

Please find a brief description of each of the following FMS special area courses.

- Civics Engagement Capstone
- Physical Education (grade 6, 7 & 8)
- Health (grade 6, 7 & 8)
- Research (grade 7 & 8)
- Junior Virtual Enterprises (grade 7 & 8)
- Home & Careers /Family & Consumer Science (grade 6, 7 & 8)
- STREAM (grade 7 & 8)
- World Language Experiences (Grade 6)
- Art- Digital media, etc. (grade 6, 7 & 8)
- General Music
- Band (grade 6, 7 & 8)
- Chorus (grade 6, 7 & 8)
- Orchestra (grade 6, 7 & 8)

### **Civics Engagement Capstone**

This Civic Engagement Capstone course introduces students to a wide variety of civics-related issues, individual responsibilities, and processes for creating change. The course will focus on defining civics, roles, and responsibilities as an active, productive citizen, identifying an issue (local, state, national or global), and applying civic knowledge, skills, actions, and mindsets to the issue. Also, students will research and engage in a civic experience based on the issue to influence positive change in the community (local, state, national, or global).

### **Physical Education**

The goal of our Physical Education course is to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and values they need to become healthy and physically active for a lifetime. This course addresses both the health and skill-related components of sport, physical fitness, and lifetime activities which are critical for students' success and becoming a physically literate individual. Throughout the course, the students will also develop their interpersonal, communication, and team building skills. All lessons throughout this course meet the NYS State Physical Education Standards and Guidelines. With the knowledge and skills acquired within this course, we hope that each individual can lead a happy and healthy lifestyle!

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/new-york-physical-education-learning-standards-2020.pdf>

### **Health**

We believe that Health Education is a combined responsibility of school, community and home. Our mission is to inspire our youth to make responsible decisions for their overall wellness. With the knowledge acquired we hope that you will choose a healthy lifestyle both now and in the future. Health Education lessons, activities and projects will be

skills-based and focus on the New York State Health Education Standards and Guidelines.

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/healthpefaclearningstandards.pdf>

### **Research (Grades 7 & 8)**

This seminar-like course is designed to help students navigate the complex nature of research and writing as it intertwines with technology. Our goal is to help students develop a strong foundation of skills as they become more comfortable with the various local and online resources available to them. By inviting students to research a topic of their choice, we expect them to have fun as they learn to use the Internet effectively and develop writing and presentation skills that will carry them through middle school and beyond.

### **Junior Virtual Enterprises (grade 7 & 8)**

The VE-JV Career Academy is a two-course sequence offering real-world experiences and hands-on learning about technology, business, and careers. Students work individually and as a team to develop technology, problem solving, communication, and critical thinking skills, preparing them for success in high school and beyond.

Technology Applications for Business (7th grade) introduces students to technology projects typically used in the business and professional world that require facility with spreadsheets, presentation software, word-processing, graphics, web design, and social media. Lessons and activities are built around an entrepreneurial theme and include projects such as creating a budget, conducting a break-even analysis, making expense reports, developing newsletters, developing and presenting a business plan, and more.

VE-Junior Ventures (8th grade) challenges students to build on skills from Technology Applications by collaborating with their classmates to launch and manage a business that replicates the functions and demands of real business in both structure and practice. Students take on the roles of employees in a company, work in functional departments of the organization (marketing, sales, human resources, accounting, finance, and IT) and complete department-related work and projects that support the goals of the company.

### **Home & Careers 6 / Family & Consumer Science 7<sub>8</sub>**

Family & Consumer Science and Home and Careers is a course which is taken by students to prepare for the challenges of personal, home, family and work lives. This course is designed to provide students with skills to manage their needs in areas of interpersonal relationships, child development, preparation of food, understanding nutrition, food and kitchen safety, kitchen tools and uses. Sewing tools and uses, basic hand sewing stitches and techniques, embroidery, sewing on a button, laundering steps and hand sewn projects. Career planning to

explore career choices based on likes, hobbies, and personality. Financial planning: budgeting, saving vs spending now and the management of time, money, and resources.

<http://www.nysed.gov/career-technical-education/family-and-consumer-sciences>

### **STREAM**

STREAM is an acronym that stands for science, technology, research, engineering, art and math. STREAM is a hands-on class that takes those five disciplines and integrates them into a single class. One of the focuses of the class will be on coding. Students will learn how to code so that they can become producers of technology rather than just consumers of technology. Another focus will be robotics. Students will participate in robotic activities and learn how these machines can enhance their lives as well as the possible challenges a reliance on machines can cause. 3D design will be incorporated into the class so that students can use the technology to design and print items that can solve problems or be useful in their lives. Students will also engage in different engineering challenges that will not only allow them to investigate some of the principles of engineering, but work on collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking.

