

Akimel A-al Middle School

8th Grade Elective Interest Sheet 2025-2026 School Year

Student First Name: _____ Student Last Name: _____

Grade: _____ Kyrene Student ID #: _____

Homeroom teacher: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

The elective interest sheet must be completed prior to entering information online. The online interest form will be completed at school in January. After the online interest form is complete, your teacher will collect the paper copy of the elective interest sheet.

Each eighth-grade student will be scheduled in four core courses (Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) based upon data, current course placement, and need. Students who are new to the Kyrene School District are given placement tests upon registration or placed based upon prior school records.

Students also have two elective class periods. Students may have 2 one year-long elective classes, 1 one year-long and 2 semester-long elective classes, or 4 semester-long elective classes.

This paper version of the form along with course descriptions will support families in expressing their elective interests. The form will be kept on file by the middle schools.

Priority is given for placement in year-long elective offerings. Rankings of semester-long elective options is an indication of a student's interests. Every effort will be made to honor the interests, however due to class size and teacher availability there can be no guarantee that every course will be offered or that the student will be placed in their classes of interest.

Primary Course Interest Options

Complete ONLY ONE box depending upon the length of your primary courses of interest.

2 one year-long courses Year-long course _____ Year-long course _____ _____	OR	1 one year-long and 2 semester-long courses Year-long course _____ Semester-long course _____ Semester-long course _____ _____	OR	4 semester-long courses Semester-long course _____ Semester-long course _____ Semester-long course _____ Semester-long course _____ _____
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Alternate Course Interest Options

List your alternate course interests in the space below. Alternates must be completed and will be used in the event that a course interest cannot be fulfilled. These alternates must be DIFFERENT from the courses listed above.

Alternate Course 1 _____

Alternate Course 2 _____

Alternate Course 3 _____

Alternate Course 4 _____

For Band and Orchestra

Instrument: _____ Years: _____

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – YEAR-LONG COURSES**AVID ELECTIVE**

AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Elective is a year-long course for 7th and 8th grade. Students in 7th and 8th grade must apply, interview, and sign a one-year AVID agreement. The focus of the course is on writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization and reading to support academic growth. Students receive training in effective study skills, such as note taking, organizational skills, and goal-setting strategies. Tutorials, small group student work, are held twice per week that are led by college students, other adults, peer tutors and/or cross-age tutors. Students also experience different field trips, guest speakers and research to increase their knowledge of college and career options. The concepts, strategies, and skills build in a sequenced curriculum so that students benefit from taking the AVID Elective across all three grade levels.

Prerequisites: none

BAND

Band is designed for students interested in learning the fundamentals of music and to play a band instrument: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. This course addresses basic instrumental skills, reading music, and elements of music in an ensemble setting. Students are required to practice regularly and participate in concerts through the school year. No prior knowledge or experience is required. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.

Prerequisites: none

BAND INTERMEDIATE

Students expand basic skills and techniques in playing a band instrument: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. Instruction is directed toward playing challenging music from a variety of styles and genres. Students are required to practice regularly and participate in concerts through the school year. The course is open to 7th and 8th graders with at least one year of playing experience. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.

Prerequisites: Band or teacher recommendation

BAND ADVANCED

Students expand basic skills and techniques on band instruments. Instruction is directed toward playing music that is more difficult from a variety of styles and genres. Students may be grouped by instrumentation including brass/woodwinds, percussion/woodwinds, brass only, or percussion only. Students are required to practice regularly and participate in concerts through the school year. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions.

Prerequisites: Band or teacher recommendation

CHORUS

Chorus is an entry-level course for students interested in learning how to sing. Basic fundamentals of music including sight-reading and vocabulary are introduced. Students sing music written in two parts and will learn elements of music theory and solfege. Students will focus on the technical aspects of singing in a choir and explore a variety of genres and cultures. Students are required to perform in concerts throughout the year.

Prerequisites: none

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ADVANCED

A more in-depth look at physical fitness, physical skill development and wellness concepts geared towards students that have prior working knowledge and experience with these concepts. This course is geared toward experienced athletes so competitive true game play with limited modifications will be emphasized. Students are required to dress out and a locker with a lock is provided. Information on P.E. uniforms is available at the beginning of the year through the physical education teachers and school office.

Prerequisites: PE or teacher recommendation

SPANISH 1B

Spanish 1B is a yearlong course and a continuation of Spanish 1A. Students continue to develop interpersonal, presentational and interpretive skills at a Novice High proficiency level including vocabulary, grammar, language, sentence patterns, verb conjugation, and conversational dialogues. This class promotes the use of language in meaningful contexts. This is a rigorous academic class and requires regular homework. This course is the second course in the Spanish 1 sequence.

