

**Park Ridge Jr./Sr. High School**  
**Course Descriptions (grade 8)**

**MS Band: (full year)**

This course focuses on the study and performance of selected musical pieces which represent a wide range of periods, styles, nationalities, forms, composers and media. Students improve their ability to play their instruments beyond middle school, in high school concert and marching bands. The goal also is to increase students' understanding and appreciation of music as an art and life.

**Speech & Drama 8: (half-year)**

This course introduces students to public speaking—vocal expression, body language and presentation. Through various exercises, speaking games and assignments, students will become more comfortable as poised and informed speakers.

**Children in Film 8: (half-year)**

How do we read a movie? This course is designed to broaden students' experience with media literacy and film study. Through viewing, discussion and writing, students will learn how to think critically about movies and the experiences of children/teens.

**Exploring History through Media (half-year)**

Through projects and collaboration, students will explore a variety of topics in media, history and society. Students will use their reading, writing and critical thinking skills to evaluate billboards, research local history, analyze political cartoons and speeches, develop stories about family history and current events.

**Musical Theater/Vocal Music 8: (full year)**

Students in these courses develop the skills and knowledge to perform in a musical—singing, acting, dancing, staging etc.

**Engineering and Design : (half Year)**

Engineering and Design is an 8th grade survey course that covers engineering topics. Topics will include 3-D Printing, Aeronautics and Rocketry (including building rockets), Robotics, and Structures and Bridge Building. The course exposes students to engineering concepts they will encounter in a post-secondary engineering courses. Students have an opportunity to investigate engineering and high-tech careers. This course will allow students to develop skills and understanding through activities, projects, and problem-based learning. Students will employ engineering and scientific concepts to solve engineering design problems. Students will develop problem-solving skills and apply their research and design knowledge to create solutions to various challenges.