

**EIGHTH GRADE ELECTIVE PROGRAM 2023-2024**  
**CARLETON W. WASHBURNE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

The Washburne Related Studies Program offers a range of unique courses that provide Winnetka students the creative and practical skills to enhance their academic studies and thrive as 21st Century learners. Within the department, students can explore woodworking, visual art, technology, drama, music, and media arts. They learn technical skills required to articulate content area-specific tasks while engaging in design-based thinking, creating solutions to problems in the ever-changing world around them. Over the course of their two years at Washburne, students are encouraged to take a variety of classes in both the *fine and performing arts* as well as the *applied technology and media arts* realms so that their experiences reflect the robust program offerings.

The following is an overview of the eighth-grade program at Washburne. All students will take English, mathematics, science, social studies, kinetic wellness, and lunch.

**PLEASE CAREFULLY READ** THE DESCRIPTIONS AND THEN COMPLETE THE ONLINE REGISTRATION.

**FRENCH 8** Students who successfully completed 7<sup>th</sup> grade French will be enrolled in 8<sup>th</sup> grade French to complete the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the sequence. The three years in total equal the first year of high school French. French should be thought of as a full-fledged academic subject with the expectation of daily assignments (10-15 minutes per night). Emphasis is placed on reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension.

**SPANISH 8** Students who successfully completed 7<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish will be enrolled in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Spanish. Second to English, Spanish is the most spoken language in the United States and the second most spoken language in the world. Students who have completed two or more years of Spanish will continue to develop their proficiency in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Washburne. This class focuses on improving your ability to understand and communicate in Spanish. Language and culture are explored through the reading of short novels and conversations.

### **FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES**

#### **3-D SCULPTURE 7/8**

This class will explore the 3-dimensional form through a variety of building techniques and materials specific to papier-mache, ceramics, and found object sculpture. Students will work on projects independently as well as collaboratively. Students will keep a sketchbook for their ideas.

**ART & DESIGN: SPECIAL PROJECTS 7/8** Develop your visual language and process development in this special projects class. Students will be exposed to a variety of topics such as typography, graphic design, design for theater, and installation work. This class is designed for students with previous art experience and interest.

**BEGINNING PIANO 7/8** Would you like to learn to play the piano but never had the time, or didn't have the instrument? In this class, students will learn basic piano technique as well as tips and tricks to access necessary music theory fundamentals. Through daily practice and performance of pop, classical, and jazz music, students will be able to play chosen songs independently. This class is intended for students with little to no piano background.

**CENTER STAGE 7/8** Do you like to act? Learn the necessary skills to create a believable character and play a role in a dramatic production. Explore the process of bringing a script to life while developing your performance skills. At the end of the trimester, students will showcase their work for parents and peers.

**\* THIS CLASS MAY BE REPEATED IF TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.**

**CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP 7/8** Do you have stories you're dying to tell? Or maybe you're a poet? Here's your chance to write the stories and poems you're imagining. Learn strategies for developing complex characters, engaging plots, and authentic dialogue. Learn to write meaningful poems about topics of your choice. Students will be encouraged to work through the entire writing process, eventually attempting publication via contests or class books. Instruction will be differentiated to meet each writer's needs, interests, and strengths.

***\* THIS CLASS MAY BE REPEATED IF TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.***

### **DRAMA & IMPROV 7/8**

Students will explore a variety of theatrical elements including storytelling, acting, and improvisation. As they tap into their inner creativity learning to improvise through games and scene work, students connect with other student writers, actors, and directors. This course offers students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of theatre and enhance individual performance techniques in a non-threatening and collaborative environment.

***\* THIS CLASS MAY BE REPEATED IF TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.***

**MELODY MAKERS 7/8** - Like music? Ever jot down lyrics in need of a melody? Or tune notes waiting for a staff? Give melody makers a try! Students will collaborate to dissect current tunes and to emulate the individual elements of a student-selected pop song. They will become familiar with some music writing rules in order to compose short- and full-form songs, single- and multiple-layered. At the end of the trimester, students will host their own "top-40 party" to hear the fruits of their labor.

