

ELLEN FLETCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Program of Study
2021 - 2022



Home of the Tigers

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
FLETCHER MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROGRAM OF STUDY

2021-2022

GRADES 6, 7, 8

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INTRODUCTION

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OVERVIEW

GRADE 6*

English/Language Arts
History/Social Studies
Mathematics
Science
Physical Education/Music (alternate days)
Exploratory Wheel

GRADE 7*

English/Language Arts
History/Social Studies
Mathematics
Science/Adolescent Skills
Physical Education
Elective

GRADE 8*

English/Language Arts
History/Social Studies
Mathematics
Science
Physical Education
Elective

- All students will have homeroom/advisory every Wednesday.

7th and 8th grade students and their parents have several important decisions to make in planning a school program. No catalog can answer all your questions; so, please do not hesitate to speak to your counselor to get more information or assistance (650) 856-9810.

(Please note: Budget and staffing decisions made after the publication of this catalog may affect what classes can be offered. Classes may be canceled due to enrollment).

2021 - 2022 Counselors

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SIXTH GRADE PROGRAM

Sixth grade core construction integrates the subjects of English/language arts with social studies (two periods), and math with science (two periods). Teachers are grouped in two-member teams. Exploratory Wheel, PE, and Music complete the daily schedule.

English 6 – Students study the English language arts skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. In grade six, the core literature is *Book of Greek Myths* by D'Aulaires. Supplemental literature may include selected novels, selected stories from *Guys Write for Guys Read* by Jon Scieszka and *When I Was Your Age, Volume Two*, edited by Amy Ehrlich. Various fiction, nonfiction, and poetry selections will be used to align with common core state standards and support thematic units. Writing focuses on the three text types emphasized by the Common Core Standards for sixth grade: argument, informative/explanatory, and narrative. Supplemental writing instruction may include summary. Students practice speaking and listening skills through formal presentations, conversations, and small and large group discussions. Language instruction, which includes conventions and mechanics, are embedded in the language arts curriculum and are practiced within the context of writing assignments. Language arts skills are reinforced across the curriculum

Social Studies 6 – The sixth grade program focuses on the history and geography of ancient civilizations. The units of study commence with early humans and then transition from a hunter-gatherer lifestyle to permanent settlements, and eventually to the building of ancient empires. The curricular units of study address the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Kush, Israel, India, China and Greece. Students will learn about the geographic, social, political, religious, and economic systems of these cultures. Students will investigate past to present connections as they learn that contemporary cultures are the descendants of earlier civilizations. By studying the characteristics of these civilizations, students will become more aware of, and learn to appreciate the ethnic and cultural diversity in our own society, and the contributions these diverse civilizations have made to our modern world. Following Common Core Standards, students will use a variety of activities to examine the content and build study skills, while simultaneously practicing historical thinking, inquiry, and writing skills.

FOUNDATIONAL MATHEMATICS - *FOUNDATIONAL MATHEMATICS* is the first year in a three-year accelerated math course sequence preparing students for high school Algebra in 8th grade. It extends student understanding and skill to compute with rational numbers (decimals, fractions, integers) and introduces algebraic and proportional reasoning. Many of the concepts and skills will have further reinforcement in a context requiring statistical and geometric (2D) reasoning.

The content of this course is a combination of California's Common Core State Standards from Grade 6, Grade 7, and Algebra. The areas of content focus are: number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, two-dimensional geometry, and data analysis and statistics. Instruction is guided by *The 8 Mathematical Practice Standards*: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reason abstractly and quantitatively; model with mathematics; attend to precision; use appropriate tools strategically; look for and make use of structure; and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

In 6th grade, students are heterogeneously grouped. Extension and enrichment opportunities are available to all students. Information about the math pathways can be found at the district website.

Science 6: Earth and Space Science – This is a year-long, activity-based science course following the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Middle School. The course focuses on these NGSS topics: investigation and experimentation, Earth's Place in the Solar System, Earth's Systems (geology, weather, climate), and Earth and Human Activity. There is an emphasis on expository writing through individual and group work. In addition to the disciplinary core ideas, the NGSS cross-cutting concepts and science & engineering practices are explored.

