

Elective offerings are either year-long or semester-long in length. Students at GrJHS typically take 2 class periods of electives per school year. Every effort will be made to provide students with their top choices, however, elective class availability is limited and course offerings are subject to change based upon staffing.

General Electives

Fitness Training: This elective class provides students with information on overall fitness, the advantages and disadvantages of being fit and how to reach personal fitness goals. It includes activities that can be used for lifelong fitness and recreation. Students of all abilities and interests are welcome.

Sports Training: This course will implement sport-specific lifting, cardiovascular conditioning and fitness programs to improve athletic performance and injury prevention. A health-related curriculum including nutrition, physiology and health concepts will be incorporated.

Team Sports: This course will provide an opportunity for students who have a high level of interest and skill in team sports to participate in offerings such as softball, volleyball, soccer, flag football, basketball and other sports. The health-related physical fitness test is administered twice each semester. This class is not AIA competitive.

Art I: This course is designed to complement Introduction to Art by continuing to explore various kinds of art. Students will enhance their abilities in line drawings, pen and ink cross hatching, color stippling, marker rendering, collage making, watercolor and pastel painting. The principles of art and elements or design will be emphasized. This is a specialized class for students who enjoy art. Students may enter their artwork in the school's Spring art exhibit.

Art II: This course is designed to complement Art I by continuing to enhance students' skills in line, value and color drawings as well as painting and sculpture.

3-D Art: Students learn to translate their two-dimensional skills into three-dimensional forms through the exploration of natural, abstract and synthetic sculptural forms. Materials may include, but are not limited to, clay, plaster and mixed media for creative expression. These student artists develop perceptual, creative, technical and problem-solving skills in a sculptural context as they design and produce works of art with personal expression. Students in Three-Dimensional Art focus on use of safety procedures for process, media and techniques. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Digital Art I: This class is a short introduction to various apps from Adobe Creative Cloud which could include: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Premiere Pro, Creative Cloud Express and Procreate for Tablets. Focus will be on introducing an overview on each program to create beginning level multimedia, through graphic art, animation, video production and edition, infographics and photo editing.

Computers I: This course examines various uses of computer hardware and software and laser printers. Basic skills in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheets, database and integration are emphasized. Other application programs using drawing, painting, hypermedia and basic desktop publishing are introduced. Various topics such as careers in computers and computer ethics will be explored.

Video Technology I: Students will create weekly video broadcasts that encompass a wide range of topics including important school news and other announcements, encouraging students to join clubs and athletic teams on campus, explain the importance and purpose of school rules and procedures, highlight student achievement, and provide video record of major events that occur on campus.

Coding and Gaming: This beginner's course will introduce students to the world of Scratch coding, a visual programming language designed to make learning to code fun and easy to understand. Students will explore the essential building blocks of Scratch, learning how to create scripts, manipulate sprites and design interactive projects on the stage. Daily / weekly projects will reinforce coding concepts, allowing students to apply their skills creatively. Students will also develop a strong understanding of Scratch terminology, preparing them for more advanced programming in the future. No prior coding experience is needed. This class will be open to all who would like to understand Coding.

STEM - PLTW: Students in this class will learn how to use the Engineering Design Process to create solutions to real world challenges in a problem based setting. Students will participate in CAD, 3D Printing, Computer Science, Coding, Simple Machines and Robotic Instruction. This is a STEM class that utilizes *Project Lead the Way* Design and Modeling, and Automation and Robotics courses.

Robotics I: This course introduces students to the fundamentals of coding and robotics with the Sphero robot. Students will explore key concepts such as sensors, algorithmic thinking and basic coding concepts. Through hands-on projects, students will learn to program robots to navigate mazes, conquer coding challenges, all while developing problem solving and critical thinking skills. No prior experience is required, making this an ideal starting point for anyone interested in the growing field of robotics.

Theatre I: Students taking this beginning course will study various genres of the Theatre. Students will gain and demonstrate skills through acting, stage movement, pantomime, improvisation, Theatre history, script writing and characterization. Students will learn and use Theatre vocabulary in activities, in addition to reinforcing their literacy skills.

