

Knox Jr. High School

School Information Guide



Joe Daw – Principal

12104 Sawmill Road - The Woodlands, TX 77380

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knox.conroeisd.net

(Information within this guide is tentative and subject to change)

Knox Junior High School

Course Descriptions and School Information

Administration and Support Staff

Building Principal	Joe Daw	ddaw@conroeisd.net
Assistant Principals	Ruthellen Hinton (A-F) Michael Ferguson (G-N) Tonya West (O-Z)	rhinton@conroeisd.net mferguson@conroeisd.net twest@conroeisd.net
Counselors	Mike McCune (A-F) Kristina Spencer (G-N) Jenny Wheeler (O-Z)	mmccune@conroeisd.net kspencer@conroeisd.net jawheeler@conroeisd.net
Diagnostician LSSP	Tammy Clark Ann Johnson	tclark@conroeisd.net ajohnson2@conroeisd.net
Librarian	Christetta Butts	cbutts@conroeisd.net
Nurse	Catherine Hoyt	choyt@conroeisd.net
Nurse Aide	Matilda Rodriguez	mbrodriguez@conroeisd.net
Registrar	Jo Dubose	jdubose@conroeisd.net

Department Chairpersons

Math	Lisa Bruce	lbruce@conroeisd.net
Science	Rebecca Spinks	rspinks@conroeisd.net
Language Arts	Carrie Karr	ckarr@conroeisd.net
Social Studies	Amy Hall	ahall@conroeisd.net
Special Education	Pamela Hollis	phollis@conroeisd.net
Electives	Jennifer Dillard	jdillard@conroeisd.net
Athletics	David Hutyra	dhutyra@conroeisd.net

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PARENT ACCESS CENTER

For access to your child's weekly progress updates, report card grades, previous day's attendance, and discipline records, please sign up for Parent Access Center. Links to registration, FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) and login information can be found on both the Knox and the CISD homepages. The student's ID number, address and phone number will be necessary for parent registration. For information concerning registration or assistance with the system, contact Knox and ask for the Parent Access Center coordinator. This free service also gives parents/guardians a fairly recent update of grades in almost real time during each nine weeks.

GRADING POLICY

Each semester is divided into two nine-week increments. Nine-week grading is determined as follows:

60% Major Grades
20% Quiz Grades
20% Daily Grades

For junior high classes, each nine-week grade will account for 45% of the overall grade. A final semester exam worth 10% will be administered. Nine-week grading is determined as follows:

First Nine Weeks	45%
Second Nine Weeks	45%
Semester Final	<u>10%</u>
	100%

Students taking high school courses (algebra, geometry, health, communications applications, Spanish, and Spanish II NS) will have their semester exams count for 15% of their grade. Semester averages for high school classes will be determined as follows:

First Nine Weeks	42.5%
Second Nine Weeks	42.5%
Semester Final	<u>15.0%</u>
	100%

REGISTRATION

One of the most critical functions performed by a school is the registration of students. Based on the information from registration, courses are scheduled and staffing decisions are made for the next school year. Therefore, it is important that course selections be given serious consideration. Every effort will be made to accommodate all students, but this may not be possible due to class size, times offered, etc. All elective classes may be utilized to properly complete a student's schedule. **Once the May 1st course selection deadline passes, no changes will be made.**

Any student enrolling in **Pre-AP academic courses, Athletics, Cross Country, Band, Choir, and/or Orchestra** is making a commitment to be in that program for one year. **No students** will be allowed to drop from that program during the year unless there are extenuating circumstances requiring a principal's approval.

ASSIGNMENT TO CLASSES

Academic Courses – 7th grade/8th grade

Students are assigned to classes that are identified as level or Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP). **All** classes are designed to prepare students for high school and beyond. Students are expected to be successful in the class that meets their ability. Please consider homework demands for each course and the grades you wish your child to achieve when making these selections.

It is recommended that all students in an advanced program meet all course expectations with a minimum of a 80%. **By signing up for a PreAP course, students and parents are making a commitment to remain in the course for the entire year.** Students who wish to request Pre-AP courses must enter the correct course in the Student Access portal in order **to be placed in a PreAP course.**

You and your child can choose either regular or PreAP classes in all core courses *except* math. Math assignments are completely different in that it is critical students receive each sequential math course along the way to obtain the foundation needed for math success in junior high, high school, and beyond.