Physical Education and Music – During one period, sixth grade students spend alternate days in Physical

Education and Music. Students select one of three music classes: Band (Wind and Percussion Instruments), Orchestra (String Instruments), or Choir (Singing). Please contact the teacher if your student wants to play a band or orchestra instrument, but has no previous experience. In physical education, the students are exposed to a wide variety of activities with a focus on skill development and positive sportsmanship through team sports, individual and dual sports, rhythms and aquatics.

Exploratory Wheel – The remaining period is an Exploratory Wheel. Students rotate every 6 weeks through specially designed classes in Art, Computers, Drama, Industrial Technology and Language Wheel. Art is an exploratory course to help students develop introductory skills and vocabulary, learn new techniques, and expand their knowledge of art. Instructional units include the tools of three-dimensional and figural drawing, observational drawing, and thinking like an artist. Students in Computers learn computer programming using Python and JavaScript. Text and block-based programming methods are practiced. Students learn principles of digital graphic design and 3D computer modelling. While in Drama, students will learn theatre basics, participate in pantomime, improvisation, and present partner scenes. They will end the rotation with a class performance to which family will be invited. In Industrial Technology, students engage in STEM projects using traditional tools, as well as advanced tools such as: 3D printers. Engineering principles and design thinking are emphasized. Language Wheel students are introduced to Spanish, French, and Japanese through fun games and songs.

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE OF STUDY

English 7 – All students in grade 7 continue to build their English/language arts skills in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and visually representing. These skills are developed within the context of core literature units that align with the current CCSS, including novels, short stories, poetry, and nonfiction. In 7th grade, the core literature is *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank and *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. Extended core or supplemental literature includes stories by Ray Bradbury, Gary Soto, Edgar Allen Poe, Kate Chopin, Neil Gaiman, Luis Valdez, Francisco Jimenez, and Shirley Jackson as well as self-selected texts. Students practice the conventions of language (grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.) through formal and informal writing assignments of various genres, with an emphasis on argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative skills. Students practice speaking and listening skills through speeches, conversations, individual and group presentations, and small and large group discussion. Students practice self-assessment to reflect on their work, identify areas for progress, revise assignments, and set learning goals.

Social Studies 7 – The 7th grade program will build upon previous studies of ancient world history by connecting it to the Medieval Period. This course will examine selected civilizations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas from approximately 500 BCE to 1700 CE. Students will learn about the rise and fall of empires as well as the social, political, religious, and economic systems that each civilization established. Additionally, the course will examine how sites of encounter facilitated the diffusion of religions and languages, along with the vast movement of people and ideas. Studying the development of these world cultures will encourage students to become more aware of, and learn to appreciate and value, the ethnic and cultural diversity in our own society and the modern world. Following Common Core Standards, students will use a variety of activities to examine the content and build study skills, while simultaneously practicing historical thinking, inquiry, and writing skills.

Math 7 CONCEPTS IN MATHEMATICS is the second year in a three-year accelerated math course sequence preparing students for high school Algebra in 8th grade.

It extends student understanding and skill to compute with rational numbers to irrational numbers and extends algebraic and proportional reasoning. Students solve real world problems with 3-dimensional figures (surface area, volume); draw, construct, and describe 2D and 3D figures, understand congruence and similarity of figures using models and other mathematical tools, and solve real-life and mathematical problems involving angle measures. Students move from plotting discrete points to graphing and manipulating linear equations in a variety of forms and investigating patterns associated with bivariate data. This Grade 7 course provides initial exposure to investigating chance processes where students develop, use, and evaluate probability models.

The content of this course is a combination of California's Common Core State Standards from Grade 6, Grade 7 and Math 8. The areas of content focus are: number system, expressions and equations, ratios and proportions, three-dimensional geometry, and probability and bivariate data. Instruction is guided by *The 8 Mathematical Practice Standards*: make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; reason abstractly and quantitatively; model with mathematics; attend to precision; use appropriate tools strategically; look for and make use of structure; and look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

In 7th grade, students are heterogeneously grouped. Extension and enrichment opportunities are available to all students. Information about the math pathways can be found at the district website.

Physical Education – Physical Education consists of a program of activities that are designed to develop good basic motor skills, physical fitness, healthy living, and fundamental movement patterns. Emphasis is placed on the importance of positive sportsmanship and cooperation, including respect for one another. Students are provided an introductory exposure to a wide variety of activities, including team sports, individual and dual sports, rhythms and aquatics.

