

**Altadena Middle School**

**8<sup>th</sup> 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.**

<b>2 one year-long courses</b>  Year-long course _____ Year-long course _____ _____	<b>OR</b>	<b>1 one year-long and 2 semester-long courses</b>  Year-long course _____ Semester-long course _____ Semester-long course _____ _____	<b>OR</b>	<b>4 semester-long courses</b>  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**

<p><b>BAND ADVANCED</b> 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 intermediate or teacher recommendation</p>	<p><b>CHORUS</b> 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</p>
<p><b>CHORUS ADVANCED</b> Advanced chorus is a singing ensemble designed for experienced music students. Students will demonstrate proficiency in vocal technique, note reading skills, and matching pitch. Students will continue to develop vocal technique and musicianship, while performing various choral works of a more advanced level. Students are required to participate in concerts each quarter as well as other performance opportunities that arise throughout the year. Prerequisites: Chorus or teacher recommendation</p>	<p><b>ORCHESTRA ADVANCED</b> Students expand basic skills and techniques on string instruments. Instruction is directed toward playing music that is more difficult from a variety of styles and genres. Students are required to participate in concerts through the school year. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions. Prerequisites: Orchestra</p>
<p><b>SPANISH 1B</b> 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</p>	

**ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER COURSES**

<p><b>ART</b> 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><b>CULINARY ARTS</b> 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><b>MEDIA PRODUCTION</b> In the Media Production class, students will create media that is designed strictly for publication. Students will work in a creative and collaborative atmosphere to create graphics, animations, photographs, and record and edit video to produce publication quality school announcement programs and yearbook layouts. Prerequisites: none</p>	<p><b>MULTIMEDIA DIGITAL ARTS</b> 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><b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> Physical Education is an introduction to physical fitness, physical skill development, and wellness concepts with an emphasis on preparation for a lifetime of physical activity. Students are required to dress out and a locker with a lock will be issued. Information on PE uniforms is available at the beginning of the year through the physical education teachers and school office. Prerequisites: none <i>Students who wish to take a semester course for a full year may write that course for two of their semester course options (not guaranteed).</i></p>	<p><b>STEM</b> 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>

**ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER COURSES (cont.)**

**STEM II**

In this course, students will build upon the knowledge and concepts introduced in STEM to expand their understanding of Engineering concepts. There will be an emphasis on advanced 3D modeling, mechanical and electrical assembly principles, robotics, and materials science. Students will complete individual and group projects that represent real-world engineering scenarios.

Prerequisites: STEM

**STEM III**

In this course, students will use the knowledge and skills gained from STEM I and II to further their understanding of engineering concepts and how to apply those concepts in daily life. In addition to our core STEM competencies such as problem solving and critical thinking, STEM III will engage students in higher level engineering design work with a focus on the continuous improvement model and lean manufacturing. Students will complete projects to not only understand current engineering technologies but will also begin to theorize about future engineering challenges such as the permanent habitation of space and designing robots with AI learning capabilities.

Prerequisites: STEM II

**THEATRE**

In Theatre, students experience the beginning foundations of acting technique including exercises and improvisations exploring awareness, relaxation, observation, pantomime, voice, and theatrical vocabulary. A focus on becoming comfortable on stage, character work, and collaboration is emphasized. Students are involved in performances as an application of learning. Students also learn audience etiquette and constructive criticism.

Prerequisites: none