Characteristics of a Pre-AP class are:

- Student-initiated learning with an emphasis on strong work ethic
- Rigorous academic content in Pre-AP classes requiring reading proficiency
- More depth and complexity
- Application of content strategies
- Consistent use of higher-level thinking skills
- Assignments are more analytical
- Required commitment to course inside and outside of classroom
- Fast pace
- Content immersion
- Assessment of performance at the analysis and synthesis levels
- Science Pre-AP will require a Science Fair Project

Electives

When building student schedules, the elective choices are determined by which courses will work in the student's schedule. Every effort is made for each student to receive as many of his or her elective choices as possible. Most students will take most electives offered unless they are enrolled in a fine arts program or athletics. Please note that the course verification in the spring will indicate courses each student has *requested*. If any of these appear incorrect, or if you would like to make a change, please submit these changes in writing to the Counseling Center prior to the May 1st course request deadline. For purposes of completing a specific student schedule, it is possible that a student may receive an elective of which they did not request.

Placements for band, choir, and orchestra will be announced on the tentative schedule students receive.

MORE ABOUT KNOX

Immunization Requirements for ALL Incoming Students Prior to Entering 7th Grade

The following immunizations are due after your student turns 11 years old/prior to entering 7th grade:

- Tdap Menengitis
- 2 Varicella vaccines (unless student has had chicken pox)
- 2 Hep A vaccines

Please review your student's immunization record with their physician or school nurse to be sure they receive the required immunizations prior to entering the 7th grade. Once your student receives these vaccines please provide a copy to the school nurse so their CISD immunization record can be updated prior to entering 7th grade. **If your student receives these vaccines over the summer months, you will need to bring a copy to the Knox JHS nurse in order to pick up your student's schedule in August.**

Many clinics and physicians run out of vaccines in August due to school demands so be sure to have your student vaccinated early. Thanks for your prompt attention to this matter.

Catherine Hoyt, RN
School Nurse, (832)592-8282

School Hours

- Classes Begin: 8:50 a.m.
- Dismissal: 4:00 p.m.
- Early Release: 12:50 p.m.

Before/After School Activities and Clubs

Students wanting to start a club need to find a teacher sponsor and get the principal's permission. Presently the following opportunities are available:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Best Buddies | Drama Club |
| Be Strong | Knights for Christ |
| Kind Club | Travel Club |
| National Junior Honor Society | UIL Academics |
| Student Council | Fishing Club |
| Chess Club | Dungeons and Dragons Club |

Tutorials

Teachers may provide tutorial opportunities for students before and/or after school. The library is open M, W, F until 4:00 and T, Th until 5:00 for study hall. Contact your child's teacher for more specific information or view our tutoring schedules online at:

<http://knox.conroeisd.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/48/2018/08/Tutoring-Schedules.pdf>

Late bus transportation is **NOT** provided for after school tutorial programs.

Parent Teacher Organization

Knox has an active PTO. All parents are encouraged to support our school and join the PTO. It is with your support that educational opportunities can be expanded for our students. Many volunteer opportunities are available. Please help if you can; strong parental support is much appreciated!

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
ELECTIVES & ATHLETICS

FINE ARTS INFORMATION

ART

- Art I students will start a portfolio and sketchbook. Through a variety of two and three-dimensional mediums, students build a strong foundation in the elements and principles of art. The curriculum allows each student to build on previous art experiences and prepares them for more advanced levels of art. Students will be exposed to and develop a digital art portfolio. Required art fee of \$35.00.
- Art II students will create art projects built upon the concepts learned in Art I. The curriculum allows each student to build on their previous experience and prepares them for more advanced levels of art. Students will be exposed to and develop a digital art portfolio. Required art fee of \$35.00. Prerequisite of Art I
- Art III students will focus on applying their knowledge of the elements and principles of design into works of art that convey concepts and ideas that are original and unique. Independence is highly encouraged in the creative decision-making process. The main focus of the class will be the development of a portfolio that meets the requirements of advanced art courses in high school Art II curriculum. Required art fee of \$35.00. Prerequisite of Art I/Art II (Application process)
- Ceramics (8th grade only) While exploring a variety of hand building and glazing techniques, students will incorporate theory and technique to create complex and interesting three-dimensional art forms. A fee is required of \$35.00. Prerequisite of Art I

THEATER ARTS

Theatre Arts offers classes for all students at Knox Junior High. Students in theatre will learn acting techniques and develop skills in production such as set design, costuming, prop design, stage make up, sound and light design. Theatre students will also learn team work, goal setting, and time management.