Science 7: Life Science – This is a year-long, activity-based science course following the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Middle School. The course focuses on these NGSS topics: investigation and experimentation, the structure and process from molecules to organisms; interactions, energy flow and dynamics of ecosystems; inheritance and variation of genetic traits; and the diversity of biological evolution. This course will address the expectations for instruction outlined in the California Healthy Youth Act. This course also supports scientific practices through experimentation, emphasis on scientific reading, writing, and communication, collaboration, and engineering skills through design and testing. In addition to the disciplinary core ideas, the NGSS cross-cutting concepts and science & engineering practices are explored.

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE OF STUDY

English 8 – All students in grade 8 continue to build their English/language arts skills in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. These abilities are developed within the context of literature units that align with current Common Core State Standards. In 8th grade, the literature units include *Twelve Angry Men*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The House on Mango Street*, *Flowers for Algernon*, and *Twelfth Night*. Each novel is supplemented with extended texts including short stories, poetry and non-fiction texts such as news articles and essays. Students practice the conventions of language (grammar, spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.) through targeted practice and embedded writing assignments. Varied writing assignments include narrative, argument, response to reading, and timed writing. Reading comprehension skills, such as questioning the text and other strategies are explained and practiced. Students practice speaking and listening skills through formal speeches, conversations, individual and group presentations, and small and large group discussions. Students' present work using appropriate technology, and practice goal-setting and reflection upon past work.

Social Studies 8 – The 8th grade program will have students connect their past exploration of the Colonial and Revolutionary eras of American history to the study of the foundations and beginnings of the new Republic through the social, political, economic, and geographical growth of the nation. Students will learn about the creation and structure of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the conflicting forces that led to the growth of political parties and sectionalism, early foreign policies and conflicts with other nations, the Westward Movement ("Manifest Destiny"), the institution of slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction. By studying the ethical, social, political, and economic questions Americans have dealt with historically, students will be more aware of, and sensitive to, the issues facing America today. Following Common Core Standards, students will use a variety of activities to examine the content and build study skills, while simultaneously practicing historical thinking, inquiry, and writing skills.

8th Grade Math: 8th grade students take one of the two math classes offered. Math 8 is a grade-level class that addresses the Common Core Math Standards for 8th grade. Algebra 8 is an accelerated class that covers the Common Core Math standards for 8th grade not taught in Math 7 and all of the Common Core Math Standards for Algebra. This acceleration results in students covering 3 years of math (7th grade, 8th grade and Algebra) in 2 years. Most students who take Math 7 in 7th grade take Math 8 in 8th grade. Most students who take Math 7A in 7th grade take Algebra 8 in 8th grade.

- **Math 8** – Students will follow the 8th grade Common Core Standards. Eighth grade mathematics focuses on the algebra of linear relationships. Students formulate and reason about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear expression and solving linear equations and systems of equations. They grasp the concept of a function and use functions to describe quantitative relationships. Students analyze two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and learn and apply the Pythagorean Theorem. Students continue to use and improve their skills in problem solving, communicating mathematical ideas in oral and written form, analyzing complex situations, organizing information, using computers and graphing calculators, and working independently and in groups. *Common Core Content Standards are taught in all math classes. The Mathematical Practice Standards are used throughout each math course offered and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.*

- **Algebra 8** – This is the second year in a 2-year accelerated course. This course completes the 8th grade Common Core Content Standards in addition to the Content Standards for algebra. Students formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned previously. Students deepen and extend their understanding of linear and exponential relationships by contrasting them with each other and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend, and engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using quadratic functions. In 8th grade algebra, the focus is on solving linear, quadratic and exponential functions. Students are expected to maintain a B- or better for placement into Geometry in 9th grade. Prerequisite: Math 7A or satisfactory completion of the Summer Bridge to Algebra Course. *Common Core Content Standards are taught in all math classes. The Mathematical Practice Standards are used throughout each math course offered and, together with the content standards, prescribe that students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.*

Physical Education – Physical Education consists of a program of activities that are designed to develop good basic motor skills, healthy living, physical fitness and fundamental movement patterns. Emphasis is placed on the importance of positive sportsmanship and cooperation, including respect for one another. Students are provided an introductory exposure to a wide variety of activities, including team sports, individual and dual sports, rhythms and aquatics.

