



Calling all  
Conquistadors!

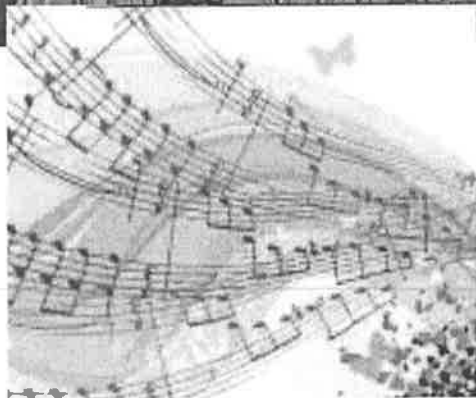
**Please join us for our annual**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Night**  
**Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:15-6:00**

Arroyo Seco's student store, gym, library, locker rooms, and designated classrooms will be open for families to visit throughout the evening. Jersey Mike's sandwiches will be available for purchase-\$5.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Night is an excellent opportunity for both parents and students to visit the Arroyo Seco campus:

- Find out what Arroyo Seco has to offer!
- Learn about teaming, the rotating schedule, and our exploratory classes!
- Meet some of the Arroyo Seco staff!
- Visit the PE locker rooms!
- Sample some treats from our cafeteria!

*For any questions, please contact the Arroyo Seco Counseling Office.  
(661) 296-0991. We look forward to seeing you there!*



# Choir TRY IT OUT!

Join us for our Spring Concert: "There's Always Another Page" on May 19 at 7:00 PM in K-Hall, Arroyo Seco Junior High.

Also see us on May 5 for 6th Grade Family Night at 5:00 PM with a Q&A session at 5:30 PM.

Advanced Chorus is an auditioned choir elective for 7th & 8th grades. The Seco Singers have had the privilege of performing on multiple occasions in the community as well as festivals and school events. We study Traditional music as well as Pop and Broadway and learn how to read and write music.

We are looking forward to another year full of fun, friends, and music and would like to invite you to join us!

**\*Auditions are available by appointment only.**

**Please visit my website at [www.mswestmusic.weebly.com](http://www.mswestmusic.weebly.com) to sign up for your audition time or email Rebekah West at [rwest@hartdistrict.org](mailto:rwest@hartdistrict.org). Auditions will be held May 20th-June 5th.**



# THEATRE TRY IT OUT!

Join us for Disney's Frozen Jr. on May 13 & 14 @ 5:00 PM & May 15 & 16 at 7:00 PM in K-Hall, Arroyo Seco Junior High.

Also see us on May 5 for 6th Grade Family Night at 5:00 PM with a Q&A session at 5:30 PM.

- Drama Production is an auditioned theatre elective for 7th & 8th grades. This class will focus on various types of scripts and learning how to write them. They also study more advanced aspects of improv, character development, and other performance skills, while putting on the fall play for the school.
- Beginning Drama is also an auditioned theatre elective for 7th & 8th grades. This class will focus on beginning improv skills, character development, voice inflections, pantomime, and much more.

We would like to invite you to join us for another year of fun & friends!

**\*Auditions are available by appointment only.**

**Please visit my website at [www.mswestmusic.weebly.com](http://www.mswestmusic.weebly.com) to sign up for your audition time or email Rebekah West at [rwest@hartdistrict.org](mailto:rwest@hartdistrict.org). Auditions will be held May 20th-June 5th.**



Scan with a QR code reader  
For more information and to sign up.

## You are invited to join the Arroyo Seco Junior High School Band Program!

### Beginning Band (year-long)

The Beginning Band course is open to all students in all grades who have a strong desire to play a musical instrument. The purpose of this course is to teach students to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students will learn to read music and perform together. Students are required to perform in various evening concerts and attend scheduled sectionals. **This class is a year-long commitment.** Successful completion of this course will prepare the student for placement in the Advanced Band the following year. *No previous musical experience required.*

### Advanced Band (year-long)

The Advanced Band is made up of students who have played a band instrument for at least one year and represents the premier performing ensemble of instrumentalists at Arroyo Seco Junior High School. This performing group will play in various performances throughout the year including a Winter and Spring evening concert, Back-to-School Night, Open House, district honor band auditions, district festivals, and a possible performance at a major theme park. Student in the advanced band are also required to attend scheduled sectionals. **This class is a year-long commitment.**

**Prerequisites:** *1 full year in Beginning Band OR 1 full year of previous musical instruction on a band instrument AND the director's approval. Please email Mr. Fulleman for more information on the audition process if you are an incoming Arroyo Seco student. [kfulleman@hartdistrict.org](mailto:kfulleman@hartdistrict.org)*

If you are interested in joining, please fill out the information below using clear legible writing, and return to Mr. Fulleman at Arroyo Seco JHS or sign up online by either scanning the QR code at the top of the page or going to <http://arroyosecomusic.weebly.com>

