

7th grade Elective Course Description Guide

Beginning Art (first year to take art)

This course offers students the basic building blocks to learn elements and principles of Art. Students do not need experience in drawing to take this class. Drawing skills will be taught. Each month students will learn about a new artist, and most of their projects will be based off this artist. Sometimes, students will write poems, songs, skits, and perform LIP SYNC battles. Art encompasses not just visual learning experiences, but music, dance, and drama. Students taking art will need to be prepared to participate in these activities, not just in the visual art projects. They will be introduced to a variety of media as well. Art class size is limited. You will need an art binder, page protectors, and a pencil for class everyday. Art fee: \$20

Art I

- prerequisite: 1 entire year of Beginning Art

This course builds on what was learned in Beginning Art. Students will be encouraged to problem solve, and their media will be more diverse and projects more detailed. Students will continue to learn a new artist each month, but will have more challenging projects that correlate with the artist style. Sometimes, students may also present verbal skits, poetry, and participate in group projects, and at least one dance. Art I encompasses all the arts: music, dance, drama, and visual art. You will need an art binder, page protectors, and a pencil for class everyday. Art class size is limited. One high school credit may be earned if Art is taken 2 years in middle school. Art fee: \$20

Beginning Band

This course is an entry-level class designed to cover the basic fundamentals of playing a musical instrument and reading music. The following instruments are offered in the program: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. Some instruments can be rented from the school. The students are divided into three class periods: brass, woodwind, and flute/percussion, thereby allowing the directors to give them more individual instructions. Students will perform at least two times during the year. Students have the option to participate in social events such as band officer elections, parties, and a trip in the spring. Four after-school rehearsals will be required. Fee: TBA

Intermediate Band

This course is for students who have had at least one year of previous band experience playing a band instrument. The following instruments are offered in the program: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. Good playing fundamentals and techniques are emphasized, as well as improvement in the ability to read music. The students are divided into three different class periods: woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Students perform in concerts, pep-rallies, and football games. Students will also play for LMEA Band Festival, solo & Ensemble Festival, and District Honor Band. Students have the option to participate in social events such as band officer elections, parties, and a trip in the spring. Some after-school rehearsals are required. High school credit may be earned if band is taken for at least 2 years. Fee: TBA

Intermediate Choir – 7th and 8th Grade (girls and boys separate) – no audition required

In this class, students will learn how to sing and read music. In addition to learning proper singing technique and how to read and write music, we perform a variety of styles of music from Classical Choral music to Contemporary. Students will have two major concerts during the year as well as several smaller performances as well. We visit the nursing home during the Christmas season and sing each year from different school events such as the incoming sixth graders visit, Award's Day, and the occasional pep rally. Singers also have the option to audition and sing in All-District Choir (takes place at ULM), All-State Choir (takes place in New Orleans) and National Honor Choir (takes place in a different city each year – Dallas, Chicago, New York, etc.) These things are not required, but highly recommended if you enjoy singing. We also go on an end of the year trip to Dallas that students qualify for by their behavior and participation throughout the year. Choir is a wonderful place to meet new friends and experience new things! You do not have to have past singing experience. There is no audition required. This class is for beginning seventh and eighth graders or students who did not audition or did not make Advanced Choir. High school credit may be earned if two years of choir are taken.

Choir Fee: \$30

Advanced Choir – 7th and 8th Grade (girls and boys separate) – By audition only (auditions are held during the month of May)

In Advanced Choir, students will build upon skills learned previously in Beginning and Intermediate Choirs. Advanced concepts, ideas and strategies will be taught regarding singing and reading and writing music. There is an audition required during the month of May. All students must have been in choir before or come with an already advanced knowledge of music theory and choral singing technique. Students will have two major concerts during the year as well as several smaller performances as well. We visit the nursing home during the Christmas season and sing each year from different school events such as the incoming sixth graders visit, Award's Day, and the occasional pep rally. Singers also have the option to audition and sing in All-District Choir (takes place at ULM), All-State Choir (takes place in New Orleans) and National Honor Choir (takes place in a different city each year – Dallas, Chicago, New York, etc.) These things are not required, but highly recommended if you enjoy singing. We also go on an end of the year trip to Dallas that students qualify for by their behavior and participation throughout the year. High school credit may be earned if two years of choir are taken, one of which must be 8th grade. Choir Fee: \$30

Beginning Family and Consumer Science (FaCS) (aka Home Ec.)

This course is designed as a comprehensive entry-level course for first-year FaCS students. Students will explore foods and nutrition, sewing skills, consumer education, child and family development, housing, character development on an introductory level. This class is a prerequisite (requirement) to be able to take a second year of FaCS (FaCSI). Class size is limited. Fee: \$20

Family and Consumer Science I (FaCS I) - Prerequisite: 1 year of Beginning FaCS

This course is project oriented. The skills and techniques learned in Beginning FaCS will be reinforced by performing/demonstrating more advanced projects. 1 high school credit is given for this course. Class size is limited. Fee: \$20

Strings (Orchestra)

String instrumental music is a course that offers instruction on violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Students will perform string orchestra literature, will learn proper playing techniques, and be engaged in understanding and analyzing music. Violin and viola students are required to provide their own musical instrument. String basses and cellos may be available through the school system. Participation in rehearsals and performances are required. Students may earn one high school credit if strings is taken for 2 years in middle school. Fee: \$25

Robotics

Robotics class incorporates the engineering design process to challenge students skills in science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will learn to code various robots before working with Lego Spike Prime sets to create Sumobots and compete in Sumobot challenges. Students will code their robots to compete in RARC (Regional Autonomous Robotics Circuit) competitions. Students will end the year learning to fly a drone and creating creative photography and videography with the photos and videos. This class requires **extensive teamwork** skills. The class is open to 6th and 7th grade students with a final GPA of at least 3.0 for the previous school year. Fee \$25; 1 high school credit.

Keyboarding/Keyboarding Applications

The Keyboarding course is designed for middle school students to master the skill of entering alphabetic, numeric, and symbolic information on a keyboard. Emphasis is placed on development of accuracy and speed, proper techniques, and correct finger positions. Students will further develop and enhance touch skills for entering information using a keyboard to compose and produce personal, educational, and professional documents. Digital literacy, composition, and language skills are embedded throughout the course. The 1st two 9 weeks will focus on accuracy and speed of keyboarding, while the 2nd two 9 weeks will focus on utilization of applications on the computer. This course is offered for 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. Fee \$5; 1 high school credit.

Yearbook (teacher selected)

Requirement: teacher selected through an application process; must be an A/B student and receive good teacher recommendations; email hogg@opsb.net to find out more information
This course is designed for students to create the school yearbook. Students are required to design layouts, gather information, write copy and captions, demonstrate photography skills, learn editing of copy and photos, and learn theme development using the web program, Yearbook Avenue. Students are required to sell a minimum dollar amount in business ads and meet stringent deadlines. Limited class size. ALL DEADLINES MUST BE MET!

You will receive a high school credit if you complete **one year** of the following electives in middle school:

Keyboarding
Robotics

You will receive a high school credit if you complete **two years** of the following electives during middle school:

Art	Strings	FaCS
Band	Choir	Yearbook