- All theatre students are required to pay a participation fee of \$10.
- Students who successfully complete Theatre I can sign up for Theatre II.

CHOIR

- All choir students will be required to purchase a choir shirt for \$12.
- All choir students pay a \$75 choir activity fee per year.
- All choir students receive a school-issued formal choir uniform that should be cared for and returned at the end of the year. Each uniform should be professionally dry cleaned and returned in the cleaner's bag with receipt attached.
- All choirs participate in UIL Concert and Sight-Reading.
- Chamber Choir and Men's Chorus are required to participate in Region Honor Choir auditions.
- All choir students are encouraged to participate in UIL Solo and Ensemble.
- Participation in all concerts is mandatory. Concerts count as major grades.

BAND

- All band students must provide their own instrument or arrange to rent one. Questions about instruments can be directed towards the Knox Band Director.
- Students in Wind Ensemble, Symphonic, and Concert Bands will perform at concerts, football games, pep rallies, and contests.
- Students can be in band and participate in any sport or other extracurricular activity.
- A participation fee varies and the Knox Band Director will announce other fees associated with Band.
- Participation in all performances is mandatory and counts as major grades unless otherwise noted.

ORCHESTRA

- All orchestra students must provide their own string instrument or make arrangements to rent one from the school. Contact the Knox Orchestra Director before April 13th if you will need to rent an instrument. Supplies are limited. Students renting from the school pay a CISD-required \$75 rental fee. If a student is using a school cello or bass during class, they are required to pay a CISD-required \$75 rental fee for the upkeep of those instruments.
- The supplies required include: Method Books, Pencils #2, Highlighter – yellow, Orchestra T-Shirt (covered by the participation fee) Black 3 ring binder at least 1" with plastic cover/folder in front (covered by the participation fee). Concert attire is required- Dresses, tux shirts, and ties/bow ties/vests are issued by the school. Students will need to provide black dress slacks and black dress shoes.
- Attendance at **ALL** scheduled performances and rehearsals is required. A performance calendar will be sent home the first week of school.
- There is a participation fee of \$75 and other fees associated with Orchestra.
- Chamber, Symphony, and Philharmonic Orchestra students will perform numerous concerts and compete in TMEA and UIL activities.
- There are 6 orchestras at Knox ranging in ability level: Chamber Orchestra (Varsity Competition Group), Symphony Orchestra (Non-Varsity Competition Group), Philharmonic Orchestra (Sub-Non-Varsity Competition Group), Concert Orchestra (Non-Competition Group), String Ensemble (Developmental Group), and Beginning Orchestra (First Year Orchestra Students). Students must audition for placement in all but Beginning Orchestra.
- Chamber and Symphony have weekly required Sectionals.
- Students are expected to practice independently and on a weekly basis.

ELECTIVES

TECHNOLOGY

This course investigates the tools, materials, and processes utilized in today's technical career fields. An emphasis on math, science and reading, to explore valid, current educational and career opportunities will drive this program. Students will fully engage each technology related career topic by experiencing activities and projects that relate to each topic. Whether it is programming a robot, building a rocket, or operating a lathe or band saw student's gain current knowledge in a practical instructional format. Students will incorporate decision-making tools and problem-solving skills for college and career planning. This course builds upon skills from academic subjects, information technology, and interpersonal communication to give each student a solid foundation to make personal career choices. There is a \$15 class fee.

HUMAN SERVICES

The goal of this course is to create a culture of high expectation and continuous improvement that provides middle school students with the fundamental life skills required for personal life management. The principal life skills obtained from this course will include money management, career development, food and nutrition, child development, and parenting skills. There is a \$15 class fee.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The goal of this course is to familiarize students with the fundamental computer applications required in today's job market and how those applications can be applied to their personal career choice. Students will learn computer aptitudes and applications that will help them as they progress through high school, college, and career. Topics covered will include multimedia, word processing, spreadsheets, data bases and presentation programs. In addition, students will learn the basics of the internet including: web safety; web based research, web protocol, and other fundamentals of electronic communication. There is a \$10 class fee.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to life and workplace skills by identifying individual values, aptitudes, interests, talents, and current occupational abilities. This course will also help prepare students for high school and college by examining their personality temperaments for potential future career choices. Students will set up their own personal school, college and career plan and create a guideline for their life. Four year course planning and graduation requirements as well as endorsements will be discussed. Financial aid options for post-high pathways will be discovered. Various occupations will be explored based on computer research and other resources. Students will be introduced to Naviance, an online web-based tool for career exploration. This course is highly recommended for 8th grade students.

