

2024-2025 Elective and World Language Descriptions

7th Grade Elective Options

7th grade Science

Experimental Explorations: Unraveling the Unknown

Students will explore various aspects of scientific inquiry (i.e. hypothesis formulation, experimental design, data collection and analysis, interpretation of results) through hands-on experimentation. This elective aims to foster a deep understanding of the scientific process and its role in advancing knowledge and solving real-world problems.

Inside Out: Exploring Invertebrate Bodies and Functions

Students will gain an understanding of the body systems that enable invertebrate organisms to survive in their respective environments through dissections and inquiry. This course will use a comparative approach in which students study multiple organisms to discover the ways in which different species carry out essential life functions.

Physical Phenomena in Action

Students will delve into the two primary branches of physical science: chemistry and physics. The course includes an introduction to the fundamental concepts of physics and chemistry. Students will apply these concepts through hands-on experiments of everyday phenomena.

Exploring Our Planet: Environmental Science

Students will understand the environment, ecosystems, and their role in impacting the Earth. Students learn through interactive lessons, research, hands-on experiments, and outdoor explorations. This course helps connect students with their local environment and equip them to make decisions and take actions that contribute to stronger, sustainable, and equitable communities.

7th Grade Social Studies:

History's Mysteries and Conspiracies

Take a journey and explore history's mysteries and conspiracies. Students will use critical thinking to examine evidence and what really happened while developing the skill of separating fact from fiction. Students will become historians while investigating student and teacher selected topics ranging from determining who built the pyramids to the Assassination of JFK.

Intro to Psychology

Enter the world of human behavior by examining how you satisfy your needs. This course is designed to begin to understand how you behave, satisfy your needs, express your emotions and resolve conflicts.

You will be introduced to defense mechanisms and why you use them as well as looking at two specific learning models (Pavlov and Skinner).

Current Events

The world is ever changing. By examining the current events of the day, students will explore a number of various topics that are at the forefront of the news. This course is designed to inform students of what is going on in the world they live in. Combined with a mini unit on the evaluation of evidence, topics will be both teacher and student led.

Influential Americans

In this course students will discover how America was shaped and who was at the forefront of that process. Henry Ford, Martin Luther King Jr., and Amelia Earhart are only a few of the titans that helped change the world we live in. Students will be able to select, research, and present information about people who radically changed our culture and thinking. After completing the course, students will understand how ordinary people were able to do extraordinary things and the lasting impact they have had on American culture.

7th Grade General Music Elective

iCompose: Intro to GarageBand

“iCompose: Intro to GarageBand” teaches students the art of composing and orchestrating melodies using GarageBand for iPad. Students will explore the fundamentals of crafting melodies and learn how to use musical structures and orchestration techniques to develop original compositions. Practical exercises guide students in exploring rhythm, melody, and the layering of sounds to develop essential skills in contemporary music production.

8th Grade Elective Options

8th Grade Science

Infinity and Beyond- Explore space

"One small step for man, one giant leap for mankind". We have reached the moon, but what is next? Students will investigate the criteria and constraints to explore the moon, Mars and even beyond. Students will participate in brainstorming, researching, and experimenting to better understand future space exploration.

Science Olympics

Students will investigate key concepts in science and engineering and participate in Science Olympiad type activities. The course will focus on measurement and data collection techniques. Research, investigation, and problem solving will be implemented through hands on investigations and challenges.

Harnessing Energy from the Environment

Students will explore energy sources from the atmosphere and earth. Students will build, create and analyze different sources such as solar, wind and geothermal. Students will learn through hands-on experiments, research and current data.

Climate Super Solutions for the Future

This course offers a chance to dive deeper into climate issues and solutions for the future. Students will explore climate data and evidence, mitigation and adaptation strategies. Students will learn through interactive lessons, research and hands-on projects and outdoor explorations.

8th Grade Social Studies

Archaeology

This course offers an engaging and hands-on exploration of the mysteries buried beneath our feet. Students embark on a captivating journey through time as they learn to uncover and interpret the remnants of past civilizations. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of archaeology and the importance of artifacts in reconstructing historical narratives. The course not only fosters critical thinking skills but also encourages a deep appreciation for cultural heritage and the significance of preserving our shared human history. Students emerge with a newfound sense of curiosity, equipped with the tools to unravel the secrets of the past.

The Corps of Discovery: Lewis and Clark and the Great Adventure of the 19th Century

It has been called the 19th Century equivalent to the Landing on the Moon. An expedition unlike no other, into a great western territory where it was thought dinosaurs still may roam. In this course students will embark on an exciting journey through American history, exploring the renowned expedition led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. This course will delve into the motivations behind the Corps of Discovery, their interactions with diverse Native American tribes, the challenges they faced in navigating uncharted territories, and the invaluable contributions of Sacagawea to the success of the expedition. Through engaging discussions, primary source investigations, and multimedia resources, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the historical context, geographical discoveries, and cultural exchanges that shaped this groundbreaking exploration. By the end of the course, students will have a heightened appreciation for the courage, resilience, and impact of the Lewis and Clark expedition on the development of the United States.

Minecraft and the Exploration of the Civil War

Through the use of Minecraft students will conduct an in-depth investigation of the social, economic, and political effects of the American Civil War. The application will provide opportunities for students to recreate events and technological advancements of this significant event in our country's history.

Freedom is not Free: The Human Toll of Change

When the status quo only serves those with a say, how can society be challenged? This course delves into the profound history of the American Abolitionist Movement. It explores its origins, key figures, strategies, and lasting impact on American society. Students will study the socio-political climate that rationalized slavery along with the multifaceted efforts that helped abolish slavery in America. Learn more about the price we pay to push for progress and how to persevere through those who push back against it.

8th Grade general Music Elective

iCompose: Film Scoring

"iCompose: Film Scoring" immerses middle school students in the art of creating music for movies. Throughout this course, students explore the relationship between music and film, learning the fundamentals of composing, arranging, and storytelling through music. Through hands-on projects in GarageBand for iPad and other collaborative activities, students develop a foundational understanding of the crucial role music plays in enhancing cinematic experiences.

7th and 8th Grade Instrumental Music Electives –

Band & Orchestra

The Instrumental Music Ensembles at Great Valley Middle School aim to cultivate and nurture individual musicianship in students and foster ensemble skills on string, wind, and percussion instruments. Students are encouraged to excel regardless of their proficiency level, engaging in the exploration and performance of diverse music from a variety of genres, styles, and cultures. Our goal is to provide a valuable and enjoyable musical experience that instills a life-long appreciation and understanding of instrumental music among students.

Choral Music Elective

The Middle School Choral Program provides opportunities for students to sing in a formal ensemble. The Choral Program emphasizes and expands upon skills learned during the elementary school experience with a focus on proper posture, breath control, vocal projection and quality, intonation, and music reading skills. Students are encouraged to excel regardless of their proficiency level, engaging in the exploration and performance of diverse music from a variety of genres, styles, and cultures. Our goal is to provide a valuable and enjoyable musical experience that instills a life-long appreciation and understanding of choral music among students.
