

Manitas Innovation Academy

8th Grade Elective Interest Sheet 2025-2026 School Year

Student First Name: _____ Student Last Name: _____

Grade: _____ Kyrene Student ID #: _____

Homerroom 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 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 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 _____ _____
---	-----------	---	-----------	---

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 _____

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – YEAR-LONG COURSES

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

BAND

Band is designed for students interested in learning the fundamentals of music and to play a music instrument. 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. Students will need to rent or purchase an instrument from an outside vendor, with some exceptions. No prior knowledge or experience is required.

Prerequisites: none

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 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

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

ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS – SEMESTER COURSES

MEDIA PRODUCTION

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

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

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.

Prerequisites: none

PE can be taken yearlong by selecting PE as two semester courses.

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.

Prerequisites: PE or teacher recommendation

PE can be taken yearlong by selecting PE as two semester courses.

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

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