

Centennial Junior High School

8th Grade Course Descriptions

School Year 2021-2022

***Requires Permission/Application**

****Requires Audition/Permission**

Assistants

210 sem Office Assistant*

This semester offering is for students desiring practical experiences in office routine. Students will be selected based on academic achievement, attendance, and citizenship. Students may be assigned to the Main Office or the Counseling Center. Grading is Pass/Fail. Office approval, application, and minimum 3.0 GPA required.

211 sem Teacher Assistant*

This semester offering is for students desiring practical experience in daily classroom teacher activities. Students should talk with the teacher they would like to work during 8th grade's third term. Teacher approval and application is needed. Grading is Pass/Fail.

212 sem Counseling Office Assistant*

This semester offering is for students desiring practical experiences in office routine. Students will be selected based on academic achievement, attendance, and citizenship. Students may be assigned to the Main Office or the Counseling Center. Grading is Pass/Fail. Office approval, application, and minimum 3.0 GPA required.

215 sem Library Media Assistant*

The Library Media Assistant provides an important service to the school by helping students, teachers, administration, and the librarian. Media Assistant will be trained in the responsibilities and procedures of working in the media center, including library organization, book promotion, customer service, blog writing, and technology applications. Students will also learn research skills, information finding, and organizational skills. Excellent attendance, grades and citizenship are required-3.0 GPA, no D's, F's, N's, or U's. Teacher approval and application is needed.

Band (Fine Art)

2210 yr Intermediate Band

Intermediate playing techniques will be stressed with emphasis on playing harmony and twelve basic scales. Students will perform for parents at the end of each term. Home practice is required. Prerequisite: Beginning Band or teacher approval. Class Fee Required.

2213 yr Intermediate Percussion*

All percussionists who have successfully completed the beginning percussion class should register for this course. Continuing instruction on drums, mallets, timpani, auxiliary percussion, and drum set. Students pay a \$95.00 district use fee to use school instruments. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Percussion 1 or audition. Class Fee Required.

2225 yr Jazz Band**

Jazz Band is a class designed for students who want to explore music more fully. Emphasis will be placed on listening skills, music theory, jazz scales, jazz articulations, and improvisation. Students will have performances throughout the year and will play at other special events. Students enrolled in Jazz Band must also be enrolled in another full-year music class. Class Fee Required.

Career Technology Education (CTE)

7404 sem FACS Exploration A

This course provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills. It allows students to develop skills in interior design, sewing construction, textiles, fashion, consumerism, free enterprise, and job-related tasks. FCS Exploration A may be taken in conjunction with FCS Exploration B. **Class Fee Required.**

7405 sem FACS Exploration B

This course provides students the opportunity to learn essential life skills. It allows students to develop skills in nutrition, childcare, interpersonal relationships, personal responsibility, consumerism, free enterprise, and job-related tasks. FCS Exploration B may be taken in conjunction with FCS Exploration A. **Class Fee Required.**

7537 sem Digital Literacy

Computers and electronic devices are everywhere. Let Digital Literacy teach you more about how they work and how they can make your life easier. Learn about cloud computing including Office 365 and apps like Outlook, Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access. Learn to record and edit audio and video, how to edit photos and the basics of web design. Learn skills that will benefit you for life. **Class Fee Required.**

7548 sem Exploring Business and Marketing

Students learn about the Stock Market and play, as a team, making trades in a simulation game that corresponds with the actual stock market. They learn about economic principles, business types, accounting and marketing, employment, and budgeting. Students explore the world of business by creating a business and marketing plan for a team business. They create advertisements, business cards, logos, flyers, and packaging for their business. At the end of the term, they sell their products to other classes. **Class Fee Required.**

7743 sem Creative Coding

Have you ever wondered how mobile apps are created? Students learn and apply computational thinking and technical knowledge and skills to create mobile apps. Students also acquire and apply skills pertaining to the design process, problem solving, persistence, collaboration, and communication. Go beyond being an app consumer and become an app creator. Can only be taken once between 7th & 8th grade. **Class Fee Required.**

