

8th grade Elective Course Description Guide

Beginning Art (first year 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 perform LIP SYNC battles. Art encompasses visual learning experiences. 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. Students will need an art binder, page protectors, and a pencil in class everyday. Class size is limited. Art fee: \$20

Art I (second year art)

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. Students will need an art binder, page protectors, and a pencil in class everyday. One high school credit may be earned if Art is taken 2 years in middle school. Class size is limited. Art fee: \$20; 1 high school credit

Advanced Art (third year art)

Students will learn about the focus of major artists and art history. Students will complete various projects using previous knowledge learned in Beginning Art and Intermediate Art. Students will have some input on projects they are interested in, challenging themselves to be more creative and more problem solving oriented. Students will do a final project at the end of the school year on a Master Artist where they dress like the artist, create a reproduction of the artist's work and do a PowerPoint and speech to a NON art 8th grade class. Class size is limited. Art fee: \$20

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, Awards 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. 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, Awards 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. High school credit may be earned if two years of choir are taken. Fee: \$30

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

Advanced Band

This course is for students who have had two years of previous experience playing a band instrument. Playing techniques and sight-reading skills are strongly emphasized. The following instruments are offered in the program: flute, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, French horn, trombone, baritone, tuba, and percussion. Students will perform in concerts, pep-rallies, at football games, and perform for the elementary schools. Students also play for the LMEA Band Festival, Solo & Ensemble Festival, and District. One high school credit may be earned for this course. Fee: TBA

Honor Band: Students have one section rehearsal each week after school. Students have the option to participate in social events such as band officer elections, parties, and a trip in the spring. After-school rehearsals and performances are required.

Family and Consumer Science I (FaCS I) (second year FaCS)

Prerequisite: 1 year of FaCS

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

Strings (Orchestra) (beginning and advanced levels)

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. One high school credit may be earned if strings is taken for two years in middle school. Fee: \$30

Yearbook

Requirement: teacher selected through an application process; must be an A/B student and receive good teacher recommendations; for more information please email hogg@opsb.net

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. ALL DEADLINES MUST BE MET! Limited class size.

Publications I (second year of yearbook)

Prerequisite: one year of yearbook in 7th grade; must maintain an "A" average each nine weeks in 7th grade yearbook; please email Mrs. Hogg (hogg@opsb.net) for 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. One high school credit may be earned for this course.

ALL DEADLINES MUST BE MET!!

Communication (office worker)

Requirement: teacher recommendation/administration selected; student of good character

This course involves working in the front office area, the counselors' office area, and working as a teacher assistant. Activities include, running errands for office staff, delivering messages, filing, and other office related tasks, as well as assisting teachers with various tasks when needed. If any office worker is written up for discipline issues, they will be removed and placed in a different elective. NO high school credit is offered for this course.

Library Student Worker (librarian selected based on character, grades, and teacher recommendation)

Students will assist the librarian with checking books out, checking books in, shelving materials, helping decorate (bulletin boards and for special occasions), answering phones, and helping run the library, as needed. Students should exhibit strong work ethics, initiative, and the ability to work with others. Students should pay attention to detail and have strong reading habits to help recommend books to others. Students must be able to communicate effectively with other students and teachers. If any office worker is written up for discipline issues, they will be removed and placed in a different elective. Class size is VERY limited. NO high school credit is given for this course.

Quest for Success (a career readiness course)

This course will help students develop essential 21st century workforce skills and develop the ability to communicate, collaborate, and lead. Students will explore new and exciting careers and industry sectors. Students will learn about themselves and their interests to successfully navigate high school, post secondary education, and career pathways. Students will be required to complete extensive group work as well as give several presentations. This course counts for 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.

Robotics I

Robotics I incorporates the engineering design process to challenge student's skills in science, technology, engineering, and math. Students will learn to code Lego Spike Prime robot sets to compete regionally with Sumobots, Mat Challenges, & Drag Racing. Students will end the year learning to fly a drone and creating creative photography and videography with the photos and videos as well as coding drones to complete tasks. This class requires extensive teamwork skills. The class is open to 6th-8th grade students who achieved honor roll the previous year. Fee \$25; 1 high school credit.

Robotics II

Robotics II offers students the opportunity to learn and practice Python coding. Students will utilize Lego Spike Prime Robots and drones to complete tasks through coding. Students will participate in regional competitions. Prerequisite: Intro to Coding Fee \$25 - 1 high school credit (if it gets one)

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

One Year of:

Keyboarding
Robotics II/Coding

Quest for Success

Robotics I

Two years of:

Art
Band

Choir
FaCS

Strings
Yearbook