

## MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**VISUAL ARTS: Exploring Contemporary Art and Digital Media** – Open to 6th grade students. This course uses a variety of media to complete hands-on activities exploring the arrangement of line, color, shape, form, value and texture in both 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional design, including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, digital art and ceramics. This course will enable students to understand the link between Technology and Contemporary Fine arts. It is designed to expand the traditional knowledge of Fine Art, Art History and Design, providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to use digital media to create original artwork. The variety of art media, techniques, and concepts will prepare students for 7th grade art

**VISUAL ARTS: Exploring Aesthetics in 2-D, 3-D and Digital Media** – Open to 7th grade students. Students will study a wide range of two-dimensional and three dimensional art, including drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, digital art and digital photography. Students will gain an understanding of the role of the computer and digital media in the creative process of a working artist, exploring career options such as animator and illustrator. The variety of art media, techniques and concepts prepare students for 8th grade art. This course will enable students to understand the link between Technology and Contemporary Fine arts. It is designed to expand the traditional knowledge of Fine Art, Art History and Design, providing students with the knowledge and skills necessary to use digital media to create original artwork.

**VISUAL ARTS: Advanced Drawing, Painting, Ceramics and Digital Art** – Open to 8th grade students. This course offers more advanced study in the art making process, further utilizing the elements and principles of design introduced in 6th and 7th grade art. Students are expected to build upon that prior knowledge to produce more advanced work. Assignments and projects focus on all aspects of drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, digital art and digital photography, utilizing a wide range of materials and styles. Designed as an in-depth approach to drawing and painting skills, the course will provide students with experiences in the development of realistic and abstract art concepts. This course will also offer a more advanced study in order to enable students to understand the link between Technology and Contemporary Fine arts. It is designed to expand the traditional knowledge of Fine Art, Art History and Design. It provides students with the knowledge and skills necessary to use digital media to create original artwork. The variety of art media, techniques and concepts will build a foundation for students pursuing classes in the high school art program.

**BAND** – Open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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. ***All students are required to attend weekly before or after school rehearsals.***

**CHOIR** – Open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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. ***All students are required to attend weekly before or after school rehearsals.***

**ORCHESTRA** – Open to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 director 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. ***All students are required to attend weekly before or after school rehearsals.***

**TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION** – Open to 6th (HHMS, TJMS, WWMS), 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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** – Open to 6th grade students at TJMS, HHMS & JAMS. Open to 7th grade students at HHMS, TJMS & JAMS. Open to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in all Middle Schools. The curriculum is designed as an introductory course in foods for middle school students. 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** – Open to 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**DANCE** – Open to 8th grade students at WWMS ONLY. This course focuses on developing proper technique and performance skills, as well as an appreciation for a variety of dance techniques and styles. Students acquire knowledge of dance history, class etiquette, injury prevention and the rehearsal process. They also have several opportunities to explore the elements of dance and principles of choreography by creating original dance works, viewing professional examples and learning to critique and write about dances. Students with no previous training will acquire a basic foundation of dance skills and art appreciation; while more advanced students will continue to advance their technique, artistry and dance awareness.