TEEN LEADERSHIP

This course develops business, professional, and leadership skills. Students learn the importance of principle-centered living, how to handle peer pressure, communicating effectively, building meaningful relationships, making responsible decisions and the importance of goals. There is a \$12 class fee.

- Student who successfully complete Teen Leadership I can sign up for Teen Leadership II in 8th grade.

OFFICE AIDE

Students will assist the various offices and library staff in daily paperwork, running errands, and basic office duties.

ELECTIVES *REQUIRING AN APPLICATION & INTERVIEW*

***YEARBOOK**

This basic course is required for all students interested in being a member of the yearbook staff. Additional application and interview is required. The course offers the student training in the production of the school yearbook. Students develop abilities in gathering information, understanding components of quality photography, editing skills, and page design technique. **MINIMUM ONE YEAR COMMITTEMENT!**

***TV BROADCASTING**

Students will produce a weekly broadcast. They will learn how to produce a show on Power Director. The students will be exposed to on the job experience in photography, interviewing, video recording, video editing, and planning a broadcast. This course is for the student who wants a real life experience in the world of TV broadcasting. **TWO YEAR COMMITTEMENT!**

***DEBATE**

In this course students learn to plan, prepare, research, analyze topics for debates and speeches. They will develop speaking skills and delivery techniques for effective communication through competition. All students will participate in several individual speaking categories: impromptu speaking, extemporaneous speaking, oratory, and oral interpretation as well as debate. Students will be expected to attend area debate competitions outside the regular school day. **TWO YEAR COMMITTEMENT!**

***ROBOTICS**

This is a beginning course in robotics utilizing Lego Mindstorm kits, programming software and various Lego Robotics materials. The objective of this course is to introduce the student to basic programming as well as problem solving strategies. This course will involve students in the development, building and programming of a LEGO Mindstorm robot.

HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT ELECTIVES

HEALTH – 8th grade only

This course helps students acquire the information necessary to become healthy adults and learn behaviors in which they should or should not participate. Students use problem solving, research and goal setting to gain knowledge and skills useful in making decisions in the areas of nutrition, CPR and First Aid, maturity, diseases (including STDs) and drug use.

COMMUNICATION APPLICATION

Students will learn communication theory and have the opportunity to develop practical skills for both professional and social communication. They will apply skills and techniques to improve their interpersonal and intrapersonal communication skills. The students will learn listening skills, group communications, mock job interviews, and various methods of speaking. The student will learn that communication is a key to a successful life.

SPANISH 1 – 8th grade only

This course offers basic understanding of the Spanish language and exposure to the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Introduction to basic vocabulary and grammar will enable students to learn to discuss everyday topics such as family, school, numbers, time, weather, and clothing. Oral and written practice is stressed. Because of the grammar requirements, a strong basis in language arts is required. Successful completion of this course earns the student one LOTE high school credit.

ATHLETIC INFORMATION

Mission Statement: *The athletic programs at Knox Junior High will provide each athlete an opportunity to excel in sports, build character and teamwork and acknowledge the importance of both academics and attitude.*

The Athletic Staff at Knox Junior High would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents and students. Knox Junior High is very proud of their athletic programs and pleased that you have chosen to participate. We would like to take this opportunity to tell you about our programs and share our policies and expectations. **It is important that the student is committed to playing a sport before signing up. They should take the choice to play very seriously. Any student that is involved with an athletic team is making a commitment to participate in the athletic period for the entire year.**

Dates and information (tryouts, paperwork, etc.) are included below. Activities include football, volleyball, basketball, track, cross country, soccer, tennis, and golf. **Please note that all students wishing to tryout for a sport must have a current CISD physical form completed and signed by an M.D. before the tryout takes place. When the season is over, students remain in off-season athletics. This is a full-year commitment. Athletes are responsible for transportation to and from practices. Seventh grade athletes practice before school as early as 6:45 a.m. Eighth grade athletes practice after school as late as 6:00 p.m. Also, please note that students who are not in an athletic class and make a particular team will possibly have a schedule and/or teacher change.**

Cross-Country: Anyone interested in Cross-Country should be in our Cross-Country class. This class requires participation for the entire year. The season is from the second week of school until the last week of October. Workouts will begin the second week of school. Cross-Country includes a two mile race on different types of courses.