Science 8: Physical Science – This is a year-long, activity-based science course following the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for Middle School. The course focuses on these NGSS topics: investigation and experimentation, matter and its interactions, forces and interactions of motion and stability, energy, waves and information technology. Students build their understanding of science phenomena and practice data analysis, math computation, reading, writing and communication skills. In addition to the disciplinary core ideas, the NGSS cross-cutting concepts and science & engineering practices are explored.

SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Fletcher offers the following programs to assist students with academic success. All of the courses below would be taken in place of an elective course. They may be taken for more than 1 semester. Each class has designated criteria. Please consult with your child's counselor for questions and clarification.

Academic Language Development (ALD) This year-long course is designed for students who have reached advanced English language proficiency or have been redesignated as fluent English proficient (RFEP). The class focuses on argumentative, expository, and narrative reading and writing, vocabulary development, grammar instruction, and the use of spoken language in core content areas. Effective organization and study skills are integrated into the curriculum. This course prepares students for success in high school by teaching listening, speaking, reading and writing skills that can be transferred into their core classes. This class takes the place of one elective course (7th/8th grade).

AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination) Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) is designed for students who are in the academic middle. Students will work on enhancing their study skills with the goal of successfully participating in college preparatory classes and eventually attending a four-year university. Students will learn how to advocate for themselves in academic and non-academic situations, which will help them begin to gain access to the same educational opportunities that already successful students receive. Students will be able to obtain direct assignment assistance, study skills, curricular enrichment, participate in twice a week tutorials, and personal empowerment to feel validated and recognized in the school setting. Students are recommended for placement in AVID based on specific criteria. Final placement is a decision by the teacher, parents, and the student. This course is not listed in the elective section. Interested students should speak to their counselor.

Math Workshop 7th – 8th grade This class is a second period of math instruction for 7th or 8th grade students who need help with grade level math. It is designed to provide support for the current math curriculum taught in a student's core math class, address math content covered in previous classes that need re-teaching or reinforcement, and improve problem-solving skills. Placement is based on counselor and teacher recommendations. Parents should consult with their child's counselor for further information.

Focus on Success 7th – 8th grade This class is for 7th or 8th grade students who need help staying organized and completing homework assignments. It is designed to help struggling learners by teaching study skills strategies. Placement is based on counselor and teacher recommendations. Parents should consult with their child's counselor for further information.

Special Education Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be enrolled in special education middle school instructional programs pursuant to their IEP. Parents should consult their child's counselor/case manager for more information. Instructional programs taught in special education at Fletcher include: Futures Program, Academic Communication, Academic Strategies, Practical Math, Learning Center ELA, Adaptive PE, and some modified core classes.

SAI English PAUSD is using *LANGUAGE! Live*, a research-based reading intervention program that aligns with California State Standards designed to accelerate the reading levels and test scores of struggling readers by directly addressing individual student needs, including instruction and curriculum to support students with dyslexia. *LANGUAGE! Live* uses customized and adaptive instructional software, differentiated instruction, e-books, and systematic direct instruction in a student book for reading skills, vocabulary, spelling, writing, and grammar.

FULL-YEAR ELECTIVES 7th – 8th Grade

Band

7th Grade Concert Band and 8th Grade Symphonic Band are for students who are continuing to study a woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument. These ensembles will perform at formal concerts, travel to elementary schools to perform assembly programs, participate in band festivals, and march in the May Fete Parade. Band members may also participate in other music activities such as Chamber Ensembles, Fletcher Jazz Ensemble, and County and State Honor Bands. During class rehearsals students will prepare for performances, improve their instrument technique, and study more advanced music reading skills. Both ensembles will perform music from a variety of musical styles and periods including Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Folk Songs from different cultures, Rock, Popular, Jazz, Broadway and Movie Music.

Choir

This class is for students who love to sing! In 7th and 8th grade choir, students will develop and improve their natural instrument of the voice, continue to learn to read music and increase their musicianship skills, perform together in a supportive environment, and create a community of friends through music making. The choir will perform a wide variety of choral music, including music of different styles, languages, and cultures – we sing classical, Broadway, pop, and music in many languages. There will also be opportunities for solo and ensemble singing for those who are interested. In addition to music learning and games in class, the choir will perform in concerts, festivals, elementary school tours, and other events in the school and local community. Overnight tour travel opportunities, Honor Choir, and A Cappella ensembles may be available to choir members.

