

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVE DESCRIPTION FORM

(2024-2025)

**\*\*Course offerings are subject to change based on space, availability, staffing, etc.\*\***

### **AIM (Year)**

AIM is a year-long elective specifically for students who want to go to college. The class will provide academic support for your classes and teach the organizational skills needed to succeed. Students will also learn about what it takes to get to college and research different colleges. If college is for you, this class is for you. Topics also include effective note-taking skills, study techniques, and writing skills.

### **CTE Arts Pathway: Art (Semester)/Music-Guitar(Semester)**

**Beginning Art** is an introductory, exploratory course offered for students who have little or no previous art experience. Students are introduced to elements of art and principles of design through the manipulation of basic art media such as pencil, crayon, ink, paint, paper, wood, wire, and clay. They will become aware of art's influences on history, culture, and its place in our society. **Music(Guitar)** is a course that offers beginning students an opportunity to learn to play the guitar. It includes reading guitar music from musical staff, guitar tablature, and chords. No previous knowledge of music or guitar is necessary. The students will learn to play songs in a group setting.

### **Advanced Band (Year)**

Mesa Robles' outstanding band program requires, from all students, commitment to practice and attendance during all performances. Students who have their own instruments are encouraged to use their own. However, instruments may be provided by the school.

### **Beginning Band (Year)**

This class is specifically designed for students who have no previous band experience and for students who have elementary band experience. Beginning/Intermediate Band is limited to wind players (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, baritone, trombone, and tuba).

### **Chinese (Year)**

This is an introductory language and culture course in which the basic communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are taught and practiced. The students will acquire the essential Chinese language survival skills needed to function at a minimum level in the classroom, playground, local community, and countries where the Chinese language is spoken. The objective of this course is to prepare students with a solid foundation in Chinese so that students will develop the necessary skills and confidence and be ready to move on to further study.

### **Concert Chorus – Sound-Sations (Year) – open to 7th and 8th grade students only**

This award-winning group serves as the ambassadors for Mesa Robles and the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District. The group travels to festivals, competitions, and performances. Members must have at least one year of experience in any of the other choirs or have instrumental musical experience. Students must be dedicated and disciplined and be willing to cooperate with others. An audition and the director's signature/approval are required.

### **Intermediate Band (Year)**

Mesa Robles' outstanding band program requires, from all students, commitment to practice and attendance during all performances. Students who have their own instruments are encouraged to use their own. However, instruments may be provided by the school.

### **Intermediate Chorus – Mustang Singers (Year) – open to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students**

This class is open to those students who have some musical training. Students must be able to match pitch and know something about reading notes. Mustang Singers participate in school performances and attend a spring festival. During performances, students wear a choir t-shirt and black pants. A brief audition and the director's signature are required.

### **Introduction to Spanish Language and Culture (Year) – open to 7th and 8th grade students only**

This is an introductory language and culture course in Spanish designed for beginners who have little or no previous experience or background in Spanish. Cultural activities will be arranged to enhance students' language acquisition and cultural awareness. This course will be in line with the 5 Cs of the World-Readiness Standards: Communication (listening, speaking, reading, and writing), Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities.

### **Project Lead the Way (PLTW) – Medical Detective/Automation & Robotics (Year)**

During 1st semester in medical detective, 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. During 2<sup>nd</sup> semester on automation & robotics, students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotics arms.

### **Robotics (Year)**

Robotics challenges students to design, program, and build robots to complete simple tasks and solve increasingly complex challenges. We will learn and explore basic engineering principles (efficient design, organization, gears, levers), logic, and simple programming. Students will be required to stay on task and behave respectfully at all times. Each student will sign a code of conduct and will need signed parent permission forms that will be handed out on the first day of class. We will be working with the LEGO Mindstorms EV3 system.

### **Student Government – ASB (Year)**

Students plan school activities (dances, rallies, etc), class competitions, spirit days, and fundraisers to help fund the school activities and are in

charge of the Student Store. These leaders will also plan ways to help the community like the Toys for Tots program, collecting food to donate to a homeless shelter, and setting up recycling programs. In class, students would be divided up into committees to plan the different events and activities (including Mustang Message and Career Day). The applicant must meet a yearlong 2.5 GPA requirement.

**Teacher Aide (Year)**

Students support academic preparation for a classroom teacher OR library on the Mesa Robles campus (maybe an elementary or middle school teacher). If you want to TA for a specific teacher or the librarian you must obtain the requested teacher's recommendation/approval/consent via email. Students must send that email recommendation/approval/consent to Mrs. Smith at [mshearer@hlpusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:mshearer@hlpusd.k12.ca.us) by 5/20/24. This elective also requires an overall 3.0 GPA. In addition, students who are given this elective must abide by and sign a contract to fulfill these course requirements.

**Office Aide (Year)**

Students perform a variety of clerical tasks in the office, including greeting guests at the counter. This elective requires an overall 3.0 GPA. In addition, students who are given this elective must abide by and sign a contract to fulfill these course requirements.

**Web Design/Publication/Photography (Year)**

Students will learn the elements of web design leading to a yearlong creation of content and continual updates of websites. Students will contribute to these websites by attending school events and writing, editing, and publishing school-related news stories. Students will learn and apply the elements of design as it pertains to photography, completing several assignments that will culminate in their photography being published in both the yearbook and websites. Students must complete an application with 2 teacher recommendations and receive approval to be admitted into this course. The applicant must meet a yearlong 2.5 GPA requirement.