7810 sem Exploring Technology & Engineering 1

This is a good class to take if you enjoyed the Technology portion of CTE Introduction. The focus is to learn how to design and create projects using hand drawing and computer modeling. Students will learn the science behind technology by designing simple machines. The students will learn to use some of the shop equipment to make simple projects. Topics include design and modeling using Inventor software, electronics with an introduction to robotics, manufacturing, construction, and energy exploration. **Class Fee Required.**

Choir (Fine Art)

2304 yr/sem Beginning Choir 1-Girls

Find and develop your singing voice, learn to read music, build your confidence, and make friends. Performances are a required part of the class. Taking a full year choir is highly encouraged to maximize vocal and music reading development or combining it with a semester of Music Explorations Class. This class is also available for 1st semester only, as a half year option. **Class Fee Required.**

2305 yr/sem Beginning Choir 1-Boys

Find and develop your singing voice, learn to read music, build your confidence, and make friends. Performances are a required part of the class. Taking a full year choir is highly encouraged to maximize vocal and music reading development or combining it with a semester of Music Explorations Class. This class is also available for 1st semester only, as a half year option. **Class Fee Required.**

2307 yr/sem Choir 2-Mixed

In mixed choir will continue to develop your vocal and music reading skills and build confidence. Challenge yourself to singing in 3 and 4-part harmonies. Choir Level one or music exploration is required, or 3 levels of piano completed with the understanding of basic music symbols and theory concepts. This class is also available for 1st semester only, as a half year option. **Class Fee Required.**

Electives- MISC.

213 sem Peer Tutor (Resource Classroom Peer Tutor)

The purpose of this course is to provide support for students with disabilities. Students will be required to apply for this course with either the counselors, Mrs. Loveday, or Mrs. Hallows. In some settings, the peer tutor will be asked to help support students in either an English, math, science, or history class. You will be required to help support students with their needs, assist with online programs (Canvas, MyDSD, ALEKS, etc.), and be a positive influence on their education. During this course, not only will you be required to help the student/s you are assigned to, but you will also be responsible for assignments via Canvas. No previous experience is required. No N's, U's, or F's. Good attendance is required.

408 yr National Academic League (NAL)

NAL is a competitive quiz bowl and presentation team. Student tryouts are in October with practices in November and December with games in January and February. Students will have fun learning the rules of the games, competing against each other in practice games and learning/reviewing English, math, history, science, and geography concepts. Students will hone their memorization and public speaking skills and prepare for tryouts. Teacher approval and application is needed. **Class Fee Required.**

503 yr Applied Skills (Resource class)*

The purpose of this course is to provide students who have an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) support in Executive Functioning Skills. This is a small group setting with instruction in skills that include, but not limited to, organization, planning/goal setting, growth mindset, maintaining attention, and task initiation. During this course, your student will be provided homework/assistant time to receive help via teacher or peer tutor to work on assignments, take assessments on individual goals, and provide additional time in a small group setting to work on anything your individual child needs.

4365 yr Yearbook**

The Centennial Junior High School Yearbook staff is responsible for publishing our school's yearbook. As a part of this staff, members must demonstrate strong writing or design skills and a commitment to our program for the entire school year. As a staff member, you will learn how to interview people and how to take pictures with digital cameras. High standards of journalism and contemporary design will be expected, and skills in these areas will be taught as a part of the class curriculum. What we need from you is your enthusiasm and willingness to learn. This is a teamwork driven class in which DEADLINES are the TOP PRIORITY! Staff members have the opportunity to write stories, take pictures, add captions, and design the layout. Teacher approval and application is needed.

