, and problem solve. Although students in Accelerated Science follow the same content taught in Science 8, they will be challenged to demonstrate a deeper understanding of scientific concepts and ideas. Participation is a must for this class.

### **Social Studies Meets Every Other Day**

4. **Social Studies 8** – Using an inquiry-based method, students in this class will develop research and writing skills in order to explore themes in American Government, Civics, Citizenship, Civil Rights, Social Movements, and Global Issues. This interdisciplinary approach requires students to participate in individual and collaborative research projects, many of which connect directly to the world of today. Alongside this journey, students will engage with assignments and projects aligned with Arizona College and Career Readiness Standards.

**FLOWING WELLS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ELECTIVE CLASSES**

**8<sup>th</sup> graders will have one of the following combinations for the year.**

- 3 year- long electives
- 2 year-long and 2 semester-long electives
- 1 year-long and 4 semester-long electives

**Semester means** the class runs ½ year

1<sup>st</sup> semester runs August – December

2<sup>nd</sup> semester runs January – May

**Year Long means** the class will run ALL year  
from August - May

**TITLE I MATH SUPPORT**

5. **Mustang Math (7-8) Year Long** – This Title I class is designed to support students in meeting the State’s high academic standards for Mathematics. Instructional support is provided in a small group setting with a focus on the development of math skills. Students access digital and print tools and resources to support achievement. Students must meet eligibility requirements to enroll in this class. Mustang Math takes the place of one elective class.

*An instrument usage fee is required for students who will be using a school instrument.*



6. **Mustang Band (7-8) Year Long** – Mustang Band is appropriate for any student who would like the challenge of learning to play a band instrument. It is also for musicians who need more work on the fundamental skills of being a successful instrumentalist. Whether you are a beginner or an accomplished musician who wants to play a secondary instrument, this is the class for you! Mustang Band will perform in school concerts. **Individual practice outside of class and participation in all Mustang Band performances is required.**
7. **Symphonic Band (7-8) Year Long** – For students with previous instrumental music experience. This band will continue learning instrumental music skills to prepare students for more advanced music. Symphonic Band will perform in school concerts and may perform in other public appearances. **Individual practice outside of class and participation in all Symphonic Band performances is required. Teacher recommendation/audition required.**
8. **Concert Band (7-8) Year Long** – Flowing Wells Junior High’s most advanced band. Concert Band plays various types of music and performs several concerts at school and in public, and participates as a group and as individuals in statewide festivals. **Individual practice outside of class and participation in all Concert Band performances is required. Teacher recommendation/audition required.**

9. **Cadet Orchestra (7-8) Year Long** – Cadet Orchestra is appropriate for any student who would like the challenge of learning to play a string instrument. It is also for musicians who need more work on the fundamental skills of being a successful instrumentalist. Whether you are a beginner or an accomplished musician who wants to play a secondary instrument, this is the class for you! Cadet Orchestra will perform in school concerts. **Individual practice outside of class and participation in all Cadet Orchestra performances is required.**
10. **Concert Orchestra (7-8) Year Long** – For intermediate string orchestra students who have moved beyond Cadet Orchestra but may not yet be achieving at the level necessary for Sinfonietta. Students will continue to learn more advanced technical and musical fundamentals in preparation for Sinfonietta or the high school orchestra program. Concert Orchestra will perform in school concerts and may perform in other public events throughout the year. **Individual practice outside of class and participation in all Cadet Orchestra performances is required.**
11. **Sinfonietta (7-8) Year Long** – Flowing Wells Junior High School’s most advanced orchestra. Sinfonietta continues to build upon musical and technical fundamentals from earlier training and performs a wide variety of more advanced music. Sinfonietta performs at several school and other public events including statewide music festivals. **Individual practice outside of class and participation in all Sinfonietta performances is required. Teacher recommendation/audition required.**
12. **Advanced Instrument Ensemble (AIE) (8) Year Long** – AIE is an exciting year-long class for eighth graders from the Concert Band and Sinfonietta who want to become independent music makers. This class will focus on music theory skills needed to compose and arrange your own music, as well as performing in smaller groups. Members of this class will become Musical Ambassadors of FWJH and will have regular performance opportunities to share their love of music with other classes on campus, other schools in the district, and beyond! By the end of the year in this class you will have composed/arranged a song on your own and heard it performed by the class, as well as independently learned and performed at least one solo piece as well as numerous small ensemble pieces. Students in AIE will demonstrate strong musical skills, an ability to independently work with classmates, and the perseverance to work through frustrations while creating something new and unique. **Teacher recommendation/ interview required.**
13. **Mustang Singers (7-8) Year Long** – This beginning mixed choir (boys and girls) learns about music theory while singing a varied repertoire of music. The choir is required to perform at winter and spring concerts. Students need NOT have any previous singing experience to register, only a love for music. **NO audition required.**
14. **Lady Mustangs (7-8) Year Long** – Lady Mustangs is an all-girl year-long course. This beginning/intermediate choir learns about music theory while singing a varied repertoire of music. The choir is required to perform at winter and spring concerts. If you love to sing, this is the class for you! **NO audition required.**
15. **Cantos Bellos (8) Year Long** – This is Flowing Wells Junior High’s most advanced choir. Cantos Bellos performs several concerts at school and in public. Skills covered during the course will emphasize good singing, music literacy, vocal production, performance behavior, and some movement. Participation in concerts, festivals and other events is required. **Audition required.**