### **MUSICAL THEATER I & II (Trimesters 2 & 3 -students in this class must make a two-trimester commitment)**

In this performance class, students learn the necessary skills needed to create a well-rounded musical theatre production, weaving music, drama and movement together. It offers dramatic acting opportunities for those who are interested, as well as a chance for both solo and ensemble musical work. Some extracurricular commitments may be involved as the trimesters culminate with an opportunity for students to showcase their work for parents and peers.

***\* THIS CLASS MAY BE REPEATED IF TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.***

**STUDIO ART 8** Studio Art focuses on improving observation, intention, and visual communication skills via the study of art history and theories of design. This is a general course that focuses on understanding themes within Modernist and Contemporary art movements as well as the elements and principals of visual design. Creativity and problem solving skills are developed through a variety of individual and group projects. Students will create their portraits in this class as well as work in a variety of drawing materials as well as collage, photography, and printmaking.

## **APPLIED TECHNOLOGY AND MEDIA ARTS CLASSES**

**COMPUTER SCIENCE 7/8** In this interactive course, students will learn the principles of computer science through game-based coding challenges. At the end of each unit, students will use their acquired knowledge and creativity to develop a game that will be tested and shaped by their classmates' feedback. Students will help build a collaborative coding environment, assisting each other and taking turns playing the role of the expert and of the learner. They will have the opportunity to reflect on their challenges and successes and share to deepen their learning. Join us for the learning fun today!

***\* THIS CLASS MAY BE REPEATED IF TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.***

**FURNITURE MAKING 7/8** In this class, students will design and build a variety of furniture pieces for themselves or the school community. Students will complete individual take-home projects and participate in a mass production simulation where the entire class works together to mass -produce furniture. Students will learn about furniture construction, finishing techniques and how to plan for mass production. This is a class for students who want to develop or advance their woodworking skills and enjoy working as a team.

**INDUSTRIAL ARTS 7/8** This is a hands-on course that introduces students to a wide range of woodworking tools and materials. Emphasis is placed on proper tool use, finishing techniques, craftsmanship and the design process. Students will complete various individual take-home projects throughout the trimester. This class is for students who want to develop their woodworking skills, master the design process and enjoy working independently.

**INDUSTRIAL DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE (I.D.E.A) 7/8** If you are a student who likes to be challenged, this class is for you! Students will be posed with a variety of problems to solve in the areas of industrial design, engineering and architecture. This is not your typical "shop class." Time will be spent constructing projects from a set of plans, building mechanical devices, creating multi-view drawings, using drawing software, designing floor plans for a house, and learning about electronics.

**INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY 7/8** In Innovation Technology, students have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of STE(A)M-based challenges from areas of 3D Design, Architecture, Robotics, Circuitry, Computer Science, and more. Students choose challenges that interest them, set a goal, and work to achieve that goal while documenting the process (notes, pictures, video, audio) along the way. Once complete, students share the story of their challenges to the Google Sites portfolio. Come experience, explore, and create in the CW CoLab!

**\* THIS CLASS MAY BE REPEATED IF TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.**

**MOVIE MAKERS 7/8** Do you love movies? Have you ever wondered what actually goes into making one? Enter into the world of filmmaking and learn how movies are made by making them yourself! Try your hand at each part of this collaborative process from story development and screenwriting to the basics of cinematography and camera angles to acting, directing, scoring, and editing a variety of student-made films. The trimester culminates with a mini-film festival for the class to view their best works on the big screen.

**MUSIC EXPLORATION & TECHNOLOGY 7/8** This course allows students to try out all kinds of music-making! Students will explore how people relate to music, and learn the basics on drums, ukulele, handchimes, and boomwhackers. Along with creating musical sounds, students will experiment with the production side of music, including Garage Band, Loops, composing, SoundTrap, and more. Through different media, students will discover their creative side while playing, arranging, and composing music.

