

## 2025/2026 8th Grade Exploratory Options

You may choose one of the following combinations:

- 3 year-long classes
- 2 year-long & 2 semester classes
- 1 year-long & 4 semester classes
- 6 semester classes

### YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES

\_\_\_\_\_ **Band 8** Students who play band instruments receive sequential instruction on their instrument. They typically perform several formal concerts during the year and may participate in competitive district events, festivals, and parades. Selected advanced students may also participate in the county's Honors Band Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chorus 8** Students practice and perform choral literature drawn from a variety of musical styles and foreign languages, including Latin. They may participate in festivals and district events beyond school. Selected advanced students may also participate in the county's Honors Chorus Program.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Orchestra 8** Students who play stringed instruments receive sequential instruction. They typically perform several formal concerts during the year. Advanced students may have the opportunity to participate in district strings events.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Spanish I** OR \_\_\_\_\_ **French I** (*high school credit class*) Eighth grade students have an opportunity to take French I or Spanish I. Coursework includes a strong emphasis on speaking, listening, reading, writing, and cultural awareness. Basic vocabulary and essential grammar are taught. Students who complete this first-year high school program successfully may elect to earn high school credit for the course and take French II or Spanish II in ninth grade.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Spanish for Fluent Speakers** (*high school credit class*) This course will support our growing number of Spanish speaking students in high school who have achieved fluency (either through the dual language program or as heritage or native speakers) and want to continue their study of Spanish. Students may choose to take this class before or after AP Spanish coursework. The focus of this class will be on practical applications of Spanish within the Albemarle County community, including partnerships for work-based learning and information around interpretation and translation credentialing, as well as building academic vocabulary in Spanish for students, including specific terminology related to future career and college pathways.

\_\_\_\_\_ **AVID: Advancement Via Individual Determination 8** (*application or prior enrollment*) AVID is a class for students who would like extra support in fulfilling a dream of going to college. It focuses on writing, inquiry, reading, and collaboration to prepare students for the required course load in high school. This elective can be continued at MHS.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Study Hall** Study Hall courses provide students with the opportunity and time to complete classroom assignments or school projects. Students typically work on their own, without the help of a tutor; however, they are supervised and usually remain in the classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Drama** Introduction to Theater courses provide an overview of the art, conventions, and history of the theater arts. Although the courses sometimes include experiential exercises, they emphasize learning about theater processes rather than theatrical production and performance. Course topics include one or more of the following: basic techniques in acting, major developments in dramatic literature, major playwrights, the evolution of theater as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of the art and craft of the theater profession.

## SEMESTER ELECTIVES

\_\_\_\_\_ **Art 8** Eighth grade students use the principles of design as the basis for a study of line, color, and texture. They create clay sculptures using slab construction, draw human figures, use multiple perspectives, make prints, and create and maintain a portfolio of their work. Eighth graders also examine the art and architecture of different times and cultures and learn to critique their own work and the work of others.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Mixed Media Art 8** The term “mixed media art” is a broad definition that covers many arts and crafts, including collage, assemblage (both 2D and 3D), altered objects, including books, boxes, handmade greeting cards, artist trading cards (ATCs) and tags, art journaling, and book making. Students may use digital tools in the fields of programming and coding, game design, creative design, photography, animation and film, and they will enhance their knowledge of media software and how to manipulate and design digital media.

\_\_\_\_\_ **STEM Manufacturing & Prototyping Exploration 8** A Career and Technical Education (CTE) course that students will learn how to modify and control the world around them through exploring, designing, analyzing and evaluating the systems of design, programming, and electronics. Students will learn programming and electronics through the use of microcontrollers. Students will use computer-aided design software and advanced manufacturing technologies (3D printing, die-cutting, CNC machining, etc.) to create physical objects. The three systems of computer programming, electronics and design will be combined to create mechanical-electrical devices that are computer-controlled. Students will also explore technology-oriented careers.

\_\_\_\_\_ **CTE Business and Entrepreneurship Exploration 8** Students will learn concepts and techniques for planning an innovative business and living the entrepreneurial lifestyle. Students will study effective leadership principles and innovative problem-solving skills.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yearbook** Help develop the school's yearbook. Students will participate in the full development of the yearbook which includes: photography, superlative awards, and various school news items.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Broadcast Journalism/Filmmaking** Students will be taught the skills and knowledge on creating, editing, and reporting with film, both live and pre-recorded. Students will research, gather, and analyze information that will be used to create audio and video productions for broadcast to a variety of audiences. Throughout this course students will learn basic journalistic skills, video production skills, and technological skills.

Student name: (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_