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade for 2020/2021 Academic Year \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Which band would you like to join? (Circle one)      Beginning Band      Advanced Band

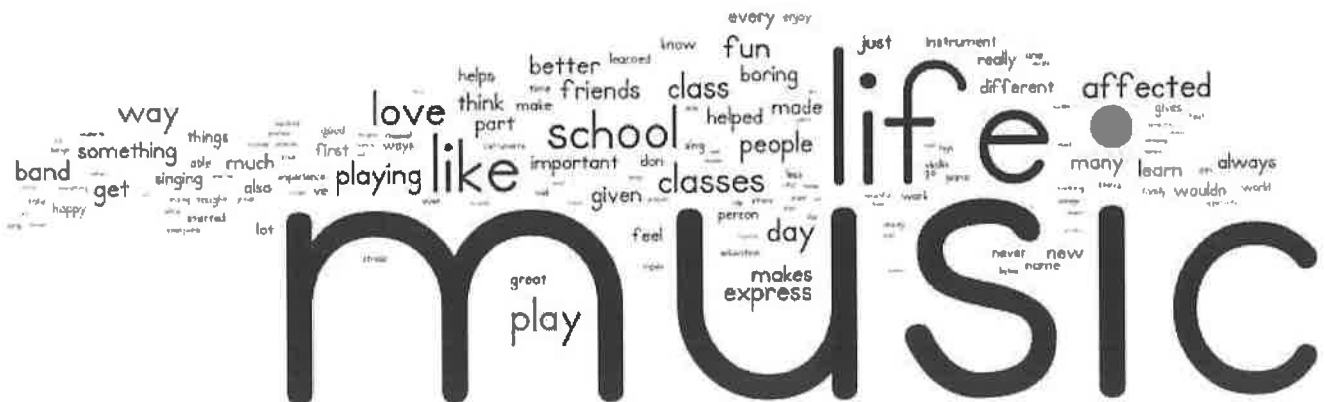
If Advanced Band, what instrument do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you played this instrument? \_\_\_\_\_

# Why Should I Join Band?

## Playing music...

1. Teaches you commitment and responsibility.
2. Gives you an outlet to express yourself and your emotions.
3. You don't need to have natural talent to play.
4. You become part of a community.
5. Is the same in every language.
6. Can build your confidence.
7. Every musical piece has a story- Your story!
8. Makes you smarter.
9. Teaches you patience.
10. Teaches you discipline.
11. Can separate you from the crowd, making you unique.
12. Is one of the most *fun* and *interesting* activities you'll ever do!





## ***Arroyo Seco is taking applications for the ASB Leadership class!***

ASB is very different from the student council program you may be used to. This is a year-long elective class. We are responsible for the fundraising, school budget, dances, noon times, spirit days and many other non-academic events that take place on campus.

We work hard and we usually have a good time getting our work done. I need 7th graders in the program who are responsible and motivated self-starters. Academic success is always first priority - but there is a time commitment. We occasionally work during breaks, before and after school and some weekends. In order to remain in ASB, there is a minimum GPA requirement of 3.0.

### **Application process:**

- Complete an application - link to this will be available on **Arroyo Seco's website beginning May 1st.**
- Ask your 6th grade teacher to complete the teacher evaluation (link available on Arroyo Seco's website beginning May 1st)
- **Applications are due back May 15th by 9 pm.**
- Students will be notified by May 20th, via email, if they have been selected for an interview. **Each student selected must participate in BOTH the group and individual interviews in order to be considered for a position in ASB.** The **group interview** will be held on **May 26<sup>rd</sup>**. Individual interviews will take place on either May 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>. **Students selected for the individual interviews will be provided a link, via email, to sign up for their preferred interview time.**
- If selected, **you must be available to attend an ASB training session on August 3<sup>rd</sup>**. This is mandatory. Do not apply if you cannot attend this session. If you cannot attend this meeting you will not be in ASB next school year.

I am looking forward to meeting prospective ASB members!

Mrs. Meraz

[jmeraz@hartdistrict.org](mailto:jmeraz@hartdistrict.org)



# *Arroyo Seco Junior High School*

**National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence  
A California Distinguished School**

*Spring 2020*

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Families,

Arroyo Seco offers two math courses for all incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students, Math 7 and Accelerated Math 7. Our Math 7 course provides students with a rigorous curriculum that will prepare your child with the necessary skills and concepts to meet the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core State Standards. The majority of students will take this course during the 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Students who qualify for our Accelerated Math 7 course will complete the Common Core State Standards for the Math 7 and Math 8 curriculum in one year. This course will move at a much faster pace and the workload will be significantly more demanding. Students who successfully complete this course will take Common Core Honors Algebra I in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

In order to qualify for Accelerated Math 7, students must earn a qualifying score on the Hart District's math placement test. The placement test will be digital and taken on a computer. All incoming students will take the placement test this spring. Your child's elementary school will administer the test in April and will provide you with additional information regarding testing dates and scores.