16. **Theatre Production (8) Year Long** – (Musical) – Theatre Productions is an exploration of theatre through productions. Productions include one act plays, musicals, videos, etc. The areas of acting, singing, dancing, stage management, theatre management, lighting, sound, makeup, stagecraft, and scenery will be emphasized. **Rehearsals and performances are required. Audition required.**

17. **MESA – Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (7-8) Year**

**Long** – This is an elective class that uses engineering, math and science skills through a variety of activities and projects. A strong work ethic is required. MESA students are expected to work well in groups and as part of a team. Students build projects with an engineering focus such as bottle rockets, roller coasters, bridges and cars. Classroom competitions are part of each project throughout the year. This class will also focus on academic preparation and college information through college preparation seminars and a university research project. Students will also have the opportunity to be involved with the MESA club and its activities during the school year. **Teacher recommendation and approval are necessary to be accepted into the MESA program.**



18. **General Art – Two Dimensional Design (7-8) Semester** – This one semester course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to develop a foundation of varied art skills, techniques, and concepts. Students will produce, discuss, and write about their own art and that of others. Students will gain confidence in their ability to express themselves using their own creativity.

19. **Advanced Art – Advanced Two Dimensional Design (7-8) Semester** – With a solid foundation of skills, techniques, design sense, and appreciation for the arts, this course is designed to take students to a higher level of creating, thinking, and critiquing their art. Students learn to express themselves, advance their abilities, and produce quality artwork using a variety of materials, projects, and procedures. **Advanced art students must have first completed General Art- Two Dimensional Design.**

20. **General Sculptural Art & Design** – This is a hands-on art class. This class is driven by the pillars of art: creativity, craftsmanship and completion to utilize media with a combination of color theory as well as decorative projects. Students will learn the fundamentals of working with a variety of materials including collage, clay, oil pastel, and paper mache.

21. **Advanced Sculptural Art & Design** – A continuation of the General Sculptural Art & Design class that will push students to build on their fundamental learning by creating more detailed and challenging projects. **Students must have first completed General Sculptural Art & Design before enrolling in Advanced Sculptural Art & Design.**

22. **Spanish 1-2 (8) for High School Credit Year long** – This course will introduce and develop the four basic skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking necessary for students to communicate in Spanish in the present tense. The student will become acquainted with the customs, culture, and history of Spanish-speaking people throughout our world. Students will earn a high school Foreign Language credit by passing each semester with a D or higher. This semester grade will appear on the students' high school transcript and count towards the student's high school Grade Point Average (G.P.A). If the student gets an F for either semester, the student will have to retake the course during their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year or take the course via summer school at Flowing Wells High School at their own expense.



23. **Exploring Technology Applications (7-8) Semester** – This course challenges students to increase their knowledge of word processing, searching the Internet, using spreadsheets and creating presentations and publications. Students develop critical-thinking and problem-solving skills as they create projects within high interest simulations. Students will also explore and use online digital communication tools. All technology classes will continue developing keyboarding skills, and cover components of digital citizenship and online safety.



24. **Multimedia and Graphic Design (7-8) Semester** – In this course students will learn to use digital tools to design and produce a variety of projects including brochures, flyers, presentations and newsletters. While creating these projects, students will also learn graphic design basics, digital photography, digital video basics and image editing tools. Students will create projects that will be used on our campus. All technology classes will continue developing keyboarding skills, and cover components of digital citizenship and online safety.