General Music (Fine Art)

2316 sem Music Exploration

You will discover the music elements and how cultural, historical, and modern-day composers use them in many varied ways. Tune your ears to hear the beauty in music. You might also discover the musician in yourself through creative music making experiences. **Class Fee Required.**

Health Education

1000 sem Health 1

Health Education provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for practicing lifelong, health-enhancing behaviors. Students will learn that they are responsible for their personal well-being and that building a solid foundation of health literacy and decision-making skills can contribute to a variety of health choices for self and others that will be of value throughout life.

Language Arts

4030 yr English 8

In this class, we foster the appreciation of language arts in students through the development of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills, with an emphasis in the following areas: utilizing evidence and elaboration, as they pertain to argumentative and informative writing; reading for multiple purposes; and practicing speaking and listening skills through class discussions, peer feedback groups, and in-class presentations.

4035 yr English 8 Honors

Eighth grade Honors English classes will develop many of the same skills outlined in the standard eighth grade curriculum; however, honors curriculum usually moves at a faster pace, delves deeper into each concept, and maintains higher expectations for student work. Though Honors English is a self-selected class, the most successful students tend to possess the following attributes: an appreciation and enjoyment of the language arts, a desire to be challenged; self-motivated and self-sufficient; have a Lexile score of 1000 or higher; and receive a 3 or higher on their most recent ELA Sage test.

4040 yr Applied Language Arts 8 (Resource class)*

In Applied Language Arts 8, students will learn the communication/writing skills that will be essential for achieving success in their future endeavors. Students will sharpen their abilities to develop clear claims in writing, and back these claims up with evidence and reasoning. They will also sharpen their abilities to communicate and collaborate with peers in a respectful and professional way. This course will be using the Summit Platform in preparation to guide students to become independent learners as they access higher order thinking skills, participate in various real-world assessments, and develop language arts related topics through Content Assessments.

4050 yr English Lab 8 (Resource class)*

The purpose of the course is to provide students additional support with co-taught English classes, reading goals, and/or executive functioning goals. The class currently uses a blended learning program where students work at their own pace on spelling, reading fluency, writing, and reading comprehension based on their current Reading Inventory (Lexile) scores. This program fluctuates as the student's Lexile score either goes up or down allowing the program to match the individual's needs at that time. During this course, your student will be provided homework/assistant time to receive help via teacher or peer tutor to work on assignments, take assessments on individual goals, and provide additional time in a small group setting to work on anything your individual child needs.

4335 sem Creative Writing 1

In this class, students will explore different forms of creative expression in writing. Students will work in many writing mediums, including fictional stories of all genres and sizes, creative nonfiction essays and memoirs, and poetry. Students will work to find a voice and style comfortable for their expression while learning tools of the trade used by the professionals.

4340 sem Creative Writing 2

Students in this class will be given the freedom and guidance to work in the genres of their interest (novel writing, poetry collections, personal essays, etc.) to create a longer work or a collection of short pieces. Students will explore options for publication. Students will utilize peer and teacher feedback to continually shape and improve their writing. Prerequisite: Creative Writing I.

4375 sem Speech 1

Speech & Debate I is designed to help students speak comfortably in public, make and defend arguments with skill, and develop research and presentation skills. Students will develop a foundation in the art of rhetoric and the principles of effective public speaking and learn about the U.S. legal system. Competition Speech & Debate events and Mock Trial will be introduced. Grade will be based on participation and in-class competitions.

Mathematics

5100 yr Grade 8 Mathematics

Instruction will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling and association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; and (3) analyzing 2- and 3-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean theorem. **Class Fee Required.**

5102 yr Math Lab/ Co-Requisite Math 8 (Resource class)*

The purpose of the course is to provide students who have a current Individualized Education Plan that states they should receive services for Math through additional support in a Math Lab, and/or executive functioning goals. The class currently uses a blended learning program where students work at their own pace on math assignments/assessment, Aleks, progress monitoring, and Executive Functioning Skills. Instructional time is focused on five critical areas: (1) Supplemental Support; (2) Recitation; (3) Active Learning; (4) Skills Development; (5) Lecture/Lab/Activity.