Orchestra

The 7th and 8th grade Orchestra continues to build on the skills, knowledge, and techniques of playing a stringed instrument. Prior study on a stringed instrument is required. A wide variety of music is selected to expose students to different styles, musical periods, and cultures as well as to advance technique and explore musical expression. Students have several performance opportunities, such as school concerts and assemblies, a tour to elementary schools, and attendance at a music festival. Overnight tour travel opportunities may be available. Students will play music from all time periods, including music from the traditional classical canon, movie scores, and pop music. Students also have opportunities to play in small ensembles such as string quartets. Students enrolled in 7th and 8th grade Orchestra can also have the opportunity to audition for the advanced Chamber Orchestra if they would like.

WORLD LANGUAGE

World Languages

7th Grade

French 1A
Spanish 1A
Japanese 1A
Mandarin 1A
German 1A
Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1

8th Grade

French 1B
Spanish 1B
Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1

General Course Descriptions

Students of French, German, Japanese, Spanish, and Mandarin will develop growing proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, and gain an understanding of the structure of the language appropriate to the level of instruction. They will also gain a familiarity with and appreciation of the culture of the world language.

Five languages are currently offered to students – Spanish, French, German, Japanese, and Mandarin. The number of students enrolled will determine whether the class ultimately will be available. With a pre-enrollment of at least 24 students, beginning language courses (the 1A series) will be offered. As soon as course requests are tallied, students will be notified in the event the language they have requested will not be taught at their school of attendance.

Each world language course develops self-confidence through the study of a second language and fosters an appreciation for that language and its culture. In selecting a world language, students should be guided primarily by their own interests. Capable students who wish to study more than one language at a time may do so. Homework in world language classes is given daily.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers 1 is designed for students who are native speakers of Spanish and is composed of 7th and 8th graders. It is to give students knowledge and appreciation of Spanish – American culture and thereby to increase their self-esteem. They will learn to distinguish and value the difference between colloquial and academic language. They will perfect their writing as well as their speaking ability in Spanish. Placement at the high school for 8th graders is determined by teacher recommendation. A grade of “C” is generally necessary to advance to the next level.

*** IMPORTANT NOTE (FOR NATIVE SPEAKERS):**

Level 1A and B world language classes are designed for non-native speakers of the target language. Students who are native or semi-native speakers are encouraged to enroll in another language in middle school and then enroll in their own language as juniors or seniors in high school.

The Standards for World Language Learning – The Five C's In all of the world language classes teachers incorporate into the course work the national standards for world language learning. These standards overlap each other in instruction and help make foreign language learning relevant and meaningful. The five standards are:

COMMUNICATION

Communicate in Languages Other than English

- 1.1 *Interpersonal Communication* - Students engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, and exchange opinions.
- 1.2 *Interpretive Communication* - Students understand and interpret written and spoken language on a variety of topics.
- 1.3 *Presentational Communication* - Students present information, concepts, and ideas to an audience of listeners or readers on a variety of topics.

CULTURES

Gain knowledge and Understanding of Other Cultures

- 2.1 *Practice of Culture* - Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between the practices and perspectives of the cultures studied.
- 2.2 *Products of Culture* - Students demonstrate an understanding of the relationships between the products and perspectives of the cultures studied.

CONNECTIONS

Connect with Other Disciplines and Acquire Information

- 3.1 *Furthering Connections* - Students reinforce and further their knowledge of other disciplines through the foreign language.
- 3.2 *Acquiring Information* - Students acquire information and recognize the distinctive viewpoints that are only available through the foreign language and its culture.

COMPARISONS

Develop Insight into the Nature of Language and Culture

- 4.1 *Language Comparisons* - Students demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language through comparisons of the language studied and their own.
- 4.2 *Cultural Comparisons* - Students demonstrate an understanding of the concept of culture through comparisons of the cultures studied and their own.

COMMUNITIES

Participating in Multilingual Communities at Home and Around the World

- 5.1 *School and Community* - Students use the language both within and beyond the school setting.
- 5.2 *Lifelong Learning* - Students show evidence of becoming lifelong learners by using the language for personal enjoyment and enrichment.

SEMESTER ELECTIVES

7th – 8th Grade

Please note that some courses have prerequisites. Prerequisites are determined to provide for student success in successive classes. Exemptions from prerequisites will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be determined by the administration in consultation with the counselor and teacher.