If your child is not enrolled in a public elementary school in the Santa Clarita Valley, your child will take the placement test at the district office on May 16<sup>th</sup>, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, or May 30<sup>th</sup>. Room and time to follow.

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Arroyo Seco next fall. For more information about Arroyo Seco, please visit our school's website at [www.arroyosecojuniorhigh.org](http://www.arroyosecojuniorhigh.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Andy Keyne  
Principal, ASJHS

Mrs. Tracey Ake  
Mathematics Department Chair, ASJHS



## ARROYO SECO JUNIOR HIGH PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Welcome, future Arroyo Seco Families!

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is what we like to call PTA-lite! Our goals are similar to PTA in that we strive to support the students, staff and families at school through communication, philanthropy and education. Besides family dine-out nights, the only money we collect is a suggested \$10 membership fee.

Here are some programs that your donations support at Arroyo Seco:

- Eighth Grade Essay Scholarships – Last year we awarded \$1,200 in scholarships!
- PAC Meeting Refreshments
- Staff Appreciation Week – PAC money is used to show gratitude to the Seco staff during Back to School and Teacher Appreciation week.
- Holiday gifts – PAC was able to work with the school administration to support a less fortunate Seco family with donations for holiday gifts/groceries. PAC was also able to provide PE clothes to those in need during the school year.

At the PAC meetings, we will provide engaging speakers who will help you navigate the new world of junior high and beyond. Last year's speakers included an expert on the pros and cons of social media for teens, Coffee with the Saugus High School Principal and Counselors to help us figure out how to plan for high school, college preparedness, plus other relevant topics.

The Arroyo Seco PAC also coordinates volunteers around campus including assisting in the library, ASB dances, distributing PE uniforms, helping at the school fundraiser, along with many other opportunities as they arise. The Eyes and Ears program offers parents a chance to walk the campus during nutrition and lunch and simply observe and report any suspicious activity to campus supervisors.

We hope you will be able to support your PAC financially, sign up as a volunteer, and also join us for our meetings during the school year. Our last meeting of the 2019-2020 school year is scheduled for May 11 when we and administration will be ready to answer your questions about junior high school. We will also be electing our new board for the 2020-2021 school year.

We look forward to welcoming you and your 7<sup>th</sup> grader to Arroyo Seco Junior High School!

Bianca Shines  
Arroyo Seco Junior High  
PAC President

---



ARROYO SECO JR. HIGH SCHOOL  
"A California Distinguished School"  
"A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence"

ORIENTATION GUIDE



WWW.ARROYOSECOJUNIORHIGH.ORG  
2020 - 2021

# ARROYO SECO JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

27171 North Vista Delgado Drive  
Valencia, CA 91354  
661-296-0991

---

Dr. Andy Keyne, Principal

Spring 2020

Dear Seco Families:

As students transition from elementary to middle school and from seventh to eighth grade, many new experiences and opportunities await them. This Orientation Guide is designed to provide you with information about our interdisciplinary team structure, credit requirements, and course offerings that will assist you in completing the orientation process.

Arroyo Seco serves 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The instructional program provides interdisciplinary teaming for all students and is built around an enriched core curriculum in language arts, social studies, mathematics and science. It is the policy of Arroyo Seco Junior High School not to change students from one team to another team during an academic year.

Please take the time to look through the guide as a family so that you will have an understanding of the academic requirements, exploratory programs, and school policies. Students will enjoy a variety of exploratory or academic support experiences in addition to two years of physical education and the core academic team classes. Often, through an exploratory elective, an interest or lifelong goal is sparked.

Our staff at Arroyo Seco encourages you to seek their assistance whenever it is needed. We are readily available to answer your questions or respond to your concerns. Let us help make the transition into junior high school a smooth one. We also encourage students to get involved with student body activities, clubs, and intramural sports.

We look forward to working with you to create an exciting and rewarding 2020 - 2021 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Andy Keyne  
Principal

# ARROYO SECO JUNIOR HIGH ORIENTATION CALENDAR 2020 - 2021 School Year

Welcome to the Arroyo Seco “family”! For those parents and students who will be coming to Seco for the first time next August, we are offering numerous opportunities for you to get assistance with the orientation process. We are here to help! Our goal is for you to have a successful and comfortable start to your life at Arroyo Seco. If you have any questions regarding the contents of this schedule, please call our Registrar or Counseling Office at 661-296-0991.

## Here is our orientation assistance calendar:

### Spring 2020

All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will take a math placement test in their current class. Placement into Math 7 or Math 7 Accelerated is determined by the math placement test results.

### Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

**4:15pm – 6:00pm - “6<sup>th</sup> Grade Family Night”** at Arroyo Seco. This open house is intended to provide an overview of the middle school program and answer any questions incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents and students may have. **Students need to be accompanied by an adult to this event.**

### Late Summer

An informational packet and health emergency card will be mailed to each student. **Verification of MMR, Tdap, Varicella, & Hepatitis B vaccinations and a completed health emergency card is required.**

## STUDENT CHECK-IN

### Tuesday, August 4th 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only\*

**Arroyo Seco Knutson Hall**  
8:00 - 10:00 am Last Name A - F  
10:00 - 12:00 pm Last Name G - O  
12:00 - 1:30 pm Last Name P - Z

### Wednesday, August 5th 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Only\*

**Arroyo Seco Knutson Hall**  
8:00 - 10:00 am Last Name A - F  
10:00 - 12:00 pm Last Name G - O  
12:00 - 2:00 pm Last Name P - Z

*\* Siblings may check in at the same time on either day*

### Thursday, August 6th

**8:00 am – 11:00 am. Check-in makeups in main office**

### Tuesday, August 11th

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**  
First bell rings at 7:40 am  
Classes start at 7:45 am

## SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS

Congratulations! Your upcoming promotion from the sixth grade represents a milestone in your growth and development.

Seventh grade is the start of a very new and exciting part of your education. You will be scheduled onto an academic team. The team consists of an English, Math, Science and Social Studies teacher. There are many benefits to being a member of a team. You and the other students assigned to the same team will feel that you belong to a special group. You will be enrolled in classes with the same 130 – 180 seventh grade students, and you will get to know them well by the end of the year. There are many skills to master and much learning ahead of you. We look forward to including you in this exciting process! Listed below are the subjects that all seventh grade students must take:

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science (Life)
4. World History
5. Physical Education
6. Exploratory Class or a year-long Specialty Elective Class (Beginning or Advanced Bands, Video Production, Yearbook, Choir or ASB)

The Exploratory classes are described later in this booklet.

## EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS

Congratulations! You are about to enter your final year of junior high school. Being in the eighth grade means many things. It means that you are the campus student leaders. It means that this is your final year of preparation before going to high school. It also means that you are rapidly becoming a young adult. As you anticipate the eighth grade, it is our hope that you will make this your best year yet. Listed below are the subjects that all eighth grade students must take:

1. English
2. Mathematics
3. Science (Physical)
4. U.S. History
5. Physical Education
6. Exploratory Class or a year-long Specialty Elective Class (Beginning or Advanced Bands, Video Production, Yearbook, Choir or ASB)

Placement of eighth grade students into an appropriate Mathematics class is determined by the seventh grade class placement. The computer scheduler determines placement into Physical Education and other required academic classes.

## CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAM

The Associated Student Body (ASB) at Arroyo Seco is organized as a part of the total curriculum offered to students. Its purpose is to provide student leadership training and a democratic method of selecting and implementing the activities that will supplement the curriculum and benefit the total student population. **Leadership Class (ASB)** – Meets on a regular basis and is composed of both elected and appointed school officers. They are responsible for planning and coordinating all student body activities. **Open to students by application and interview.** Listed below are just a few examples of the activities offered at “Seco.”

### Assemblies (examples include)

1. Fine Arts/Music/Choral Presentations
2. Animal Trainers
3. Special Team Activities
4. Motivational Presentations
5. Fall/Winter/Spring Band Concert

## **Events**

Team Field Trips  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance  
Spelling Bee  
Essay Contests

Noontime Activities  
Dances  
Safe School Ambassadors  
Peer Mediation

Showcase Presentations  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Magic Mountain Trip  
Student Led Conferences  
Honor Society Activities

## **Clubs**

Chess Club  
Cosmos Club  
DFYIT (Drug Free Youth In Town)  
Improv Club

Science Olympiad  
Board Games Club  
Photography Club  
Washington DC Club (trip)

Safe School Ambassadors  
Anime  
National Honor Society  
Study Club

# **REQUIRED SUBJECTS**

## **ENGLISH COURSES**

### **English 7 and 8**

The core elements of our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English programs include reading (narrative and informational texts), writing, language conventions, and speaking and listening. Our curriculum is aligned with the California Common Core State Standards. Students will be challenged to think conceptually and to express themselves with more sophistication as they move to higher levels of thinking. Selections of materials will present an integrated approach to language learning, including reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will practice vocabulary, spelling, and grammar rules within the context of reading and writing. Both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade programs include many activities that stimulate the development of critical thinking skills in the comprehension and composition of oral and written language.

## **MATHEMATICS COURSES**

The mathematics curriculum is based on the five focus areas of the California State Standards: number sense; algebra and function; measurement and geometry; statistics, data analysis and probability; mathematical reasoning. Arroyo Seco is a leader in the California Middle School Mathematics Program and as such, expects all students to further develop their higher level thinking skills and problem solving, as well as their computational skills.