5105 yr Grade 8 Mathematics Honors

This course will cover the three critical areas listed in the Grade 8 Mathematics course, as well as extra topics and concepts that would interest an advanced middle school student. Concepts covering fairness and apportionment, voting methods, sets, and graphing beyond the coordinate plane will be explored in greater depth with increased use of contextual situations. This course will have increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of high-ability students. **Class Fee Required.**

5115 yr Applied Math 8 (Resource class)*

The purpose of this course is to provide students a small group setting where accommodations and interventions will occur daily to help your student develop the skills necessary to be successful in Math. This course is for students who have a current Individualized Education Plan that states they should receive services in the area of Math. Instructional time is focused on five critical areas: (1) Number System; (2) Expressions and Equations; (3) Functions; (4) Geometry; (5) Statistics and Probability.

5205 yr Secondary Math 1 Honors*

Secondary Math I concepts will be explored in greater depth with increased use of contextual situations. In addition, it will include concepts dealing with vectors and quantities of vectors, and matrix operations and their applications. This course will include elements that will prepare students to take calculus in high school. This course will have increased rigor and advanced content that will challenge the minds of high ability students. Prerequisite: Demonstrated Proficiency in Math 8 Honors or Math 7/8 Accelerated. **Class Fee Required.**

Orchestra (Fine Art)

2406 yr Concert Orchestra

This class is for advanced junior high string players and focuses on intonation, upper positions, rhythm, harmony, balance, and phrasing. This is a performance-oriented class with required performances at District orchestra and solo & ensemble festivals. Home practice is required. Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra or Teacher Approval. **Class Fee Required.**

Physical Education

1021 yr/sem Fitness 8

This course is designed to help students develop positive lifetime attitudes regarding physical activity and healthy lifestyles. Emphasis will be on developing individual and team sport related skills and knowledge, responsible personal and social behavior, and the applications of those skills in game play settings. Uniforms are required and available for purchase in the Main Office. Students may take this course for a full year. **Class Fee Required.**

1021 sem Social Dance

Social Dance provides students exposure to various dance forms. This course is designed for non-dancers as well as those with dance experience. Examples of dance forms that may be included are: International Ballroom – Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz, and Quickstep; International Latin – Cha Cha, Samba, Rumba, Paso Doble, and Jive; and various line dances. **Class Fee Required.**

Science

6100 yr Science 8

This course introduces students to how matter and energy interact in the physical world, how energy is stored and transferred in physical systems, how life systems store and transfer matter and energy, and interactions with natural systems and resources. Because the course focuses on physical, earth and life sciences, students gain a clearer picture of relationships in the natural world. The science curriculum focuses on integration of three distinct dimensions: Scientific and Engineering Practices (SEPs), Disciplinary Core Ideas (DCIs), and Crosscutting Concepts (CCCs). These standards emphasize that science is not just a series of isolated facts. This hands-on course allows students to explore areas of interest. **Class Fee Required.**

6600 sem Hacking STEM

This STEM-focused class for 8th and 9th graders has students build problem solving skills, promote teamwork, and learn perseverance and persistence while engaging in technology-based projects. Experience with wiring and coding are not necessary to take this class, but a willingness to try new things, fail, and try again is! If you are looking for relevant STEM experiences, opportunities to learn new technology, and a forum to brainstorm real-world solutions, this is it. You will get the chance to wonder about the world, make sense of how things work, and solve problems in a collaborative environment. STEM Explorations is a prerequisite. Class may not be repeated. **Class Fee Required.**

6609 sem STEM Explorations

Science Exploration is a semester program providing junior high students with challenging opportunities to learn science, be a part of active and collaborative learning environments, and receive encouragement to pursue science-related careers. Our Science Exploration classes consist of a series of individual and group activities where students create, design, problem-solve, build projects, perform experiments, but most of all, have a positive and fun science experience. Topics may vary by teacher. Class may not be repeated. **Class Fee Required.**

