



8th Grade Course Selections

COURSE SELECTION: Your required classes have already been completed for you in the table below. In **lines 6 and 7** please list your TOP choices for elective courses. You can either choose three semester courses or one semester course and a year-long course. If you choose a year-long course, please write it in line 7 and draw a line through the entire box. The exploratory choices are listed below.

Semester One		Semester Two	
1.	Math		
2.	English Language Arts		
3.	Science		
4.	Social Studies		
5.	Pathways (Description on back)		
6.	Physical Education (this may be scheduled for semester 2)	6.	
7.		7.	

I would like to be contacted about the possibility of advanced courses for my student.

ALTERNATES: Please understand, based on enrollment numbers and limited course availability, **we cannot guarantee** you will be assigned your top choices. Class availability and size will determine your placement. Please indicate below your top three alternate choices.

Alternate Semester or Year-long Classes	
1.	
2.	
3.	

Exploratory Courses Available: (See back for descriptions)

(all explo classes are semester-long classes unless noted)

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Art | Beyond Basic Spanish | Intro to FACS |
| Band (year-long course) | Digital Media Applications | Spanish I (year-long course) |
| Beyond Basic French | Engineering Technology | Vocal Music (year-long or semester course) |
| | | Theater and Communications |

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

The complete Program Planning and Course Guide can be found in the Counselor section in the Enrollment Information folder on the MCMS website: <https://www.usd232.org/domain/359>

Exploratory Courses

(all expo classes are semester-long classes unless noted)

Art – Eighth grade art is a semester course that continues to expose students to the Elements of Art but also addresses the Principles of Design: balance, emphasis, rhythm, contrast, pattern, movement, and unity. In addition, production, art history, aesthetics, and art criticism will be integrated throughout the curriculum.

Band – *Year-long course.* Eighth grade Band is a year-long class that meets daily. It is a continuation of the band curriculum begun in 5th grade. By 8th grade, students have developed many of the skills necessary to play an instrument and begin working on advanced skills and concepts. These include mixed meter, extended ranges, composition, music theory, ensemble technique, and musicality. 8th Grade Band students have a varied number of required performances throughout the year.

Beyond Basic French – This introductory course will prepare students for further language study in high school French I. We will look at cultures of the French-speaking world, descriptive vocabulary and basic grammatical structures.

Beyond Basic Spanish – This introductory course will prepare students for further language study in high school Spanish I. We will look at cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, descriptive vocabulary and basic grammatical structures.

Vocal Music – *Year-long or semester course.* 8th grade Vocal Music is a comprehensive performance-based program that meets every day for either a semester or the entire school year. Choral skills and concepts covered in 6th & 7th grades will be expanded upon through study and performance of advanced choral literature. Students will be required to perform in 2 evening performances as well as a myriad of other performance opportunities such as assemblies, community service trips, festivals/competitions, etc. There will be specific concert attire suggestions that might require a small fee (t-shirt, black/white apparel, etc.)

Computer Applications – In this semester course, students will advance their skills in the Microsoft Office applications covered in previous sections. Students will also be exposed to Microsoft Access and learn to navigate through a database. Throughout the semester, students will be given opportunities to create and edit photos in Adobe Photoshop and also will edit video clips to create a video production using Adobe Premier Pro. Additionally, students will use Web 2.0 tools for collaboration and communication with teachers and classmates.

Engineering Technology – In this 8th grade course, students will study the design and manufacture of structures and the materials involved; alternative power sources such as solar, nuclear, and geothermal, and the programming and control of a robot. Hands-on activities include building a tent, columns, structures and bridges and testing them for weight capacity, creating and racing a CO2 powered car, a computer software drafting project, circuit board design, and creating hydrogen for use in a fuel cell. All topics incorporate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) as well as reading, mathematics, and research. This is an eighteen week course.

Intro to FACS (Family and Consumer Science) – In this semester course, students will focus on developing the skills needed to successfully balance relationships and responsibilities in family, career, and community life. Course units will be focused on: career exploration, money management and consumer skills, family structures and functions in society, parenting styles and developmental milestones of children, nutrition and food selection, healthy lifestyle choices, food safety, meal planning and preparation techniques. Students will participate in numerous cooking labs as well as construct an intermediate level sewing project.

Spanish I – *Year-long course.* This class is designed to be the first in a series of five classes that can be taken through high school. The two main objectives in this Spanish class are: (1) to help students attain an acceptable degree of proficiency in the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing; and (2) to present the language with the context of contemporary Spanish speaking world and its culture. Students will become aware of the variety of Spanish speaking world from South American to Caribbean, from Mexico and Central America to Europe.

Theater/Communications -- This course helps students strengthen their effectiveness in presenting and performing for an audience, as well as, developing critical thinking and listening skills. During the theater units, students study acting styles, develop performance and directing skills, and increase their understanding and appreciation of theater. During the communications units, students learn techniques for public speaking and presentations. Students will gain confidence, learn how to overcome stage fright and become effective communicators.

Pathways – Pathways is a cross-curricular course. Students build 21st century skills through critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, and creativity. Themes and subjects explored in this course introduce students to Individual Plans of Study, which allow them an opportunity to explore educational and career paths that align with their interests. According to the Kansas State Department of Education, the Individual Plan of Study "includes development of a flexible career focus and an education plan that is clearly-defined, rigorous, and relevant to assure a successful and efficient transition to postsecondary education and/or the work-force." Additional units of study include self-exploration, project-based learning and use of the Career Cruising program.

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