

8th Grade Electives 2023-2024

Year-long Elective Courses:

Band: Intermediate- at least 1 year of experience w/ an instrument & **Advanced-2** or more years of experience w/ an instrument

Chorus: Singers who want to perform; students may audition for District Chorus, Treble Tigers & Eye of the Tiger

Middle School Yearbook: (**By application**) Journalistic writing, photography, interviewing, computer skills, creative writing, schedule planning, creation of our school yearbook

Spanish: High school credit class/counts toward high school GPA/ Strong attendance, grades & work habits recommended

Year-long Online/Virtual Elective Courses (all are taken within the regular school day during one block):

Survey of World Languages: Virtual middle school course exploring French, Spanish, Chinese & Latin

Mandarin Chinese – High school credit/counts toward high school GPA/ Strong attendance, grades & work habits recommended

German - High school credit/counts toward high school GPA/ Strong attendance, grades & work habits recommended

Latin - High school credit/counts toward high school GPA/ Strong attendance, grades & work habits recommended

Arabic - High school credit/counts toward high school GPA/ Strong attendance, grades & work habits recommended

French: High school credit class/counts toward high school GPA/Strong attendance, grades & work habits recommended

Semester Elective Courses:

***Introduction to Art:** Exploring and creating different types of art - Basic drawing/painting/ crafts

***Must take Intro. to Art prior to taking Drawing & Painting or Sculpture & Crafts.**

***Drawing & Painting:** Drawing – Pencil, Pen, Colored Pencil, Pastels; Painting- Acrylic, Watercolor and Tempera (2-D)

***Sculpture & Crafts:** Sculpture and Crafts - Paper Mache', Mobiles, Clay Face Mugs & Jugs, Baskets & more (3-D)

Career Investigations (All students must take this during either the 7th or 8th grade year if not taken in the 6th wheel). Develop an academic and career plan by exploring personal qualities and abilities, elements of student life, and work based learning opportunities.

Family & Consumer Science 2 (FACS 2): Cooking & etiquette, budgeting & finance, sewing, clothing repair & care, babysitting skills (fabric dolls), interpersonal & family relationships, communication, organization & career exploration

Family & Consumer Science 3 (FACS 3): Childcare/Baby Think-it-Over dolls, cooking & etiquette, responsible positive life behaviors, recycling, nutrition & wellness, goal setting, career exploration, community service, sewing and clothing care

Inventions & Innovations: Exposure to engineering related careers; hands-on activities requiring critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication to incorporate science, technology, engineering & math

Computer Science Discoveries: Engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, and problem solving. This course inspires students as they build and program their own websites, apps, and robots

Introduction to Programming & Game Design (IPGD): Learn creative thinking and computing through visual and text-based programming; develop interactive, animated games, and explore physical computing

Musical Stage Productions: For students interested in singing, acting & dancing; students will learn about musical theatre and how to organize, develop, & perform a production Students may repeat this course each year..

***Introduction to Drama:** This course is a fun and engaging orientation in all aspects of theater including movement, vocal work, acting, scene work, monologue presentations and technical elements. Students will build on any prior knowledge of acting or enjoy developing new skills. ***Must take Intro. to Drama prior to taking Drama Productions.**

***Drama Productions:** Ensemble building, set design, light design, costume design, props construction, sound design, play production, monologues, scene work, criticism, video/commercial production. Students will be required to participate in some element of a main stage production (actor/actress, stage manager, sound, costume, lighting, makeup, stage crew, etc.). Some after-school rehearsals are required. Student may repeat this course in 7th & 8th grade ***Must take Intro. to Drama prior to taking Drama Productions.**

Middle School Public Speaking: Build communication & presentation skills, self-confidence, leadership & team-building (group projects, speech writing & presenting, reinforcement of grammar & spelling)

Readers' Roundtable: Encourages appreciation for reading both printed & online material; whole group & individual reading by choice

Writers' Roundtable: Creative writing for a variety of purposes (fairytales, mysteries, song lyrics, greeting cards); peer editing

Introduction to Forensic Science: Mixture of traditional classroom teaching, learning & hands-on activities dealing with fictional crime scenes

Criminal Justice: Covers the legal side of forensic science---the legal process, current event case studies, mock court trials with witnesses, jurors, lawyers & judges

Make it Your Business: Students design, establish, and operate a small-group or class business, producing a service or product. Students learn about business terminology, entrepreneurship, and basic business principles.