Theatre II: This secondary course expands on the various aspects of the Theatre skills taught in Theatre I. Students will gain and demonstrate their skills in the techniques of voice, movement, imagination and role-play. Units of study include technical aspects of stage production, performance techniques, script writing, stage accents, pantomime and improvisation. Students will learn through group activities as well as individual performance.

Technical Theatre: This course is designed for students who are interested in the elements of technical theatre. Areas of instruction include: job descriptions and responsibilities, scenery, lighting, sound, props, costume, makeup and stage management. Students will explore and develop fundamental skills and apply them through practical activities in the classroom and on the stage. Some after school and weekend participation may be required when shows are in production.

Exploration of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS): This course explores a variety of curriculum in relation to Family and Consumer Sciences and works toward developing skills essential for life management and career development. Areas of study may include Culinary Arts, Child Development, Fashion Design, Interior Design and Life Management. Demonstrations, group activities, community relations/service projects and cooperative learning experiences enhance this class.

Spanish I: This is a high school level course that will introduce the basics of Spanish language and culture. Students will build proficiency in the three modes of communication according to the Arizona and national standards: interpretive, interpersonal and presentational. Emphasis will be placed on real-world application of language skills. The concepts are taught through a variety of cultural themes, authentic resources and instructional techniques. Students will be expected to actively use their language skills each day to build proficiency - speaking, reading, writing and listening to authentic language. The letter grade received in this course will be documented on the high school transcript and will NOT be factored into the student's high school GPA.

Choir II: This course is a study of intermediate music concepts: music reading skills with emphasis on solfege, vocal technique, and performance skills. No previous experience is required and students will not be required to sing along. The purpose of this course is to encourage students to have fun while studying different types of music including traditional, musical theater, jazz and popular styles as well as music in foreign languages.

Orchestra II: This course is a continuation of Orchestra I including advanced scales, bowings and string techniques. This class includes quarterly concerts and adjudicated festival opportunities. Performance attendance is required.

Band II: This course is a study of advanced fundamental technical development and large ensemble performance. The major topics covered in this class will be Band Method III and traditional and contemporary band music. Other features of this course are participation in school assembly programs and evening concerts. This is for eighth grade students who have played their band instruments for more than one year.

Application Electives

Yearbook: This course creates a 100+ page volume of junior high memories. Students in this class are people who are idea oriented, creative, original and hardworking. Photographers, graphic artists and budding writers are encouraged to apply. Competent writing skills and computer literacy are advantages. Students in this class will gain an understanding of layout design, desktop publishing, marketing, sales, interviewing, copywriting and editing, and photography. Students will work in groups where cooperation, responsibility and effort are a must. Attendance at before school, after school and lunch staff meetings will be required periodically.

Introduction to Journalism/Newspaper: This course incorporates basic concepts of beginning journalism, including writing, editing and photography into a student publication.

Leadership Development (Student Council and G-Team): Leadership Development is an interactive course designed to equip students with the fundamental skills and principles of effective leadership. Through engaging activities, group discussions and real-world applications, students will develop their self-confidence, communication abilities, teamwork, and problem solving skills. This course encourages students to explore their potential as leaders and prepares them for leadership roles within their school and community.

Unified Physical Education: This course will provide inclusive opportunities for students, creating a collaborative learning community in a daily physical education class. This class matches PE across grade levels to benefit all students involved.

Independent Physical Education: This course is an opportunity for students who participate in highly competitive club and league sports to use their practice and competition time to earn PE credit. Students must complete 100 hours of organized sports activity per semester, log their participation and submit a signed attestation from their coach.

Audition Electives

Chamber Orchestra: This course will provide students the opportunity to further their study of traditional and contemporary string literature. Students will develop independent musicianship and leadership through working in small groups, composing and musical collaboration with peers. Additional outside performance attendance is required.

Jazz Band: This course is a study of jazz ensemble literature - traditional swing and contemporary pop styles. Students will also participate in school assembly programs and evening concerts. This is for students who play saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, piano and bass and are interested in auditioning for this select group.

Theatre Company: This course is for advanced 8th grade drama students. Students in this course will enhance their skills in acting, performance, social and team building skills through both individual and group activities. Students will study voice, movement, character analysis, script writing, stage accents and other technical aspects of Theatre. Units of study include: pantomime, improvisation, performance techniques and student directing. Participation in after school performances is required.