

Kyrene Middle School

8th Grade Elective Interest Sheet 2025-2026 School Year

Student First Name: _____ Student Last Name: _____

Grade: _____ Kyrene Student ID #: _____

Homerom 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 five core courses (Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, and Individuals and Societies and Language Acquisition) based upon data and need. Preliminary placement guidance for core courses is attached. Students who are new to the Kyrene School District are given placement tests upon registration or placed based upon prior school records. Students are able to indicate their Language Acquisition preference.

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 school.

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.

4 semester-long courses Semester-long PE course _____ Semester-long Design course _____ Semester-long Arts course OR _____ Semester-long PE, ARTS or Design course _____ _____	1 year-long and 2 semester-long courses Year-long Performing Arts course _____ Semester-long Design course OR _____ Semester-long PE course _____ _____	1 one-year long class and 2 semester-long courses and Zero Hour PE Year-long Performing Arts course _____ Semester-long Design course _____ Semester-long Design or Arts course _____ Zero Hour PE course (Wrestling or Cross Country- SEM 1 only) _____
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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 _____ Instrument: _____ Years: _____
Alternate Course 3 _____
Alternate Course 4 _____

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – YEAR-LONG COURSES	
<p>BAND ADVANCED – PERFORMING ARTS 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 band, or teacher recommendation</p>	<p>CHORUS ADVANCED – PERFORMING ARTS 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>MARIACHI ADVANCED – PERFORMING ARTS The Mariachi Advanced course is offered for the purpose of allowing students to perform in an ensemble which has a selected membership, and which specializes in performing intermediate-advanced level Mariachi ensemble literature. This course addresses intermediate-advanced instrumental skills, reading music, and elements of music in an ensemble setting. Students are required to participate in concerts through the school year. Prior knowledge or experience is required and instrumental includes guitar, vihuela, guitarron, violin, and trumpet. Prerequisites: Mariachi or teacher recommendation</p>	<p>ORCHESTRA ADVANCED – PERFORMING ARTS 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 or equivalent</p>
ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER-LONG COURSES	
<p>ART - FINE AND VISUAL ARTS 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 – FINE AND VISUAL ARTS In 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 or teacher recommendation</p>
<p>CREATIVE WRITING EXPLORATIONS - FINE AND VISUAL ARTS Creative Writing Explorations is a semester-long class devoted to the study and craft of fiction-writing, offering students the opportunity to develop and improve their technique and individual style in the expressive form of the short story. The emphasis of the course is on writing; however, students will study exemplary representations and authors to obtain a fuller appreciation of the form and craft in order to create their own short stories for publication. Prerequisites: none</p>	<p>VISUAL ARTS DESIGN – FINE AND VISUAL ARTS/DESIGN In Visual Arts Design, students will inquire into and analyze design problems, develop solutions to the problems through the creation of artwork, and evaluate the artwork’s solution to the problem. Students will also be asked to research histories of artworks, understand the arts in context, and build an awareness of the aesthetic in real-world contexts through this integrated course. Prerequisites: none NOTE: Visual Arts Design fulfills both a Fine Arts and Design requirement for IB MYP.</p>
<p>MEDIA PRODUCTION - DESIGN 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. Prerequisite: none</p>	<p>MULTIMEDIA DIGITAL ARTS - DESIGN 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>STEM -DESIGN 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>	<p>TV BROADCASTING - DESIGN In TV Broadcasting, students prepare video announcements and information to present to the school. Students 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: none</p>

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER-LONG COURSES (cont.)**FITNESS & CONDITIONING – PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

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

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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

THEATRE – PERFORMING ARTS

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

ZERO HOUR PHYSICAL EDUCATION – PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Zero-hour physical education supports students in the IB program participating in a non-cut sport to fulfill their physical education requirement as an alternative to a regular physical education class. Non-cut sports include Wrestling in the Fall and Cross Country in the Winter. Students only need to participate in one sports season each year to fulfill the requirement. An athletics fee is required for participation.
Prerequisites: none

MUSIC EXPLORATION- PERFORMING ARTS

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

THEATRE II – PERFORMING ARTS

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 I or teacher recommendation

THEATRE CREW – PERFORMING ARTS

Students will learn various aspects of stagecraft and theatrical production in a hands-on project-based environment. Topics include Theatrical Terms and Roles, Set Design & Construction, Lighting Design & Programming, Sound Design, Makeup Design & Application, and Production Management. Students are involved in full production design as learning application.
Prerequisites: none