Art

Prerequisite: None

Semester

In the elective art class, students develop their knowledge of visual art as a means of communicating and expressing ideas. Through both whole-class instruction and independent art making, students explore and build their skills in various materials and techniques, including drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, ceramics and sculpture. They will become increasingly self-directed in their art making, be able to set goals and strategies for an art work in progress, discuss and evaluate their work and the work of others both others, and become aware of future opportunities to incorporate art in their lives through high school and beyond. The class is based on the framework of the new National Core Art Standards. Students are invited to take the class as often as they wish.

Broadcast Journalism (Broadcast) Formerly Media Studies

Prerequisite: None

Semester

Students will investigate techniques of video production from pre-production (planning), to production (videotaping), and post production (editing). Students will learn the grammar of film production and the power of the media through journalism as they study different areas of filmmaking including PSA's (Public Service announcements), commercials, news segments, magazine format stories, and documentaries. There will be hands on training in video production skills including scripting, shot set up, interview techniques, lighting sound, music, and editing. The fundamentals and safety of operating a camcorder, tripod and editing equipment will be stressed. The course will include student work in TTB TV broadcasts.

Computer Applications and Programming (CompApp/Pgm)

Prerequisite: None

Semester

Students practice Computational Thinking skills including decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction, and algorithm design. Students learn computer programming using Python, JavaScript, and Java. Both text and block-based programming methods are practiced. Students design and test Android and iOS mobile applications. The study of physical computing is explored using programmable circuit boards and robotics. Principles of digital graphic design and digital animation are studied using Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, and Animate.

Creative Writing (Cr Writ)

Prerequisite: None

Semester

In this course, students will have the opportunity to experiment with several modes of creative writing, including poetry, narratives, autobiographical incidents, fictional articles, descriptive writing, fairy tales, and various types of short stories. Students will likewise explore the richness of character development, scene, dialogue, and figurative language. As their final project of the semester, students will write, illustrate, and present a fictional short story to the class. Students will be encouraged to write for publication and for contests.

Drama 1A

Prerequisite: None

Semester

This is a beginning theatre course that offers a more in-depth exploration of theatre skills and techniques that were learned in the drama wheel class. Students will study pantomime, improvisation, different theatre terms and script construction. Students will participate in projects that will include writing, memorizing and performing scenes, plays, and skits, for the class. The class will explore a unit on Shakespeare and have the opportunity to study and perform sections of his work. Students will not only cover the performance side of theatre but an introduction to the “behind the scenes” technical aspects involved in every production including set and costume design. This class focuses on the development of communication, self-confidence, and cooperative learning through the use of performance. The culmination of this class is an in-class production to which families and friends will be invited.

Drama 1B

Prerequisite: Drama 1A, Musical Theatre, or Instructor Approval

Semester

This course is a continuation of what was learned in Drama 1A and/or Musical Theatre. The class will begin with a review of the basics of pantomime and improvisation. Students will then move on to study the different theatre terminology and parts of a story. Students will be expected to write, memorize, direct, and perform scenes, monologues, plays, and skits for the class. The students will also further their skills in technical aspects of theatre productions. The class will focus on prop and set design and may assist with the school productions. Students may also have further exposure to Shakespeare’s plays by performing scenes from some of his works. Students may explore a unit on musical theatre and choreography. Finally, towards the end of the semester, the class will rehearse and perform a play for parents/guardians. This class will prepare the student to continue theatre during high school if they so choose. The class may require after school, evening, and weekend rehearsals and performances.

Exploring Technology 1A (Ind Tech 1A)

Prerequisite: None

Semester

This course exposes to aspects of working in a technical environment using design thinking. Students will be given design challenges in which they will design products that will solve that challenge. They will then draw the solution using CAD (Computer Aided Design). They complete the process by building a prototype of their solution. Challenges include pen making, structures/wooden-bridges, wind conversion warriors, and Introduction to 3D Printing.

Exploring Technology 1B (Ind Tech 1B)

Prerequisite: Exploring Technology 1A (Ind Tech 1A)

Semester

This course contains more advanced design challenges. Advanced CAD and machining techniques are taught to better complete the final project. Projects include pencil making, trebuchets, electrical circuits, soldering, multimeter usage, building a CO2 race car and designing, building and racing cardboard boats.