Prerequisites: Spanish 1A or equivalent

THEATRE II

In Theatre II, students will use their prior knowledge to master more advanced theatre skills including acting, technical design, and directing. Students will explore theater history. A focus on leadership, collaboration, and innovative problem solving is emphasized. Students are involved in performances of scripted and original works as an application of learning.

Prerequisites: Theatre or equivalent

TV BROADCASTING

In TV Broadcasting, students prepare video announcements and information to present to the school. Student's practice reading and writing skills in public speaking and entertainment formats. Creativity and collaboration are brought to the screen by using video and audio recording equipment as well as graphics and editing software.

Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation

YEARBOOK

The Yearbook elective is a course designed to develop basic principles of yearbook production. In this course, students will develop skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, graphics, writing, editing, photography, publishing techniques, marketing, advertising, and distribution; all while producing a creative, innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. Participants gain useful, real-world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles. Actual work results in the current production of the school's yearbook.

Prerequisites: none

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER COURSES

<p>ART In Art, students explore various art forms from many cultures and periods. The focus is on art making with art history and analysis integrated into each unit. Students gain foundational knowledge of art vocabulary, techniques, history and art criticism. Students use a variety of media and create a variety of art forms including drawing, painting, and sculpture. Prerequisites: none</p>	<p>ART II Students will build from the foundational knowledge taught in Art I to deepen and broaden art vocabulary, techniques, history, and criticism. The focus is on art making with a stronger emphasis on having purpose and meaning in the creative process. New mediums such as printmaking, fibers, and mixed media may be introduced in addition to drawing, painting, and ceramics. Prerequisites: Art I or teacher recommendation</p>
<p>CULINARY ARTS In Culinary Arts, students gain knowledge and apply principles of nutrition in relationship to wellness, food choices, food preparation, food storage, meal planning, and meal management. As an integral part of the course, students will participate in food laboratory where they will learn how to prepare various cooking techniques essential to prepare various dishes. Prerequisites: none</p>	<p>FITNESS & CONDITIONING In Fitness and Conditioning, students will learn knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness. This course is designed to meet student’s interest in daily fitness, conditioning, and weight training program. Students are required to dress out and a locker with a lock will be provided. Information on P.E. uniforms is available at the beginning of the year through the physical education teachers and school office. Prerequisites: PE or teacher recommendation <i>PE can be taken yearlong by selecting PE as two semester courses.</i></p>
<p>MULTIMEDIA DIGITAL ARTS In Multimedia/Digital Arts, students explore and learn about production techniques that support the creation of graphic arts, web design, digital photography, animation, audio recording/mixing, and videography. A wide range of the latest hardware and software are utilized, including the Adobe Creative Cloud collection. Students collaborate in a project-based environment to develop understanding of the media used and creative techniques for future applications. Prerequisites: none</p>	<p>MUSIC EXPLORATION Music Exploration is a non-performance music class. Students will study world music, Western music and composers, and basic instrumentation (i.e. keyboards, percussion, and/or handbells). Students will have hands on experience with instruments, read music notation, and perform in class as an ensemble and individual. Prerequisites: none</p>
<p>PHOTOGRAPHY In Photography, students will be introduced to photography as an art medium in this class. The focus will be on the technical use of cameras and printing as well as the history of photography and how it has been used as an art medium. After mastering the technical skills, students will learn compositional and lighting techniques to apply in their own artwork. Most equipment will be provided. Prerequisites: none</p>	<p>PHYSICAL EDUCATION YOGA Physical Education Yoga is an introduction class for students to understand the purpose of a healthy body and mind to improve one’s quality of life and a basic understanding of the foundations of yoga. This course is geared to increase and improve flexibility, muscle strength, respiration, cardio and circulatory health. Students are required to dress out in appropriate, comfortable clothing such as fitted shorts, leggings, yoga pants, etc. A positive attitude is a must, and mindfulness is a daily focus. Prerequisites: none <i>PE can be taken yearlong by selecting PE as two semester courses.</i></p>
<p>PRINCIPLES OF AGRICULTURE The purpose of the middle school agricultural education program is to explore and stimulate interest in agricultural science through prescribed classroom and laboratory experiences. Through well-planned instructional activities, students have the opportunity to develop an understanding related to plant and animal life. This includes biotechnology, the conservation of natural resources, and the impact of agriculture and natural resource utilization on the environment. Typical learning activities involve hands-on learning experiences including performing basic principles of plant, soil, and animal science, studying and modeling the significance of humankind’s interrelationship with soil, water and air. Daily work in our school garden and with our school chickens will be an integral part of this class. Prerequisites: none</p>	<p>STEM The STEM course inspires student interest and passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) career paths. Students foster creativity, engage in critical thinking, and collaborate in a project-based environment. Students utilize the engineering design process to identify the effectiveness, efficiency, and durability of designs under different conditions through hands-on and technology-rich activities. Prerequisites: none</p>