## **Mathematics Course Sequence is as follows:**

### **Math 7**

In 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics, students will focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers; working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; working with two- and three- dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

### **Math 7 Accelerated**

In 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics Accelerated, students will focus on developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; developing understanding of operations with rational numbers; working with expressions and linear equations; solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions; working with two- and three- dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and drawing inferences about populations based on samples. In this class, students will also cover the curriculum of Math 8.

### **Math 8**

In 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics, students will focus on formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation; solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence; and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

## **Honors Algebra 1A/1B (8<sup>th</sup> grade ONLY)**

This course builds from Math 7 Accelerated. It includes the critical areas from High School Algebra I and content from 8th Grade Mathematics. Algebra 1 demands a faster pace for instruction and learning. The students will master the following critical areas: (1) quantities and rates, including simple linear expressions and equations; (2) interpreting linear and exponential functions given graphically, numerically, symbolically, and verbally; translating between representations; and exploring systems of equations and inequalities; (3) using linear models to describe relationships between quantities and analyzing the appropriateness of linear models; (4) the laws of exponents to include rational exponents, creating and solving equations, inequalities, and systems of equations involving quadratic expressions; (5) solving quadratic equations; graphing of quadratic functions; comparing the key characteristics of quadratic functions to those of linear and exponential; specialized functions to include: absolute value, step functions, and piecewise-defined functions.

*Evaluation of a student's progress and proficiency will be made within the first few weeks of the course and prior to the end of the first quarter. Students who do not meet minimum proficiency requirements may be moved to a more appropriate level of study at that time.*

**\*\*\*Placement in 9<sup>th</sup> grade math is dependent upon mastery of standards and performance.**

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

All Arroyo Seco students are enrolled in Physical Education each year. Physical Education offers a direct link to skills that enhance all aspects of life: physical, mental, emotional, and social. Our goal is to provide students with instruction that will enable them to understand, develop, and use these skills. Locks and lockers are provided to store P.E. uniforms and clothing. Backpacks need to fit in locker size 11"W x 11"D x 18".

## **SCIENCE**

### **Science 7 and 8**

The 7th and 8th grade science courses are based on the Next Generation Science Standards, which focus on not only the concepts of science, but on practices of scientists and engineers, as well as the crosscutting concepts that tie all scientific disciplines together. We believe that anyone can learn science, that science is a natural endeavor based on a student's innate curiosity, and that the study of science is its own reward. In seventh grade, the year is devoted to the study of life science. Topics will include ecology, the flow of matter and energy through the processes of photosynthesis and respiration, the cell and body systems, genetics, evolution, and natural selection. Eighth grade science covers the physical science subjects related to energy such as force and motion, electricity and magnetism, waves, and chemistry. Students in both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade will learn about lab safety and begin to develop laboratory skills as they participate in lab activities throughout the year that will enhance their understanding of the natural world.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **World History (7<sup>th</sup> grade)**

The 7th grade social studies program emphasizes social, cultural, and technological changes during the period AD 500-1789. The sequence is historical, advancing across the years, and geographical, advancing across the major continents of Earth. A review of the heritage of the classical world precedes the medieval emphasis, and a look ahead to the modern world follows. The program is designed to meet state standards while giving the students an understanding of their heritage.

### **U.S. History (8<sup>th</sup> grade)**

This course analyzes the events that have shaped our country. Through experiential learning, innovative lessons, writing workshop, and culminating projects, students experience what life was like in the United States from the Revolutionary War to the early 1900's. Special emphasis is placed on our roles as citizens in the democracy that we have formed. Lessons and activities are assigned to provide students with the knowledge they need to meet state standards while learning history in a creative and thought-provoking atmosphere.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

In addition to Hart District required courses and our extensive Exploratory program, we offer a special education curriculum for students with exceptional needs. All students admitted to our special education program have been screened by our Student Study Team (SST). All long-term placements are made with the concurrence of a child's parent or guardian by way of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) drafted by the IEP team to ensure that appropriate educational procedures and related services are provided to the student. The goal of the IEP team is to place students in the least restrictive educational environment which promotes students' cognitive and academic growth according to their individual rates and abilities.

### **Resource Program (RSP)**

Students who have special needs but who would benefit from instruction in the general education setting are placed in the Resource program. A resource specialist provides support and supplemental instruction while the student attends general education classes. The major goal of the Resource program is to provide the individual with support in a mainstream school environment.

### **Special Day Class (SDC)**

Students with more intensive educational needs may require Special Day Classes. This program is for students who need a paced curriculum in a structured environment for the majority of the school day. The core curriculum is the basis of instruction for English, math, science and history, but it is modified and augmented with additional supplementary materials. Additional emphasis is given to personal organization, making appropriate choices and assuming responsibility. Direct instruction in special day class is conducted by the special education teachers. When SC students receive a portion of their instruction in general education programs, there is frequent communication and coordination of instruction between the general and special education staff. SC students usually participate in general physical education and exploratory classes.