6630 2nd sem Science Olympiad

Science Olympiad competitions are like academic track meets, consisting of a series of 23 team events in each division. Each year, a portion of the events are rotated to reflect the ever-changing nature of genetics, earth science, chemistry, anatomy, physics, geology, mechanical engineering, and technology. By combining events from all disciplines, Science Olympiad encourages a wide cross-section of students to get involved. Emphasis is placed on active, hands-on group participation. Through Science Olympiad, students, teachers, parents, principals, and business leaders bond together and work toward a shared goal. Here are some skills that would be helpful for students to have to participate in the Science Olympiad class. Everyone will have a different set of skills, but those participating in the class should EXCEL in several of these areas: ability to self-learn, ability to work with others, ability to teach others, ability to focus for a long period of time on a problem or study for long periods at a time, quick recall of facts, ability to apply knowledge, building devices (bridges, towers, machines, robots, hydrometers, etc.), manual dexterity, accuracy, computer programming, critical thinking (being able to look at a problem and solve it), excellent writing skills, mathematical skills, and creativity. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Waite at jewaite@dsdmail.net. **Class Fee Required.**

6704 sem Science Explorations-Forensics

This course includes key topics in forensic science including the application of the scientific process to forensic analysis, procedures of crime scene investigation and physical and trace evidence. Through lessons, labs and the analysis of fictional crime scenarios, students learn how to use forensic tools and resources. Focus will be placed on forming and testing hypotheses, data collection and making reasonable claims supported by evidence and reasoning. Class may not be repeated. **Class Fee Required.**

Social Studies

4510 yr U.S. History 1

U.S. History is a course which encourages students to explore America's heritage from its beginnings to Reconstruction. Emphasis will be placed upon the social and cultural backgrounds of Americans as well as economic and geographic factors, particularly during the 1800's.

4514 yr U. S. History Honors

This course is designed to prepare students for future AP social studies classes. Students will explore our nation's history from its beginnings to the Reconstruction era. Students will become proficient in analyzing and interpreting various primary and secondary sources and will use Document Based Questions to write six essays throughout the year. Students will also learn how to conduct their own research on historic and current issues.

4531 sem Current Issues

This course will allow students to develop awareness while examining current issues on local, national, and international levels. Students will learn skills such as analyzing sources, surveying, interviewing, developing presentations, speaking, reading articles, argumentative writing, service activities and working in groups. They will study issues and current events in many areas including civics, history, politics, economics, environment, demographics, and education, as well as school and community issues such as bullying, stress, homework, and respecting diversity.

Theater (Fine Art)

230 yr Stage Crew*

The course is an exploration of the duties of stage technicians and their contribution to the total aesthetic effect of a dramatic production. Topics covered will include scene shop organization; painting and construction techniques; equipment use and maintenance; principles and application of sound and lighting; costume and makeup application; theater safety; the function of technical stage personnel in production work; and dramaturgy. Student Acceptance by Application Only; Open to 8th & 9th graders – See Ms. Howell in room 2104 for more details. **Class Fee Required.**

2502 sem Theatre I

Students explore the fundamentals of acting with the utilization of exercises and games, through which the students develop ensemble and individual performance skills. Students are introduced to basic theatre etiquette and terminology; basic elements and principles of theatrical performance; and the process of auditioning. Students are required to attend at least one live theatrical presentation from a high school in the district. In this introductory course, students showcase what they learn throughout the semester by performing in front of the class. **Class Fee Required.**

2503 sem Theatre II

Students continue to study theatre as an art form through use of voice, movement, and character development. Students will be introduced to William Shakespeare and continue to strengthen performance skills by participating in Reader's Theatre, monologues, tableaux, scene work and group performances, with special emphasis on creating believable and real characters. Students are required to attend at least one live theatrical presentation from a high school in the district. Like Theatre I, students showcase what they learn throughout the semester by performing in front of the class. Prerequisite: passing grade in Theater I. **Class Fee Required.**

