



KEY PENINSULA MIDDLE SCHOOL

7TH & 8TH GRADE ELECTIVES

You may select either one year long elective and one trimester elective OR 4 trimester electives. Just in case your top choice doesn't work with your schedule, you will also choose 3 alternates.

YEAR LONG ELECTIVES

SPANISH: High School Credit 8TH GRADE STUDENTS ONLY: This course introduces reading, understanding, speaking and writing basic Spanish using TPRS (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling), a conversational technique is used to introduce students to language that is useful in real context. The course emphasizes reading comprehension and writing for cultural understanding, accurate pronunciation, and oral conversation. The cultures of the Americas and Spain will be introduced through the use of stories, films, music, games, and recognition of significant dates and celebrations.

BAND: Beginning Band welcomes all students interested in learning to play an instrument. No previous musical experience is necessary.

INTERMEDIATE BAND: Intermediate Band performs at several events throughout the year including concerts at the school, assemblies, band festivals, field trips and parades. Both Intermediate Band and Advanced Band are for second- and third-year band students and placement in these bands is based on instructor approval and playing ability. Some school instruments are available for those students who cannot rent or purchase their own. Playing in the band is a one-year commitment.

ADVANCED BAND: Advanced Band performs at several events throughout the year including concerts at the school, assemblies, band festivals, field trips and parades. Both Intermediate Band and Advanced Band are for third-year band students and placement is based on instructor approval and playing ability. Some school instruments are available for those students who cannot rent or purchase their own. Playing in the band is a one-year commitment.

CHOIR: Do you love to sing? Do you want to make incredible friends and make music with them? All students are welcome, no previous singing experience required. Music will change your life! Join the choir and learn how to improve your singing voice, music reading skills and musicianship. We will perform at several events at the school and in the community. Singing in the choir is a one-year commitment.

AVID: AVID is a program that helps students to focus on their goals and improve their grades for high school/college readiness. Weekly binder checks and note taking strategies help students to achieve their short- and long-term goals. The purpose of AVID is to teach students impactful skills to improve their academic performance. **Admin-pre-approval required. This class is by invitation only and students must complete an application.**

YEAR LONG COUGAR ACADEMIES

Year Long Cougar Academies are by application or invitation only. You will receive a link to a Google Form to express your interest in Leadership or Desktop Publishing. Jazz Band has an audition process which is coordinated by Ms. Kaal.

LEADERSHIP: Leadership develops the skills and knowledge necessary for effective leadership. Students will learn about different leadership styles and how to apply them in various situations. They will also explore the qualities of effective leaders and learn how to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with others. The class will also include activities and discussions that encourage students to think critically and creatively about leadership. Additionally, the class will give students the opportunity to practice and develop their leadership skills through group projects and community service opportunities. **Students must complete an application.**

DESKTOP PUBLISHING (Formally known as Yearbook) Help capture memories of the school year and learn about a variety of software by participating in Yearbook! Desktop Publishing: Yearbook teaches students how to use tools such as Adobe InDesign and Photoshop to design, layout and edit photos for a yearbook. Students will learn basics of typography, color theory, and composition. Additionally, students will learn how to organize, schedule and coordinate a yearbook project, and develop their creativity to produce a high-quality yearbook. **Students must complete an application.**

JAZZ BAND: Ms. Kaal will reach out to students directly

This jazz band course is designed for middle school students to learn the basics of jazz ensemble performance, including improvisation, swing rhythms, and stylistic elements of jazz. Students will learn to play jazz standards, perform in concerts and study the history and cultural significance of jazz music. **By invitation only.**

TRIMESTER ELECTIVES

APP CREATORS: App Creators introduces students to the field of computer science and the concepts of computational thinking, through the creation of mobile apps. Students are challenged to be creative and innovative, as they collaboratively design and develop mobile solutions to engaging, authentic problems. Students

experience the positive impact of the application of computer science to society as well as other disciplines, particularly biomedical science. It is a good idea to take Computer Science for Innovators and Makers first if you can!