## **ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRAMS**

### **English Language Acquisition**

Students identified as English Learners (EL) or Long Term English Learners (LTEL) are placed in an Achieve support class at their grade level. Students receive this support for one period per day until they are reclassified as fluent English proficient (RFEP). Students are also in a grade level English class with both English learners and Fluent English speaking students taught by the Achieve teacher. Learners are also placed in other content classes (mathematics, history, science), with properly credentialed teachers, so they will acquire English along with the content standards expected for that level class. All instruction is delivered in English. Achieve teachers work closely with the core content teachers to help students with the language demands in all subjects. Direct instruction in the areas of listening, reading, writing, and speaking is also provided. A Spanish bilingual Instructional Assistant (BIA) is available in the Achieve class and attends various core content classes to support our English learners.

## **ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS**

### **Honor Society/California Junior Scholarship Foundation**

Students who earn a grade point average of 3.50 or higher at the end of a semester qualify to apply for Honor Society. In addition to high grades these students complete five hours of community service each semester and complete an application. Applications are available at the beginning of the first and second semesters. Once admitted, students are invited to a formal Induction Ceremony. Honor Students will qualify to attend special field trips.

## **EXPLORATORY PHILOSOPHY**

***\*\*\* Please Note: Not all Exploratory Classes will be offered every term or every period. \*\*\****

It is the philosophy of Arroyo Seco that students should have the broadest exposure possible to educational experiences during their middle school years. Our exploratory courses are arranged in three groups: Practical Arts, Fine Arts, and Performing Arts. PLEASE NOTE: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who show academic need may be placed in a parallel academic intervention class.

## **FINE ARTS COURSES**

### **Exploratory Art**

Students will develop their creativity and craftsmanship through projects such as drawing, ceramics, designing, printmaking, computer generated art and cartooning. Students do not need to be artistically gifted, but they must have a desire to explore their artistic "side".

### **Exploratory Ceramics**

Students will be taught all of the hand-building methods of ceramics. They will learn how to create, fire, and glaze projects. In addition, students will have the opportunity to pour and paint molds.

### **Advanced Art**

The prerequisite of Exploratory Art or Exploratory Ceramics is required for this class. Students will work on developing technical skills (materials and processes appropriate to their concepts), aesthetic sensibilities (including the use of historic and contemporary references in ceramics and other arts, criticism, expression of personal concepts in works). This is intended to build on the basic information from prior hand building and ceramic sculpture classes.

## ***PERFORMING ARTS COURSES***

### **Beginning Band** (year-long)

The Beginning Band course is open to all students in all grades who have a strong desire to play a musical instrument. The purpose of this course is to teach students to play a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students will learn to read music and perform together. Students perform in a Fall, Winter, and Spring evening concert. Emphasis is placed on proper breathing, tone quality, intonation, articulation, development of range, and music reading skills. Instruments will be assigned primarily according to the abilities of the student, their desire, and the needs of the band. A calendar of performances will be given to each student during the first week of school. Successful completion of this course should prepare the student for placement in the Advanced Band. No previous musical experience required.

### **Advanced (Concert) Band** (year-long)

The Advanced Band is made up of students who have attained a high degree of proficiency and represent "the best of the best" instrumentalists at Arroyo Seco Junior High. Elements of music are approached through exercises of increasing difficulty which present challenging, interesting, and enriching musical activities. This performing group will play in various performances throughout the year including a Fall, Winter, and Spring evening concert, Back-to-School Night, Open House, District Honor Band auditions, District festivals, and a possible performance at a major theme park. A calendar of performances will be given to students during the first week of school.

Prerequisites: 1 full year in Beginning Band OR previous music instruction and director's approval

### **Exploratory Music**

The exploratory music class offers students a ten-week introduction to the various components and aspects of music making. Throughout the ten-week course, students will develop a better understanding of fundamental rhythms, music literacy, pulse, time, knowledge and recognition of orchestral instruments, compositional techniques, collaborative skills to create music as an ensemble, creativity through sound, and a better understanding of world cultures, history, and other forms of art through music. Students of all musical abilities with an interest in music are encouraged to participate in this quarter-long class.

### **Exploratory Chorus**

In Exploratory Chorus we will be exploring a brief history of how music has developed from the early 1450's starting with the Renaissance Period and ending with current styles such as Movie, Popular, Country, Broadway, Jazz, and many other modern styles of music. We will be learning basic music theory in order for students to be able to read through a choral piece and know what to sing. The students will explore how their voices work and will learn different exercises that strengthen different aspects of their voice. Students will learn how to sing together with their peers, sometimes singing all together and sometimes singing different parts. We will be listening to many different pieces and discussing what makes a piece considered "good music".

### **Advanced Chorus** (year-long)

Advanced Choir students will learn to use their vocal instrument to create a correct and pleasing singing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students will also learn music reading skills, sight-singing skills, and performance skills. Advanced Choir also offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

Prerequisites: An audition must be held in order for a student to be admitted into the class.