25. **Media Arts (7-8) Year Long** – Students accepted into the Media Arts program will enjoy the opportunity to work with today's multi-media technology. Students will learn how to plan, create and edit digital video and photography. The class will also produce the daily Mustang News program. Creating these projects will allow students the opportunity to become involved in their school while working with real world deadlines. Self-direction and the desire to work closely with other students are necessary for this class. All technology classes will continue developing keyboarding skills, and cover components of digital citizenship and online safety. **Teacher recommendation and approval are necessary to be accepted into the media arts program. See teacher for application.**

26. **Yearbook (7-8) Year Long** – This course is designed with the dedicated, responsible, and energetic student in mind. During the course, students will learn the basic principles of good journalism by designing and completing the Mustang yearbook. Students will be required to write, edit, revise, take photos, design layouts, and meet serious deadlines. Students need to have great writing, communication, organizational skills, work as a team player, and be computer literate. All students will receive training on a state-of-the art yearbook computer program. **Teacher recommendation and approval are necessary to be accepted into the yearbook program. See teacher for application.**



27. **Student Council (7-8) Year Long** – This class allows students to practice leadership and organizational skills while working cooperatively with administrators, school staff, and peers. Student Council activities include planning and conducting school dances and pep assemblies in addition to other school events and community service projects. There are occasional after-school and weekend commitments. Students interested in serving on Student Council **MUST be elected** by their peers through school elections or appointed by an instructor.



28. **Office Aide (8) Year Long** – This program includes the attendance office, front office, and the guidance office. Students in this program will have numerous and varied duties such as running errands, filing, and any other duties determined by the office staff. Office aides must maintain a C average; have good attendance, and a good discipline record. Must be trustworthy, responsible, reliable, and capable of handling sensitive information. **Selection of an office aide is arranged by the office person in charge.**

29. **Teacher Aide (8) Year Long** – Students interested in being a teacher aide will be responsible for such tasks as grading papers, filing, record keeping, making bulletin boards, and other duties determined by the teacher. Teacher aides must maintain a C average. **Selection of the teacher aide is arranged by the individual teacher needing an aide. See teacher for form.**



30. **Library Aide (8) Year Long** – Students interested in being a Library Aide must have high interest in working with books and computers and have great people skills. Aides run the checkout desk, shelve books, and run errands. They assist others doing research and must be willing to learn about the organization and upkeep of our Library and strategies for using the Internet effectively. **Selection is through student interview with the Librarian.**

31. **Cadet Teacher (8) Year Long** – A Cadet Teacher goes to Centennial Elementary or Davis Elementary to assist a teacher with her/his class. Cadet Teachers work with elementary students doing tutoring, reading groups, math groups, art projects, grading, filing etc. Cadet Teachers need to be responsible and enjoy working with younger people. Some students may also choose to work on the Junior High campus in our program for students who have developmental disabilities, either as a classroom cadet or with the adaptive physical education class to help students with intellectual disabilities be physically active. This class is treated more like a job and is a great opportunity for students considering a career as a teacher, but it's open to only 8<sup>th</sup> graders. **Students will be selected after turning in an application and letter of reference from a teacher.**

32. **Mustang Buddies (8) Year Long** – Students at Flowing Wells Junior High who participate in the Mustang Buddies program will become advocates for people with developmental disabilities and become positive role models for fellow students. Students will be placed in a one to one friendship with students with developmental disabilities. They will have leadership opportunities that will impact our community through our awareness projects. Students in Mustang Buddies will learn about disabilities, help their buddy learn valuable friendship skills, become a leader on campus and impact our school community.

33. **8<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Education Semester or Year long** – Have fun, be active, get strong in a class that allows students to enjoy physical activities and sports. This class will explore a variety of activities including, speedway, strength training, basketball, tennis, volleyball, field hockey, Flag football and active play. Students will also learn about nutrition and fitness including target heart rate and core strength. Students at all fitness levels are encouraged to sign up! Student may take P.E. **BOTH** semesters of 8<sup>th</sup> grade. **Appropriate foot attire and uniform must be worn for all activities.**



34. **Leisure Fitness (7-8) Semester Co-Ed** – Students will learn how to be physically active in a non-competitive environment that will promote life-long fitness. Activities may include but are not limited to Ultimate Frisbee, team handball, power walking, shuffleboard, lead up games, floor hockey, fitness and diamond games. Students will be able to successfully plan and write their own individualized exercise program. **Dressing out and participation are REQUIRED.**