BEGINNING ART: This class introduces the visual arts for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Students will experience a wide variety of media used by visual artists including pen and ink drawing, watercolor painting, linoleum cut printing and pottery. The history of art styles will also be introduced. Students learn about the elements of art and the principles of design through a variety of hands-on projects and activities such as sketching/drawing, painting, plastic sculpture, graphic design, and clay/ceramics.

ADVANCED ART: Students will continue along their creative journey, incorporating fundamental elements of Visual Art taught in Beginning Art, while building skills with new mediums and furthering project sophisticated and conceptualization. Students will learn a little about art history and how to evaluate art.

CAD- Computer Aided Design: The goal of this exploratory class is to inspire a new generation of engineers and architects. In this class students will learn to use industry-standard 3-D modeling software and apply the engineering design process to solve real world problems. The course emphasizes critical thinking, creativity, innovation, computer-generated technical drawings, and the use of computer-controlled rapid prototyping equipment (like 3-D printers) to construct models of design solutions. No prerequisite required.

COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR INNOVATORS & MAKERS: Computer Science for Innovators and Makers teaches students that programming goes beyond the virtual world into the physical world. Students are challenged to creatively use sensors and actuators to develop systems that interact with their environment. Designing algorithms and using computational thinking practices, they code and upload programs to microcontrollers that perform a variety of authentic tasks. These units broaden students' understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications. Teams select and solve a personally relevant problem related to wearable technology, interactive art, or mechanical devices

DESIGN AND MODELING: Design and Modeling provides students opportunities to apply the design and engineering process to creatively solve problems. You will work on your own and in teams to communicate design ideas through sketches and models. Students will understand how models can be simulated to represent real situations and generate data for further analysis and adjustment to ideas.

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Students are challenged to think big and look toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. Students design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption. Learn how creative thinking and problem solving can change your world!

FLIGHT AND SPACE: The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. Students solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars. Get ready to take off! Investigate, innovate, and use creative thinking and problem solving to learn how scientists and engineers make traveling around the globe and beyond possible

ROBOTIC ENGINEERING: This course is a hands on introduction to the field of robotics which brings together computer science and engineering. Students will work in small teams to build robots using Lego robot building kits and program them using microcontrollers. They will have the opportunity to complete multiple investigations involving inquiry and guided research, problem solving and integrating math, science and technology as it relates to programming robots, using NXT software and hardware to navigate their environment.

INTRO TO MANUFACTURING: Students who like creating and building, operating traditional machines like a scroll saw and high-tech tools like a laser cutter/engraver and working with their hands and mind are sure to enjoy this class? Intro to Manufacturing Technology I covers product design and development, measuring tools and layout, fabrication processes, safety practices and quality control. This course primarily deals with woodworking, although other materials such as plastic or composites will be introduced. No prerequisite required.

MEDICAL DETECTIVES: Become medical detectives and solve medical mysteries! Apply experimental design, creative thinking, and problem-solving to investigate the inner-workings of the human body, diagnose disease, and improve human health. In this new course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. Students will also have the chance to solve forensic mysteries playing the role of a crime scene investigator that may include sketching a crime scene, lifting fingerprints, creating casts of shoe or tire prints, and analyzing an array of evidence in field and lab settings

MULTI-MEDIA PRODUCTIONS: Learn how to create and use digital media! You will learn how to produce graphics, images, advertisements, movies, and multimedia displays. Students will use software programs including Scratch, PowerPoint, Google Docs, WeVideo and Photoshop. Students also will use a variety of online multimedia tools to create YouTube videos, explore Stop Motion Animation, write computer code, and investigate other forms of media that professionals use. Students will learn the basic operation of digital still and video cameras. This course requires critical thinking, information literacy, communication proficiency, and self- and peer- evaluation. Students will move beyond the basics of digital still and video cameras to work with Digital Photo, Graphic Design, Virtual Reality Design, Digital Video, Computer Coding, App Development, enter media contests, and explore careers in media.