## ***PRACTICAL ARTS COURSES***

### **Junior High Seminar** (required for 7<sup>th</sup> graders not in a specialty year-long elective)

This course is designed to help students foster academic success in their junior high school career and to aid in successfully reaching life goals set by the individual student. Students in seminar will learn techniques to enhance their organization, verbal and written communication, active listening, kindness, conflict resolution, and digital citizenship skills. Course topics also include: self-esteem, confidence, respect for self and others, and personal responsibility. There is a Bullying Unit that will focus on teaching bullying awareness and anti-bullying skills. Students will be given the tools to deal with bullying situations that may be affecting them or someone else. Students will also investigate the world of work and college in order to make informed high school decisions and set individual future goals. Junior High Seminar will provide students with the information they need to successfully complete junior high while encouraging them to be self-aware, responsible, and kind citizens.



### **Exploratory Futures**

This course introduces students to basic sewing and pressing equipment, textiles, and introductory level project construction techniques.

### **Exploratory Culinary I**

This class provides an introduction to nutrition and food preparation. Weekly cooking activities are supplemented with teacher demonstrations, written activities, and discussions. Students prepare items such as pizza, muffins, pancakes, soups, salsa, and much more!

### **Exploratory Culinary II**

This class is designed for those students who have already been enrolled in Exploratory Culinary I and passed with the grade of "C" or better. The class teaches more advanced techniques of food preparation, including meal planning, table setting, and dining etiquette. Students will prepare such items as shortcakes, pastas, cinnamon rolls, salads, stir fry, and much more!

### **Culinary Hospitality/"Creative Cookery"**

This class is open only to those students who have excelled in Exploratory Culinary I and II, AND who have been selected by the teacher to participate. Students will refine and expand upon their culinary skills and participate in catering several school luncheons and events.

## ***ACADEMIC INTERVENTION COURSES***

### **Math Intervention** (availability to be determined)

The purpose of this program is to help students achieve their full potential in mathematics, both for school and life. Students who have been invited are being offered a special opportunity to meet with teachers after school to hone their math skills. Our hope is that with this additional support, students who have struggled in the past can achieve success here at Seco and in the future.

### **English Intervention** (availability to be determined)

The purpose of this program is to help students achieve their full potential in Language Arts, both for school and life. Students who have been invited are being offered a special opportunity to meet with teachers after school to hone their reading and writing skills. Our hope is that with this additional support, students who have struggled in the past can achieve success here at Seco and in the future.

## ***OTHER COURSES***

### **Leadership (ASB)**

*Selection based on application, teacher recommendation and interview*

Leadership also known as Associated Student Body (ASB) is an academically oriented class that is part of the total education curriculum at Arroyo Seco. Leadership students will have the opportunity to represent and report to their peers, plan noontime activities, dances, community service projects and special lunches for both students and staff. The goal, through these and other activities, is to build a cohesive team, develop public speaking skills, develop pride and spirit on campus and become active, involved members of the Arroyo Seco community. Arroyo Seco ASB students were selected as the outstanding ASB group for junior highs throughout California--a very special honor of which we are extremely proud and a tradition we strive to maintain. Open to students by application and interview.

### **Student Service** (8<sup>th</sup> grade only)

Students must find their own placement with a teacher. This is an opportunity to serve the school as well as learn general office procedures, business etiquette, and organizational skills. Students must be highly responsible and have good attendance.

### **Student Tutor**

Students will work under the direct supervision of the teacher and will act as classroom tutors as well as mentors to other students. The teacher will train the tutor how to teach and/or reinforce the curriculum to individual students and offer tutorial assistance in class.

### **Social and Emotional Learning**

This course is designed to promote students' self-awareness and foster social, emotional and academic success in junior high and high school. Social and Emotional Learning is a hands-on course that seeks to improve the school climate of Arroyo Seco by promoting a balanced lifestyle, improving emotional intelligence, and providing our school the resources needed to foster a healthy community. Students can speak with the instructor after the first term to express interest in joining the class.

### **Beginning Video Production**

By teacher recommendation only. This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding and knowledge of the various aspects of the TV/Video industry. Students will be involved in the components necessary to produce a TV/Video program titled Conquistador News Network (CNN). This will include operation of a camera, editing, script writing and directing. Students will apply all learned knowledge through a daily broadcast of the school's events and happenings.

### **Advanced Video Production**

Prerequisite of Beginning Video Production and teacher appointment. This course is designed to provide students with a more in depth understanding and knowledge of the various aspects of the TV/Video industry. Students will produce a daily TV/Video of the school morning announcements applying knowledge of video, camera, editing, script writing, graphics, teleprompting, audio mixing, video switching, broadcasting and directing. Students will apply all learned knowledge to create various video pieces to supplement the daily broadcast as well as creating original and creative pieces for an individualized video portfolio.