**STAGECRAFT 7/8** Learn what goes on behind the scenes for a theatrical production. You will create the scenery, costumes, and props for a stage production. Activities include set design and construction, costume design, painting, lighting, and prop construction. Some extracurricular work may be involved as students serve as the running crew for the performance at the end of the trimester.

**\* THIS CLASS MAY BE REPEATED IF TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.**

**CWB BROADCASTING & VIDEO PRODUCTION** Experience broadcasting and video production in a creative, collaborative, real-world environment. In this course, students learn by doing as they choose and develop their own short videos from story development to planning, filming, and editing. Before sharing with the intended audience, students are given an opportunity to gather peer feedback to help shape their ideas. Our updated Washburne Video Production Studio provides students with real-world technology to develop skills, while we work to build a collaborative production environment. Students assist each other by sharing their knowledge and skills by playing the role of the expert and of the learner. Join us and see your stories come to life!

**\* THIS CLASS MAY BE REPEATED IF TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.**

### **YEARBOOK I & II: AN INTRODUCTION TO PHOTOJOURNALISM**

**(Trimesters 1 & 2 -- students in this class must make a two-trimester commitment)**

The purpose of the *Washburne Yearbook* is to foster civic responsibility as students create a comprehensive record of the people, organizations, and events at Washburne Middle School, and to also provide yearbook staff members with publishing skills. Students will learn the basics of digital photography, interviewing, writing articles, proofreading, and layout design principles. Because the yearbook is produced through a web-based program, students will learn to use the latest design software. Throughout the process, students will learn to collaborate and to meet the demands of a production schedule and a publication deadline through first-hand experience.

**\* THIS CLASS MAY BE REPEATED IF TAKEN IN 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE.**

## **Performance Ensembles Electives**

**Students are able to take band or orchestra as one of their daily electives.**

**BAND** Band is a full-year elective course. In addition to in-school class period rehearsals, students will meet one morning a week in a smaller rehearsal grouped by woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Performances include ILMEA district band auditions, Winter and Spring evening concerts, IGSMAs solo/ensemble contest, and a March combined musical experience with other school district music programs. Students are required to attend all rehearsals and concert performances and are expected to practice assigned music and developmental material at home. No prior experience on an instrument is needed, but the directors need to hear and approve instrument selection.

**ORCHESTRA** This class requires a **full year commitment** and meets every day during the school day. This class is a continuation of the 6th grade orchestra at Skokie. The main objective of this course is to further the exploration of a wide variety of repertoire while continuing to refine ensemble playing both as a string group and as part of a full orchestra. Performances include IMEA District honors orchestra tryouts; winter and spring evening concerts; IGSMAs solo ensemble contest in late winter; and tour of the grade schools in the spring. Performance at Graduation ends the year. **Students are required to attend all rehearsals and concert performances and are expected to practice assigned music and developmental material at home.**

## **Extra-Curricular Ensembles**

**CHORUS** Chorus is a full year club that meets Monday afternoon during the early release and one morning before school. This ensemble performs music from all genres - contemporary, traditional, musical theatre, and pop - and is open to all 7th and 8th graders. Performances throughout the year include winter and spring concerts, the New Trier Middle School Choral Festival, the New Trier Township Fine Arts Festival, and a tour of the grade schools.

**JAZZ ENSEMBLES** All students playing appropriate jazz instruments are eligible based on audition placement. Jazz Ensemble rehearses on Monday after school from 2:35pm to 3:45pm. Lion Jazz Ensemble meets on Friday at 7:30am. Additional sectionals are occasionally called before major concerts. Performances include the District elementary school tour, New Trier Jazz Festival, Jazz night, IGSMA jazz contest, school assemblies, and various other community events. Since we rehearse once a week, attendance at all practices is important.

Due to class capacities and scheduling conflicts, it may not be possible to accommodate every selection. If you have a question about a specific course or how to make your requests online, please contact Ben Horwitz, Assistant Principal, at [benhorwitz@winnetka36.org](mailto:benhorwitz@winnetka36.org).

**READ COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR ONLINE REGISTRATION!**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION MUST BE COMPLETED**

**BY Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**