

Colony Middle School 8th-Grade Course Descriptions

Acting & Theater (600020) – 2nd SM Only *Not Repeatable*

This is a two-part class spread over the semester. Part 1 is drama acting. Students will spend a large chunk of the class's 1st half working on and improving their acting skills, developing character, understanding and analyzing scripts, and developing working relationships with other actors. There will be games, role-playing, and written character work that will be part of the class. Part 2 is the musical theater part of the class. Students will learn about the ins and outs of musical theater by working to create a complete scene from a show. Students will learn how to audition and deal with costumes, lights, audio, set design, actor blocking, stage timing, and other aspects of theater work. Students will be broken into small groups to create an entire scene from a show and present it to the class. They will have a “director” and “actors” with “stagehands” in their group. They will develop the blocking, light design, sound designs, and choreographing for the scene they are working on. Material is still being picked. We are even looking for students with art skills for making sets, working stage equipment, and many other aspects of theater.

Advanced Band (709010 & 709020) – YR

The class works on developing skills on the student's instrument while learning about many aspects of music (notation reading, history, playing in different styles, etc...). The advanced band is for students who have already completed level 1 and level 2 playing material from the previous year(s).

Advanced Choir (718010 & 718020) – YR

The class works on developing singing skills while learning about many aspects of music (notation reading, history, singing in different styles, etc.).

Art (618000) – SM

Students interested in the study of art will experiment with various materials and processes using many two- and three-dimensional art forms, such as drawing, painting, textile/fibers, printmaking, digital art and design, and ceramics. Emphasis is placed on learning and application of the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Students should expect appropriate reading, writing, and vocabulary and study art history and contemporary visual arts.

Family Consumer Science & Technologies (648100) – SM

Rotates through several content areas: foods, finance, computers, and child development. The kitchen unit covers correctly and safely using kitchen equipment to prepare introductory recipes from scratch while demonstrating correct food handling, sanitation, and kitchen terminology. In finance, students will practice financial skills by completing a draft resume, basic budgeting sheets, an introduction to online banking, and more: basic computer skills, coding, typing, digital citizenship, and web design. Students have a creative unit where they can choose from a list of options while meeting requirements (animation, stop motion, textile, app/game, interior design, or story/toy). Child development covers middle school-appropriate topics mentioned in health, with brief coverage of the time before, in the womb, and at birth facts. The focus of the child development unit is to cover stages of development in the early years, basic safety and care, and associated costs.

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Guitar (710010) – 1st SM Only *Not Repeatable*

This music class is for students who play guitar (electric or acoustic) or electric bass. The class will be divided by ability levels, and students will work in groups on pieces of music to perform. Students will be working on proper techniques, learning to read traditional music notation and TAB notation (chord symbols), and working in a team setting. Performances will be in class and possibly for other classes in our school.

Leadership (611000) – SM

Leadership is a course in which students develop personal and professional business skills. They learn to build a healthy self-concept and healthy relationships and understand the concept of personal responsibility. They will develop an understanding of emotional intelligence and the skills it measures, including self-awareness, self-control, self-motivation, and social skills. Students will practice public speaking and communication skills and gain an understanding of their image. They will develop an understanding of principle-based decision-making and form their mission statement. Additionally, they will develop an understanding of the effects of peer pressure and skills to counteract those effects. This course will enable students to become better family members and citizens through everyday leadership.

Orchestra (769010 & 769020) – YR

This class is for 6th to 8th-grade students interested in string instruments (violin, violin, and cello) (Upright Bass is also possible but expensive). The class works on developing skills on the student's instrument while learning about many aspects of music (notation reading, history, playing in different styles, etc...). Advanced players (with at least one full year of playing experience) will work on full literature at the start of the school year.

Physical Education (581010 & 581020) – YR

Basic rules, strategies, and tactics of team, dual, and individual sports are taught and practiced. Students assess the benefits of lifetime involvement in physical fitness activities. Sportsmanship is applied and supported in competitive and recreational activities. Proper use and care of equipment are taught and practiced, as well as safety, rules, and procedures. The 6 National Physical Education Standards are implemented in the physical education program.

Spanish 1 (6211M/6212M) – YR

This course introduces the Spanish language, emphasizing spoken language, listening comprehension, and elementary reading and writing skills. Units introduce the culture of the target language. Student participation and good attendance are critical elements to completing this course successfully. High school credit may be earned for the successful completion of this course. This course is for two semesters.

STEM (958000) – SM

STEM focuses on learning engineering and the design process engineers and inventors use to improve and create new products. Students will create various hands-on projects using the tools available in class. They will receive instruction on correctly and safely using various power tools such as the bandsaw, scroll saw, drill press, and belt/disk sander. Students will be introduced to planning and design work using a 3D modeling program called Onshape. They will create various projects throughout the semester. These may include but are not limited to basic woodworking, CO2 cars, flight, electronics, and more.