

ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

BAND Eighth grade band is a prerequisite for the many opportunities that await students in our nationally recognized high school band programs. Eighth grade band members will continue to have many performance opportunities including concert band, jazz band, jazz combo, small ensembles, holiday band, and pep band. Studies have shown that students who participate in instrumental music programs have higher grades, perform better on tests, and have the confidence of a strong and positive social group with which to interact. Perform fun and challenging music while creating memorable middle school experiences!

CHOIR In eighth grade choir, we continue to sing fun songs from a variety of musical styles! No prior experience is necessary, and students new to the choir program are welcome! In addition to our two regular concerts, 8th grade students may have the opportunity to represent SHMS in the All-District 8th Grade Choir Festival! Additional choir opportunities include flex choirs, a cappella groups (similar to Pentatonix), and group voice lessons. So, bring a great attitude and positive participation to eighth grade choir and enjoy!

CHINESE B *This class is recommended for students who are maintaining at least a C average or above in seventh grade Chinese A.* An intensive review of Chinese A paves the way for new vocabulary, grammar, and cultural information. Students will build upon the skills learned in seventh grade by listening, speaking, reading, and writing Chinese. Topics studied include: calendar, time, daily routines, the classroom, food, colors, and clothes. Students are expected to spend time outside of class to complete homework, study vocabulary words, and prepare for quizzes and tests. In January, students will receive a recommendation for high school Chinese 1 or Chinese 2 based on their September-January class work.

CHINESE C *Seventh grade Accelerated Chinese B is required for this class. This class is recommended for students who are maintaining a C average or above in seventh grade Accelerated Chinese B.* Students who successfully complete Accelerated Chinese C will be well prepared to continue Chinese at a more advanced level in high school. In this class, students will build upon their Chinese language skills through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Topics studied include: money, body parts, physical descriptions, sports, transportation, directions, and even reading part of the short novel "Poor Anna" in Chinese! In addition, students will deepen their understanding of Chinese culture through songs, videos, games, and stories. Students are expected to spend time outside of class to complete homework, study vocabulary words, and prepare for quizzes and tests.

SPANISH B *This class is recommended for students who are maintaining at least a C average or above in seventh grade Spanish A.* The focus of eighth grade Spanish is to prepare students for the high school second year class. An intensive review of seventh grade Spanish paves the way for new vocabulary, grammar, and cultural information to come. At times, classes will be entirely in Spanish. Curriculum topics will include: clothes, food, the home, celebrations, sports, and health and fitness. Activities, projects, and games are also part of the class. Students are expected to complete homework, study vocabulary on a regular basis, and prepare for quizzes and tests. Grading will be based on daily homework, quizzes, tests, and projects. In January, students may be recommended for the second year high school Spanish class based on their September-January class work.

SPANISH 2 *Seventh grade Accelerated Spanish B is required for this class. This class is only recommended for students who are maintaining at least a C average or above in seventh grade Accelerated Spanish B. This class meets EVERY DAY and students receive high school credit for Spanish 2.* Students in this class will NOT be enrolled in Communications 8. Curriculum topics will include: the past tense, going on vacation, technology, and daily activities. The focus is on grammar, culture and vocabulary.

APPLIED ARTS COMBINATION By choosing a full year APPLIED ARTS COMBINATION, you are agreeing to take one trimester each of the courses listed below. The applied arts courses are new courses designed for anyone interested! No previous experience is required. All activities will be different from the current school year. Students may opt to take TWO Applied Arts Combinations.

ART classes are designed to provide a wide variety of artistic experiences at the middle level. Projects may include, but are not limited to: clay, colored pencil, watercolors/tempera, pencil/charcoal, oil/chalk pastels, brush and ink, plaster, paper maché and woven materials. The art projects are designed around the elements and principles of design, art history and self-evaluation.

FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE classes prepare students to begin their journey toward becoming independent, productive citizens. Students will engage in hands-on food and sewing labs. The areas of concentration include nutrition and wellness (cooking procedures, measurement, safety, recipe preparation), career planning, money management, child development, life skills and resource management, and design (Interiors, Apparel, and Construction).

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION is a program that incorporates both traditional hands-on machinery with the newest fab lab equipment. Using the Engineering design process students will be able to explore manufacturing, product design and thinking outside of the box. Safety, respect and responsibility in the work place is an underlying part of the curriculum. Students are encouraged to work within the constraints of their projects to design artifacts that express their creative and individual abilities.

COMMUNICATIONS TRIMESTER ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS If you choose either or both of the below classes, please be aware that it may replace one or two trimesters of the applied arts combination previously selected.

DRAMA Ready...Set...Action! Come explore several aspects of drama. You will develop your creativity, group, and performance skills in a fun and active environment. Become a member of the cast and crew as you write, produce, and act in a unique performance. Your journey to Broadway begins here! No experience necessary – just a positive attitude and willingness to participate in daily theater activities as well as perform in the culminating theater performance!

JOURNALISM Students will gain a working knowledge of modern journalism through hands-on projects such as photojournalism, television journalism, writing and producing newspaper articles, creating podcasts, and a variety of other current and emerging media formats.