Required Skills Include:

- Machine Tool Skills with Safety Tests:
- Drill Press and held Portable Drill
- Machine Sander & Hand-held Portable Sander
- Machine Bandsaw
- Machine Lathe

Family and Consumer Studies (Home Ec 1A)

Prerequisite: None

Semester

This standards-based course provides practical living skills through hands-on activities and investigative process. Weekly labs in the test kitchens are performed to practice and concepts demonstrated. The course's focus is on the culinary arts and related topics such as nutrition, menu planning, kitchen and food safety, consumerism, composting and recycling, manners and etiquette, teamwork and building organizational skills. Each semester covers different topics and the course may be repeated.

Human Geography

Prerequisite: None

Semester

Students will learn about the five themes of geography: place, location, region, movement, and human-environment interaction. Students will work on project-based issues in collaborative groups to research real human environmental issues that the work world faces today. Students will create proposals for real-world alternative to practices. The topics that will be discussed and taught include: water management, energy, climate, and transportation. **Most of the course work will be completed during the class period.**

Leadership and Public Speaking (Lead/PubSpk)

Prerequisite: None (**8th Grade ONLY**)

Semester

The Leadership class is designed to provide students the opportunity to analyze and engage in leadership and work on speaking and presentation skills. They have opportunities to examine the life of a public leader they admire and discuss leadership characteristics. Time will be spent designing and organizing service projects around the school and community. Students are crucial members of the Fletcher community as they produce and run small group meetings, facilitate whole- school activities such as spirit days and lunchtime activities, and design school dances. The students examine group dynamics, habits of effective teens, and gain skills including but not limited to time management, activity planning, public speaking and presentations.

The ability to speak well and present with confidence are valuable skills that will be developed during this class. Students will learn how to effectively prepare and present speeches and presentations. By emphasizing such skills as research, critical reading, writing, creativity, and organization, this class helps to reinforce skills that students will use in other academic subjects as well as in life. The goal of this class is for students to be confident and effective speakers by the end of the semester.

Marine Biology

Prerequisite: None

Semester

This course will explore the properties of water, marine geology, marine ecosystems, and the creatures that live in them. Students will learn about marine biology through a variety of activities, such as hands-on lessons, laboratories, experiments, and individual and group projects/activities.

Money Matters

Prerequisite: None

Semester

This standards-based course provides an introduction to the world of money and money management. Students will learn about saving money, budgeting, how to use credit wisely, and the implications of good and bad credit. A unit on understanding and paying taxes and consumerism will be covered. An on-going bookkeeping project will be practiced weekly. Students will research and produce a biography project on an influential Entrepreneur.

Musical Theatre (Music Thea)

Prerequisite: None

Semester

This class will study musical plays and will perform in the school musical. The class will also provide an

opportunity to become familiar with many aspects of theatre. Students will experience coursework in acting, singing, and movement in order to develop characters, practice vocal development and articulation, improve stage presence and movement skills. Students will have the opportunity to practice ensemble singing/dancing techniques and to develop solo skills in preparation for the end of semester performance in which they will not only perform but create the sets, costumes and props. This class requires after school, evening, and weekend rehearsals and performances.

School Service (SchServ)

Prerequisite: None

Semester

School Service is a very limited semester elective. Students in School Service work in the school offices, the library, or serve as department or teacher assistants. School Service students must be reliable and able to work with a minimum of supervision. Students will be asked to indicate whether they are willing to be assigned to school service. Administration and counselors assign school service on an as needed basis.

Web Design (Webpage1A)

Prerequisite: Computer Applications

Semester

This course introduces students to the design, programming, and revision process commonly applied throughout the development of web pages and websites. Learning the purpose of websites and identifying elements that contribute to an effective website are studied. Students will develop web pages using HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, and jQuery. Emphasis on configuring color and text with CSS, visual elements and graphics, page layout and navigation are explored. Focus on responsive web page design to accommodate mobile website access. Development, style, and server-side form processing are practiced. Web standards, accessibility, and universal design for the web are also emphasized.

Yearbook/Journalism (Journ/Yrbk)

Prerequisite: None

Semester

This course is designed to teach the skills necessary to produce the school yearbook. Students study aspects of journalism including layout and design techniques, photography, writing and editing copy, and how to write headlines and captions. Student's study and practice gathering and analyzing information, interviewing, and photography. Students will learn proofing strategies and edesign – a graphic design program. Please note that sometimes deadlines require student's work after school. **May be repeated for more than one semester.**