

MRIS 7th Grade Elective Course Descriptions and Registration for 2024-2025



Dear Parent or Guardian,

In seventh grade, your student will attend an **Encore Elective** class of their choice every other day for 60 minutes and an **E/I Elective** class of their choice every other day for 30 minutes. As we begin planning for the next school year, it is time to work with your student to choose his or her electives (one 60-minute Encore Elective and one 30-minute E/I Elective). Please read the course descriptions with your child, and together choose electives for next year.

MRIS 7th Grade Encore Elective Course Descriptions (30 Minutes, Every Other Day)

Band

Band students will explore and perform more challenging music refining the fundamentals of the instrument. This level of music will encourage higher intellect, cross-curricular support, learning the pursuit of excellence in music and have that transfer to life skills. Much attention is given to LEADERSHIP development. Grades 2, 3, and sometimes 4 music is explored, learned, and performed. First-year band students in 7th grade are required to register for the 30-minute E/I Elective Instrumental Enrichment class, which allows for everyday music instruction for our beginning musicians. Also, any student joining band in the 7th grade for the first time, having missed 5th and 6th grade band will need private lessons on their instrument in order to catch up with the more experienced students in the band class. While a beginner will always take both the 60 minute Encore Band class AND the 30 minute Encore E/I Instrumental Enrichment class, all band students are highly encouraged to enroll in both classes for the advancement of our band program.

Orchestra

In 7th grade orchestra, students develop the skills to prepare them to participate in Junior Orchestra Clinic. These skills include improved sight-reading, more advanced tone production, and development of more advanced shifting to encompass all of the 2-octave major scales. **First-year** orchestra students in 7th grade are **required** to register for the 30-minute Encore E/I Instrumental Enrichment class which allows for everyday music instruction for our beginning musicians. Orchestra students that take Orchestra everyday will be considered for Chamber Orchestra and participate in orchestra competitions.

Chorus/Drama

The MRIS Chorus/Drama program has a long-standing tradition of excellence! Next year, we will look forward to putting on a play (just acting, no singing), AND a musical (with singing). Some students will have the opportunity to work as a “techie” and help with behind the scenes play production such as lights, sound, stage managing, etc. Our production titles for next year are TBA- but in the past we have enjoyed presenting productions such as “Aladdin, Jr.”, “Annie, Jr.”, “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”, and more! We hope you can join us and make memories that will last a lifetime!

Art

Want to learn how to draw realistically, sculpt with clay, shade a still life, and carve a plate for printmaking? This is the class where you will start learning the tricks of the trade to making your art more realistic and creative. Many artists from old to new will be studied to help us develop our work. This is the class that does the pet portraits on canvas, makes masks out of plaster and we do a self-portrait. You don't want to miss taking art in 7th grade!

STEM

In this automation and robotics class, students learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, automation, and computer control systems. Students find solutions to various challenges using the Vex robotics platform by designing, building, and programming multiple mechanisms. An engineering notebook is used to document and capture their ideas and showcase their creative solutions.

MRIS 7th Grade E/I Elective Course Descriptions (30 Minutes, Every Other Day)

Instrumental Enrichment

Band students choosing this class must also be registered for Band for their 60 minute Encore Elective class. **First-year band students are required to take this class.** This 30 minute E/I Elective is an opportunity to prepare for wind ensemble, junior band clinic, explore jazz, and commit to a higher skill level. While a beginner will always take both the 60 minute Encore Band class AND the 30-minute Instrumental Enrichment class, all band students are highly encouraged to enroll in both band classes as for the advancement of our band program.

Orchestra students choosing this class must also be registered for Orchestra for their 60 minute Encore Elective class. **First-year orchestra students are required to take this class.** This 30 minute E/I Elective is an opportunity to prepare for chamber orchestra, explore alternative styles (fiddle, jazz), and commit to a higher skill level.

Art - Project-based

If drawing is your thing, sign up for the Art E and I. In this class you will learn how to draw a face realistically, do zentangles, perfect your shading skills as well as work on other drawing techniques.

Creative Music

Creative music students may choose from keyboard, ukulele, or guitar. We will learn how to play the basic chord structures in contemporary music such as pop, rock, folk, etc. Guitar and ukulele students learn how to read tablature, and keyboarding students play some “pop” piano and some traditional style. We hope you can join our class!

Leadworthy

The goal of this course is to inspire, challenge, and encourage students to be leaders in the school and the community. Leadworthy II students will continue to develop critical skills such as personal responsibility, communication, and decision-making skills. Students will be given many opportunities to apply their leadership skills that will stretch them out of their comfort zones. Students will spend many days out of the classroom serving in different capacities around the school. If you would like to take this course and did not participate in Leadworthy I, you must send Mr. Miller a brief email explaining why you want to be a student leader. Please send emails to Jeremy.miller@maryville-schools.org. Please note that students must maintain the recommendation of teachers by exhibiting appropriate behavior and by demonstrating leadership skills in order to participate in this course.

Academic Success (Sped) and/or Intervention

Students who qualify for Academic Success and/or Intervention classes will be placed in one or both electives, depending on the level of intervention the student qualifies for.

Changing Electives

Elective choices may be changed during the first two weeks of the school year. After this time, we ask that students honor their elective choice.

MRIS 7th Grade Elective Registration for the 2024-2025 School-Year

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Step 1: Choose Your Encore Elective

In the event your 1st Choice may be full, please select both a 1st and 2nd Choice.

Check 1 st Choice	ENCORE ELECTIVE CLASSES 60 Minutes, <i>every other day</i>	Check 2 nd Choice
	Band	
	Orchestra	
	Chorus/Drama	
	STEM	
	Art	

Step 2: Choose Your Encore E/I Elective

In the event your 1st Choice may be full, please select both a 1st and 2nd Choice.

Check 1 st Choice	E/I Elective Class 30 Minutes, <i>every other day</i>	Check 2 nd Choice
	Instrumental Enrichment: Instrumental Enrichment is required for 1 st year Band/Orchestra students. Also, band students must have selected Band as their 60-minute Encore Elective and orchestra students must have selected Orchestra as their 60-minute Encore Elective.	
	Art: Project-Based	
	Creative Music	
	Leadworthy	

Step 3:

To register your child's Elective Selection, please e-mail this page
or the information on this page to DeRhonda Travis at

derhonda.travis@maryville-schools.org