### **Science Olympiad**

Students will have the opportunity to explore science concepts in a collaborative, hands-on environment. Students will participate in a number of study events, lab events and building events over the ten week quarter based on the national Science Olympiad competition. These events may include but are not limited to straw towers, egg drops, a study event, experimental design, pasta cars, and the planning and construction of a paper roller coaster.

### **Tech: Design and Modeling**

Students apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation on their lives. They work in teams to design a playground and furniture, capturing research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using Autodesk design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

### **Automation & Robotics**

Students trace the history, development and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, tollbooths and robotic arms.

### **Adv. Automation & Robotics**

Students build on the foundational skills learned in Automation and Robotics to increase their mastery of robotics. Students will work to increase their ability to write complex code, build complex robotic systems, and connect their work in class to the field of engineering.

### **Computer Science**

Exploring computer science is a coding class where you will learn the basics of coding; apply that knowledge to make a few simple programs, a game and a controller.

### **Energy & the Environment**

Students are challenged to think big and towards the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

### **Flight & Space**

Students explore the basics of flight. They will build a variety of flight devices, from gliders to hot air balloons. They will make an airfoil and test its properties in a wind tunnel. They will finish with basic rocketry.

### **Yearbook - Prerequisite: Application and teacher recommendation.**

This class is designed for students who have a desire to participate in the production of the school yearbook. 7th grade students can only be added to the 4th quarter class because they will continue on during the first quarter of their 8th grade year. Yearbook students will learn technology and study skills that can be used in high school and beyond. Students will learn concepts of photography, writing, layouts and teamwork while creating a quality yearbook that represents Arroyo Seco. Time outside of class will occasionally be required, (lunch and after school) as students will need to take pictures and work to meet deadlines.

### **Public Speaking**

This standards-based class is designed to build listening and communicating skills in a fun and safe environment. While public speaking is a common fear for many people, we will develop strategies, skill and confidence when communicating with others. Students will analyze video clips, participate in lively group discussions, small group activities, personal reflection, and practice speaking in front of others. This is a fun and easy class!

## **JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT INFORMATION**

Each quarter students have an opportunity to earn 15 credits. Students earn 2.5 credits for each quarter class passed. A grade of "D-" or better on a quarter report card entitles the student to receive credit. If a student passes all of his or her classes in 7th grade, 60 credits will be earned.

All California state and William S. Hart District course requirements must be successfully completed to be promoted from Arroyo Seco Junior High School. Students must earn a minimum of **107.5 credits** out of a possible 120 credits attempted in two years. Students who do not meet the minimum requirements will not participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade end of the year activities.

## **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION INFORMATION**

A school district diploma of graduation from high school will be issued upon completion of all competency requirements in basic skills prescribed by the Wm. S. Hart Union High School District Governing Board.

## **DRESS CODE GUIDELINES**

***\*\*\*Please review these guidelines with your students\*\*\****

### **Arroyo Seco Junior High Dress Code**

Students are expected to dress appropriately and be well groomed as contributing members of a productive learning environment. Students are expected to give proper attention to personal cleanliness and to wear clothes that are suitable for the school activities in which they participate. The dress code is gender neutral and the school staff will strive to enforce it consistently among all students.

1. Students must wear clothing that completely covers the chest, torso, undergarments, private areas, and bottom.
2. Shirts, tops, and dresses must have sleeves; no tank tops or spaghetti straps are allowed.
3. Clothes must be suitable for any scheduled course that may have unique hazards or require specialized safety gear.
4. Safe footwear must be worn; no slippers or flip flops are allowed.
5. Students will not wear clothing or accessories that depict or advocate for violence, criminal activity, alcohol or drug use, pornography, hate speech, or gang-related activity (including professional sports wear and colors identified by the Santa Clarita Sheriff as gang affiliated)
6. Clothing and accessories will not violate the Wm. S. Hart UHSD anti-discrimination policy.
7. Students may not wear clothing or accessories that obscure the face with the exception of approved religious items.
8. Hats and sunglasses may be worn outside for protection from the sun/weather, but should not be worn inside buildings or classrooms.

**Arroyo Seco reserves the right to prohibit anything not expressly addressed in these guidelines which the administration determines to be offensive, unsafe, or disruptive to the educational process.**

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is the parent organization at Arroyo Seco. PAC focuses on parent involvement, communication between parents and the Arroyo Seco Administration, teachers and staff, the exchange of information and ideas, and the coordination of parent volunteers. Our meetings are a great place to connect with other parents and school representatives. We invite guest speakers from our community to discuss various topics affecting our students' education and their personal growth and development. Guest speakers also provide an opportunity to learn what's going on in our community that affects our families. *Our PAC is open to all parents of Seco students; we invite you to join us. Please pick up an information packet on check-in day.*