

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

VISUAL ART – Open to 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. This course is designed for students to explore and experience creative expression, critical evaluation, and a greater appreciation for the Visual Arts. While learning about the elements and principles of design, students will develop their drawing, painting, sculpting, and printmaking skills. A variety of famous artists and their styles throughout history will be studied. This course is open to all students who would like to participate in a fun and creative atmosphere.

BAND - Open to 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. This course is open to all students who enjoy music and are excited to learn an instrument. Although prior band experience is recommended, students of all levels are welcome. If a student is interested in playing flute, clarinet, trumpet, alto sax, or trombone he/she will have to buy or rent their instrument. All students should buy or rent their instruments *before the first week of school*. If a student is interested in playing tuba, French horn, tenor sax, bari sax, baritone, or bass clarinet the school will provide an instrument for the student to use. 6th grade percussion is filled by audition only. 6th grade Band is a continuation of the elementary school band program. The students will be playing more advanced music in a large ensemble.

CHOIR – Open to 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. This course explores all areas of the elements of music. Students will learn proper singing technique and sight reading; they will also practice performing and participating in a choral ensemble. 6th grade Chorus classes will focus on general music concepts and choral/vocal technique, and a keyboard unit. These students will participate in a winter and spring concert to showcase their work. Students in the 7th and 8th grade Chorus classes will explore 3 and 4-part singing as well as continue with learning basic skills in keyboard playing. Analyzing and performing many different styles of music are important components of each choir course. Students will have the opportunity to perform at concerts and festivals, as well as in solo, small ensemble, and large group performances.

ORCHESTRA – Open to 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. Orchestra is a continuation of the elementary school program and gives students the opportunity to learn and understand musical notes, symbols, and terms as well as a chance to develop greater proficiency on their musical instrument. While students of all levels, are welcome, **previous instrumental experience is strongly recommended** and daily home practice will be required. Students with no prior string experience may email the middle school orchestra teacher to discuss class expectations. Students must acquire a properly sized instrument for the first day of class, as well as accessories. Students will have the opportunity to perform at concerts, as well as ensemble, and large group performances/competitions.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION – Open to 6th, 7th & 8th grade students. This course is primarily concerned with the practical application of physical sciences. It is intended to focus on the study of technology necessary for life in the 21st century. This course provides students with an opportunity for creative problem solving, and an experience that will be useful in making informed and meaningful decisions. Students will use power tools to assist them in the creation of their designs. The outcomes of this program involve the development of individual abilities to understand, communicate (technical literacy), analyze, make decisions, create, design, plan, manipulate, manage, construct and develop attitudes and values that encourage productive and informed participation in a contemporary society.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE – Only open to 8th grade students. The curriculum is designed as an introductory course for middle school students about foods. Students will gain knowledge of food and nutrition and apply this knowledge in a practical setting. Students work in groups preparing a variety of foods and developing a spirit of cooperation and sharing. The course format encourages students to use critical thinking, decision making, and resource management.

DISCOVERING COMPUTER SCIENCE – Only open to 8th grade students. This course is designed to introduce students to the problem solving and design process through computing and computer science. Students will learn fundamental programming by developing websites, simple games and apps. The relationship between hardware and software and the importance of data in the community will be explored.

DIGITAL ARTS AND MEDIA TECHNOLOGY - Only open to 7th grade students. This elective is a foundational course designed to introduce interested students to the application of technology to the visual arts. Topics to be explored in this course are: graphic design, digital photography, digital image editing, digital painting, and animation. Along with creating their own unique artwork, students in this course will also be asked to observe and reflect on the way Digital Art and technology impact their lives today.