Football: Anyone interested in playing football should sign up for Boys Athletics. Football begins the second day of school for 7th grade and the first day of school for 8th grade. The season runs through the beginning of November. Most games are on Mondays for 7th grade and Tuesdays for 8th grade. Students are responsible for transportation to and from practice. Seventh grade practices are before school. The fieldhouse opens at 6:30 am and practice begins at 7:00 am. Eighth grade practices after school until about 5:15 pm.

Volleyball: Volleyball begins the 1st week of school and runs through the end of October. Games are usually on Thursdays with a couple of weekend tournaments. Students are responsible for transportation to and from practice. Seventh grade practices are before school beginning at 7:00 a.m. Eighth grade practices are after school until 5:30 p.m.

Basketball: Basketball try-outs will be following football/volleyball season. The season runs from November through the first week of February. Any student wanting to try out for basketball but does not play football should sign up for PE. Students who are not enrolled in athletics and make the team may have a schedule and/or teacher change.

Track: Track will begin at the end of basketball season. Practice is before and after school. A student does not need to be enrolled in athletics to participate in track, but you must have a physical on file.

Soccer: Soccer is offered after school. Students will learn basic soccer skills including foot skills, game formations, game skills and strategies, and the laws of the game. Must have physical on file.

Tennis: Try-outs for tennis will be held in late March at the conclusion of track. Practice is before and after school. Students will need to provide their own tennis racquet and tennis balls. A student does not need to be enrolled in athletics to participate in tennis. Must have physical on file.

Golf: Tryouts will be in March. Tournaments begin in April. The school will provide transportation to the tournaments. Students must provide their own equipment (bag, clubs, glove, shoes, and balls). A student does not need to be enrolled in athletics to participate in golf. Students that make the golf team will practice on their own time. All students that tryout for golf must have a physical on file.

ADDITIONAL ATHLETIC INFORMATION

- There are no try-outs for football. Knox will have three or four teams per grade level if numbers allow.
- Volleyball, Football, Basketball, Soccer and Cross-Country are the only sports that have an athletic period. All other sports will announce practice times at the beginning of the season.
- Additional tryouts for each sport will be held prior to the beginning of each season.
- Knox Junior High Athletic website can be accessed at:
<http://knox.conroeisd.net/department/directory/athletics/>

We look forward to working with the students at Knox Junior High School as we strive to achieve athletic excellent. Under UIL guidelines “No Pass, No Play” is enforced for all sports. Additional information will be available in late spring.

OFF CAMPUS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Please note the important details below for parents/guardians who may be considering Off Campus Physical Education for their child.

The Off Campus electronic physical education application will be available on the Conroe ISD web site. Look for information on approved facilities and the individual student application beginning in late March.

Off Campus Physical Education is a year-long commitment. There are no one semester versions of this program. Students participating in Off Campus Physical Education are committed to both the fall and spring semesters.

Students participating in Off Campus Physical Education program will not be able to participate in UIL school athletic programs. Participants may choose to try-out for school club programs.

Choose your facility carefully. A vendor change will only be considered at “the semester” by the district Coordinator of Physical Education. Only very unique/unusual circumstances will be considered.

A student will not be enrolled in Off Campus Physical Education if an electronic application is not submitted by **May 1**.

Students wanting to enroll in an Off Campus program that they are not familiar with, must contact the facility and get permission to enroll from the Director/Coordinator/Owner prior to completing the ON LINE APPLICATION. Facilities that receive an on line application from a student they do not know will deny approval.

The Texas Education Agency allows Category 1 (15+ hours per week) participants to leave campus one hour prior to the end of the school day.

Students choosing Category 2 (more than 5 hours, but fewer than 15 hours) Off Campus physical education do not leave school early. Category 2 participants do not take physical education on campus.

- The Texas Education Agency has identified Off Campus Physical Education participation in individual Olympic sports only.
- **Students are only allowed to participate at CISD approved facilities.**