

Encore Course Descriptions:

ART

In grade eight, students demonstrate increased technical skill and craftsmanship by using more complex drawing, painting, and digital processes to create artwork. Students engage in project critiques to personally assess their progress and successful manipulation of materials and application of the skills taught. Over the course of the semester students will maintain an artist's portfolio demonstrating their artistic growth and the evolution of their creative process. As part of the eighth grade curriculum students will participate in a digital photography unit in which they study the five compositional rules of photography. They will present their photographic body of work in the form of a digital portfolio.

CHOIR

Eighth grade chorus is an elective course open to all students who desire the opportunity to sing in a large choral ensemble. The chorus sings three-part music with the women divided as Soprano and Altos and the men singing Tenor or Alto depending on what is most comfortable for their voice. The objectives of the choral program is to provide students an opportunity to enjoy choral music through active participation, to acquaint students with a wide variety of quality choral, solo, and ensemble literature, and represent the school in public performances.

BAND

8th grade band is a year-long elective course open to all students regardless of previous musical experience. The 8th grade band is the premier performing ensemble in the middle school instrumental music program. Students in this ensemble will develop their musical skills by performing a variety of musical literature of varied difficulty levels. The students in this class have a variety of different musical opportunities including participation in honor bands, solo and ensemble festival, Junior CYWE and many other options. This class meets in a full band setting three times per week and will have at least three concerts per year.

PERCUSSION

8th grade percussion is a year-long elective course that is an extension of 8th grade band. This class is designed for the percussion section of the 8th grade band and provides individualized instruction to this section of the band. Students in this class will cover a variety of literature in addition to that which is covered in full band class. Students will further develop techniques learned in previous years as well as develop advanced techniques through the study of solo and chamber literature. This ensemble will meet twice a week as a percussion section and once a week as part of the full band. This group will follow the same performance schedule as the full band.

GREEN ARCHITECTURE

Today's students have grown up in an age of "green" choices. In the Green Architecture (GA) unit, students learn how to apply this concept to the fields of architecture and construction by exploring dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability as they design affordable housing units using Autodesk® 123D® Design software.

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 robotic arms.

INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM SPORTS

This class will be participating in mostly competitive team and individual sports. Students in each class will have some type of conditioning and stretching routine and then they will actively play a team or individual sport. Students that do not participate will be removed from the class and sent back to study hall.

COMPUTER CODING

This course is for students who have an interest in how to make a computer, an app or a game work. Basic concepts of Scratch and HTML programming will be covered. Student interest and choice will somewhat drive the course content. This course will be a semester class.

STUDY HALL

Students in study hall may work on homework, group projects or study. Students are expected to bring work daily.