### **World Language Experience Grade 6**

The students will be exposed to a language per quarter including Italian, French, Latin and Spanish. Each course introduces basic vocabulary, grammar, idiomatic expressions and life and customs in the world of the target language. The emphasis is on communicative proficiency and the development of the four language skills – listening, speaking, reading, and writing.

### **Art (Grade 6)**

This course combines theory and creative applications to the study of the elements and principles of design. Students will have the opportunity to combine observation and imagination by experimenting with different materials, tools and techniques. Through class discussion, critiques and peer evaluation students will develop a voice of self-expression, critical insight and an understanding of the visual language.

### **Art (Grade 7)**

This is an intermediate course combining theory and creative applications to the study of the elements of visual art and design. Students will have the opportunity to combine observation and imagination by experimenting with different media such as painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, sculpture, applied design, and technology. Through class discussion, critiques and peer evaluation students will develop a voice of self-expression, critical insight and an understanding of the visual language.

### **Digital Media (Grade 8)**

Through class discussion, critiques and peer evaluation students will develop a voice of self-expression, critical insight and an understanding of the visual language. Students will explore various techniques and learn how to communicate to an audience through applied design. Students will not only understand the design process / digital output, but will demonstrate the importance of craft / presentation. Students will have the opportunity to apply this knowledge using industry software such as Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

### **General Music**

General Music is a course where students learn about elements of music, including Rhythm, Melody, Harmony, Dynamics, Tempo and Timbre. Students study the elements by listening to and analyzing music from many different genres and by performing a variety of instruments. Students also learn how to read and write music notation and develop an understanding of music vocabulary and musical symbols. Other units of study include the families of instruments, composers from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern time periods, and the history of American music.

### **Band (Grade 6)**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills of wind and percussion instruments at the sixth grade levels. Students participating in elementary band the year prior will be given a more in-depth education on their own instruments and will be expected to perform at a higher level. They will learn skills including sight reading, good tone and breathing, stick technique, scales/rudiments and performance etiquette. Each student is responsible to take part in two performances including a winter and spring concert. This course will meet every day. This course will include a weekly small group lesson.

### **Band (Grade 7 & 8)**

The purpose of this course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills of wind and percussion instruments at the seventh and eighth-grade levels. Students participating in 6<sup>th</sup> grade band the year prior will be given a more in-depth education on their own instruments and will be expected to perform at a higher level. They will learn skills including sight reading, good tone and breathing, stick technique, scales/rudiments and performance etiquette. Each student is responsible to take part in four performances including a winter and spring concert, the Memorial Day Parade and an adjudicated performance at the end of the year. This course will meet every day zero period before school. This course will include a weekly small group lesson.

### **Chorus (Grade 6)**

In the 6th grade chorus students learn how to read music, follow through a choral score with multiple parts, and sing 2 and 3 part Selections. The quality of their singing throughout this course grows and matures as they learn about and improve their vocal skills. These skills include Breath support, Vowel shape, Phrasing and many others. We learn a wide variety of repertoire from pieces written by Mozart, to Jazz, and selections written currently that they might have already heard. The class meets 1 period each day and students can perform in both the Chorus and either Band or Orchestra as well. We perform 2 concerts a year, one in the Winter and one in the Spring. In past years, when additional performance opportunities have been offered, we have included that into our schedule.

### **Chorus (Grade 7 & 8)**

In 7th and 8th grade chorus students continue learning new music symbols needed for reading more difficult music, sight reading and following through choral scores. All of our music is sung in at least 3 parts as we build on the vocal skills needed to sing ever more challenging repertoire. We prepare a wide variety of styles and genres of music, always including at least

one selection in another language. This class meets every day during 0 period, and students can perform in both the Chorus and either Band or Orchestra as well. We perform 2 concerts a year, one in the Winter and one in the Spring, and the highlight of our year is an Amusement Park Competition trip that we take at the end of the year. We work hard but the reward is worth it!

### **Orchestra (Grade 6)**

6<sup>th</sup> grade orchestra is a performance ensemble where students continue to build on the skills and musicianship that they learned in elementary school on the violin, viola, cello and double bass. Students meet for a rehearsal one period each day and attend a small group lesson one period per week. There is also an option to take chorus and orchestra every other day if students want to sing and play an instrument. In class, students learn how to read music notation, perform various styles of music and music from different time periods, and work to develop their musicianship on their string instrument. The ensemble performs winter and spring concerts to showcase the skills they learn throughout the year.

### **Orchestra (Grade 7 & 8)**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Orchestra is a combined grade level performance ensemble where students continue to build on the skills and musicianship that they learned in 6<sup>th</sup> grade on the violin, viola, cello and double bass. This ensemble performs more advanced music which showcases the new techniques the students learn throughout the year. Students attend rehearsals during zero period every day before school, as well as one small group lesson a week. There is also an option to take chorus and orchestra every other day if students want to sing and play an instrument. The orchestra performs winter and spring concerts, and performs at a music festival each year where they are evaluated by adjudicators.