

Kyrene Traditional Academy

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 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.

| | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|---|
| <p>2 year-long courses</p> <p>Year-long course _____</p> <p>Year-long course _____</p> | <p>OR</p> | <p>1 year-long and 2 semester-long courses</p> <p>Year-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> | <p>OR</p> | <p>4 semester-long courses</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> <p>Semester-long course _____</p> |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|---|

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

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

In 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 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

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER-LONG COURSES

ART II

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 equivalent

CREATIVE WRITING EXPLORATIONS

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

DANCE

This course is designed to introduce the basic fundamentals of dance technique, strength, flexibility, coordination, and endurance. Units will cover several different dance styles including but not limited to jazz, ballet, and musical theatre. Other topics will include physical fitness and body mechanics, dance appreciation, and dance history. Students are required to participate in dance performances each semester, as well as possible extra rehearsals scheduled to produce the concerts.
Prerequisite: none

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE

In Family and Consumer Science, students will explore culinary arts, nutrition, practical sewing skills, and workplace skills in careers using technology. Using sewing machines, students will complete projects they will bring home to enjoy. Students will work in groups using workplace skills in the kitchens or independently and will engage in problem-solving and critical thinking while investigating careers and finance. This course is for students who enjoy cooking, are interested in sewing to make useful and fun projects and have a desire to focus on practical skills related to high school and beyond.
Prerequisites: none

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.
Prerequisite: none

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

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

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 PE uniforms is available at the beginning of the year through the physical education teachers and school office.
Prerequisites: PE or teacher recommendation

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER-LONG 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

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

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 teacher recommendation

WEB DESIGN AND CODING

Web Design and Coding is designed to introduce students to various skills, methods, and techniques related to coding and basic web design.

Students foster creativity, engage in critical thinking, and collaborate in a project-based environment. The main focus of the class will be production (creation of web pages, applications, games, etc.); however, attention will also focus on design (organization, details, or features of a composition or product).

Prerequisites: none