



8th Grade Elective Courses



Students may choose any combination of electives that are equal to three semesters of credits.

Advanced Spanish (full year): This course is the equivalent of Spanish I at the high school level and is designed to encourage active participation in the acquisition of the basic language skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking in Spanish. Students will learn about customs and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Students who have received a B or better in middle school Advanced Spanish will automatically be enrolled in Spanish 2 in high school if they choose to continue their study of Spanish.

Band 8 (full year): Band 8 is designed for students who have successfully completed three years of band instruction. This class meets every day and performs as a concert band. Evening concerts and contests are required. Additional opportunities are available with optional honor bands and solo/ensemble events. Home practice is an expectation. A handbook with specific information will be sent home for review and signatures of students and parents. Band is a year-long course.

High School Spanish Prep (semester): This course is designed to prepare eighth-grade students for the rigor of high school Spanish I. The focus is on basic grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation skills that will be taught at the high school level. Basic reading comprehension and listening skills will be emphasized.

Student Aides (may choose one of the following for a semester or full-year – Office, P.E., Library): This is a selective program to benefit both students and teachers. Participation in this program is a privilege. Aides will be given regular daily duties, which may include helping students with special needs, creating bulletin boards, copying classroom

materials, running errands, filing and general office duties. Selection in the aide program requires the approval of the teacher involved, parents, principal and counselor. Students are selected on the basis of grades, leadership, attendance, responsibility and citizenship.

Art I (semester): Students will explore various two-dimensional media with some three-dimensional media with an emphasis on the elements and principles of design. Students will develop skills in the areas of observational drawing, painting techniques and color theory. Students will refine skills, improve techniques and craftsmanship to meet challenges and solve problems in unique ways. The study of art history, diverse cultures and vocabulary will help students gain an understanding of the artistic process.

Art II (semester): Students will explore various three-dimensional media with some two-dimensional media by creating artworks to express personal experiences and observations of the world. Students will have the opportunity to investigate sculpture, ceramics, fiber arts and printmaking to construct and form functional and decorative artworks. The study of art history, diverse cultures, journaling and vocabulary will help students gain an understanding of the artistic process.

Computer Applications (semester): This course is designed to help students become aware of the potential of the computer in business, school and everyday life. Computer Applications uses a “hands-on” approach for operating system, word processing and spreadsheet applications, as well as personal information management with email and calendar software. Appropriate Internet searching, etiquette and safety will also be explored, and computer security, threats and maintenance will be discussed. High school credit will be granted to eighth-grade students who successfully pass this course competency exam with at least 80% proficiency. This credit will not be included in the requirements for the total number of credit hours needed for high school graduation.

Computer Science (semester): Students will engage in two Project Lead the Way units. In the first unit, Computer Science for Innovators, students will learn about programming by blending hardware design and software development. Physical computing projects will promote student awareness of interactive systems, including Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and broaden their understanding of abstract computer science concepts through meaningful and authentic applications. The second unit, App Creators, will introduce students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking through the creation of mobile apps. Content will challenge students to be creative and innovative as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging real-world problems.

Digital Photography (semester): In this class students will explore life through the lens of a digital camera and determine what makes the perfect exposure. Students investigate the enriching history of photography, and learn to use one of the best computer programs to edit photos. Explorations will include artistic portraiture, the rule of thirds, action photography, still life, landscape photography and more. This class will be taught with a hands-on approach, with students taking pictures both in and out of class, evaluating their own and others' work, and developing a portfolio throughout the course. Students will need to have access to a digital camera for this class.

Engineering: Design and Modeling (semester): In this Project Lead the Way course, students will apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They work in teams to design, documenting research and ideas in their engineering notebooks. Using 3D design software, students create a virtual image of their designs and produce a portfolio to showcase their innovative solutions.

Extended Learning Program (semester): This class is offered to those who qualify for the **gifted program**. The curriculum is designed to meet the individual needs of each student. Both individual and small group study is utilized.

FACS (semester): This course looks at real-life situations in clothing care, repair skills and consumer buying. Sewing construction techniques will be demonstrated by completing a variety of sewing projects. This course also includes units on kitchen basics, food preparation, meal planning and safe practices in the kitchen.

Mixed Chorus (semester or full year): Choir will sing a variety of musical styles including classical and contemporary music. This class provides basic voice training with an emphasis on matching pitch and two and three-part singing. Additional instruction in the changing voice, music theory, sight-singing, and knowledge and development of appropriate student conduct in rehearsals and performance will be provided. Attendance at all concerts and choir functions is required.

Orchestra (full year): Orchestra is a year long course. The orchestra performs in several evening concerts and contests as a requirement of the class. Home practice is expected. A handbook with specific information will be sent home for review and signatures of students and their parents.

Strength and Conditioning (semester): This course teaches both the health-related aspects of fitness (body composition, cardiovascular fitness, flexibility, muscular endurance and muscular strength) and skill-related aspects (agility, balance, coordination, power, reaction time and speed). The goal of this class is to meet students' individual goals in all areas of health- and skill-related fitness by allowing students to participate in a variety of activities that will enhance their physical fitness.

Teen Leadership (semester): Students will develop leadership, personal and business skills. They learn to develop a healthy self-concept, healthy relationships and to understand personal responsibility. They will develop an understanding of emotional intelligence and the skills it measures, including self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation and social skills. Students develop skills in public speaking and communication, and an understanding of personal image.

They come to understand the concept of principle-based decision-making and develop their own personal mission statement. Students practice and develop skills for conflict resolution and acquire an understanding of the effects of peer pressure, developing skills to counteract those effects.

Video Production (semester): Students will use cameras (digital, video, etc.) to make videos for a variety of purposes. Many of these videos will be published over the internet via the school website. Others will become resources for other content areas to use in their classrooms. This class will require collaboration with other students and teachers to complete the projects in a timely manner while meeting expectations of those asking for the video. Students will also complete a variety of on-demand writing to provide scripts for these videos.

Yearbook (full year): This is a production-oriented class designed to create the middle school yearbook. Selected students will learn aspects of photography including how to take quality pictures and the process of cataloging them. Students will also learn aspects of journalism including layout and design. Dedication and responsibility, exemplary writing abilities, computer literacy, ability to meet deadlines, and an interest in photography and desktop journalism are “musts” in this working environment. Students must apply and be accepted into this class before they are able to enroll. The application process may involve a written essay, a mock layout, and teacher recommendation as well as a “B” or better in the previous semester’s English class.