2504 2nd sem The Acting Company*

In this co-taught class, students receive the expertise of both theatre teachers as they continue to strengthen their acting abilities. Students will focus solely on acting, characterization, and building a believable character in order to prepare them for high school theatre. Students perform one acts, dive into the language of Shakespeare, and share productions and performances with live audiences. In this performance-based class, students will have many evening performances of a full-length straight play, as there is no official extracurricular production during the spring semester. These evening performances are mandatory for all students and productions will be advertised to the school, other schools, and the entire community. This class is for driven and dedicated students; can be taken in conjunction with Musical Theatre. Prerequisites: passing grades in both Theatre I and Theatre II OR passing grade in Theatre I AND Instructor Permission. **Class Fee Required.**

2508 1st sem Musical Theater**

In this co-taught class, students receive the expertise of both theatre teachers as they prepare to perform the fall musical. Rehearsal will take place during the school day with 2-3 weeks of after-school rehearsal. Students focus solely on acting, singing, and dancing as it pertains to the chosen musical; and must be driven, team players and show initiative. Students must audition for this class to demonstrate proficiency of theatre skills; can be taken in conjunction with The Acting Company. Prerequisites: a passing grade in Theatre I is preferred. Auditions will be recorded and submitted during the month of March and the class list will be posted on the Thunder Theatre website by April 30. Please talk with Mrs. McAllister or Mrs. Meadows, if you need more information or check the Thunder Theatre website. **Class Fee Required.**

Visual Arts (Fine Art)

2101 sem Art Foundations I

This introductory course offers instruction in various art media and the basic principles of art. Each student will have the opportunity to develop a general knowledge and understanding of basic art terms, styles, skills, and techniques through the creation of art. Required course for all other art classes. **Class Fee Required.**

2102 sem Art Foundations IA 2-D (Art 2)

This course is designed to provide an additional enhancement of artistic issues from Art Foundations I. There is a continuing emphasis on Studio production as the application of the elements and principles of art are used to assist the student in expressing him/herself. Pre-requisite Art Foundations I. **Class Fee Required.**

2104 sem Art I Advanced 3-D

This course is designed to provide an experience with the artistic issues of Foundation I through 3-dimensional Mediums. The media in this course may include traditional ceramic clay and glazes, sculptural materials, and assemblages. There is a continuing emphasis on studio production as the application of the elements and principles of art are used to assist the student in expressing him/herself through the production of 3D works of art. Pre-requisite Art Foundations I. **Class Fee Required.**

World Languages

3110 yr Spanish 1

Spanish 1 provides students with the opportunity to develop basic comprehension, listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Class time is spent learning the language with much of the class being taught in Spanish and an emphasis on speaking. Cultural experiences will be based on contemporary daily life with some exposure to the historical background of Spanish-speaking countries. **Class Fee Required.**

3120 yr Spanish 2

Spanish 2 is a continuation of Spanish 1 with emphasis on continued development of oral communication skills. There will also be further experience with reading and writing. Cultural experiences will be based on contemporary daily life with some exposure to the historical background of Spanish-speaking countries. **Class Fee Required.**

3210 yr French 1

Level 1 is an introductory course for students with little or no previous study of French. The course focuses on all four-language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students who demonstrate Novice-Mid proficiency, it means that students will be able to create a sentence, at the end of Level 1 should continue to the level 2 course the following school year. **Class Fee Required.**

3220 yr French 2

This course gives students the opportunity to expand their acquired language skills through comprehensible input. The course focuses on all four-language skills: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students who demonstrate Novice-High proficiency, it means that students will be able to create a sentence with details, at the end of Level 2 should continue to the level 3 course the following school year. **Class Fee Required.**