



## OJHS 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COURSE INFORMATION

### 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Read through the elective course descriptions below before selecting your top 3 choices. *No one is guaranteed placement in their top choice, you may be placed in any of your 3 choices.* Please note if there is a **prerequisite** requirement (ex: teacher signature, application, minimum GPA). If you select one of those courses and the requirement is not met you will not be placed in that course and an alternate choice may be selected for you. All elective classes are yearlong. *There will be no mid-year elective changes.*

#### **Art**

This is a beginning course that introduces students to the elements of art through two-dimensional projects and sculptures using a variety of mediums. Techniques include drawing and design using line, shape, color, texture, and composition. Projects originate from diverse cultures around the world and throughout history. Famous and not so famous artists are introduced to students so they have a deeper understanding of artists, the techniques used, and the art movements associated with those artists.

#### **Band 2**

Band 2 combines both woodwinds and brass sections from Band 1. Students will continue to build skills from Band 1 with concentration in developing musical proficiency in music theory, ensemble balance, intonation, phrasing, and more. Students work on more challenging music repertoire for regular concert performances (five throughout the year), with performance attendance being part of students' grades. In addition, this course prepares student musicians for performing ensembles at the high school level.

#### **Choir**

Choir is a non-auditioned elective. Students will learn the fundamentals of basic singing technique along with the basics of sight-reading. Students will explore a diverse range of repertoire meant to perform at our three concerts (December, March, May) throughout the year. Performance attendance (all held at the high school theater) will be mandatory and considered part of the students' grades. This is a great class to take for those interested in singing in Concert Choir or Show Choir at the high school level.

#### **Computers II**

This course will work with several computer applications. The Google Suite of products will be used in class to create various projects. Students will work with Google Slides, Sites, Docs, Drawings, Drive, GMAIL and Sheets. Code.org lessons will be introduced engaging the same design process that computer scientists use, students learn programming concepts and develop images, animations, interactive art, and games. There will be typing lessons for students to improve their keyboarding skills. The students will also use Adobe products to work with digital images editing and creating projects using Adobe Express, as well as more advanced techniques in Adobe Photoshop.

#### **Design & Robotics**

Design and Modeling is a STEM unit of study designed by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). Students discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They are then challenged and empowered to use and apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Automation and Robotics is a STEM unit of study designed by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). The focus of this unit is the development of automation and robotics and their use to improve daily life. Students will investigate mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX® Robotics platform, students will design, build, and program real-world devices such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

#### **Drama**

This is an introductory course to Theatre Arts, which includes all aspects of theatre, including acting, directing, costuming, set design and all aspects of theatrical performance. A study of dramatic literature and theatre history is included. Each semester culminates with a public performance and does require some rehearsals and performances outside of the regular school day.

## **Drumline 2**

Drumline 2 is our advanced corps-style drumline class. This class is the next step for students that have completed one year of training in Drumline 1. Drumline 1 is not a required prerequisite but previous experience with percussion or other instruments is highly recommended. Though not an official prerequisite, this class is highly encouraged for those who seek placement in the OHS drumline in the future.

## **Intro to Guitar**

This is a non-auditioned course, open to all students, including those with little or no musical experience. This course focuses on the basics - starting with how to hold the guitar, how to hold the pick, and what the different parts of the guitar are. Throughout the year, students will learn: note reading, chords, strumming patterns, how to read tablature, fingerstyle techniques, picking patterns, commonly used guitar techniques, and will learn how to play basic pop/rock songs. By the end of the year, students will be able to research their favorite songs online and figure out how to play the chords, and possibly will even learn how to write their own songs.

### **◆ Leadership**

The Leadership class is open to 7th and 8th grade students who desire to develop leadership skills and work toward a positive school climate. This will be accomplished by involvement in classroom lessons and activities, student government, student and staff recognition programs, student activities and school service. ***Prerequisite:*** Application required to be considered [ojs.ojUSD.org/parents-students/balloting-info](https://ojs.ojUSD.org/parents-students/balloting-info) (must be signed into school email to access).

### **● Library Aide**

Working as an aide to the librarian. Student aides should be responsible, reliable, independent workers. Responsibilities may include scanning books, shelving/organizing books, getting novels from the book room, deliveries to classrooms, etc. ***Prerequisite:*** Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA. Must get librarian approval and signature.

### **◆ Office Aide**

Working as an aide in the front office. Student aides should be responsible, reliable, independent workers. Responsibilities may include performing clerical tasks, assisting parents and students, running passes, deliveries to/from classrooms, etc. ***Prerequisite:*** Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA. Application required to be considered [ojs.ojUSD.org/parents-students/balloting-info](https://ojs.ojUSD.org/parents-students/balloting-info) (must be signed into school email to access).

### **◆ Office Aide - Business Office**

Working as an aide in the Business Office. Student aides should be responsible, reliable, independent workers. Responsibilities may include performing clerical tasks, lifting/moving boxes, deliveries to/from classrooms, etc. ***Prerequisite:*** Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA. Application required to be considered [ojs.ojUSD.org/parents-students/balloting-info](https://ojs.ojUSD.org/parents-students/balloting-info) (must be signed into school email to access).

## **Spanish I**

Spanish includes listening, speaking, reading, and writing with emphasis on vocabulary expansion and the study of Hispanic culture. Grammar includes present tense and present progressive tenses. This course meets the UC/CSU A-G language other than English requirements as well as one year of Foreign Language for high school graduation.

Please note that Spanish I in 8th grade will not impact your students high school GPA, but will appear on their high school transcript as credit if you and your student choose to do so. You will be notified about this choice in the spring of your student's 8th grade year. The choice must be made before the end of their 9th grade year, giving you time to think about how this will impact the courses your student chooses to take.

### ●Teacher Aide

Working as an aide to a teacher. Student aides should be responsible, reliable, independent workers. Responsibilities may include performing clerical tasks, set up/take down class activities, etc.

**Prerequisite:** Students must have a minimum 2.0 GPA. Must get teacher approval and signature.

### Yearbook

Members of the yearbook staff are the leaders and decision-makers of the OJHS yearbook. Students will learn a number of journalism and photography skills and complete the many tasks to create a high-quality yearbook that reflects the pictorial and written history of the campus activities and the lives of Oakdale students for the year. This course requires students to take part in all aspects of production of the yearbook including: interviewing other students, creating a theme, designing the cover and layout, taking photographs, and writing articles. Students must be willing and able to work after school, attend games and other school events on their own time.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ACCELERATED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Read the course descriptions below if you are considering taking one or more accelerated course. Please note the **prerequisite** requirement of current teacher signature for all accelerated courses.

### Accelerated English 8

Accelerated English 8 is a fast-paced and engaging class where we read and analyze advanced novels, practice formal communication skills, write extensively, think critically, and perform short selections. Early on, we will focus on grammar, literary terminology, and nonfiction works, but as the year progresses, we will shift to other skills such as reading, writing, and analyzing poetry or using higher level critical thinking skills in group discussions. Much of our curriculum will be above eighth grade reading and comprehension levels, and students are expected to be both collaborative and independent. Our main focus is to prepare students for the rigor of Advanced Placement classes in high school that can earn college credit. **Prerequisite:** Teacher signature required.

### Accelerated US History

8th Grade Accelerated US History is dynamic, fast-paced, and collaborative. Students will be participating in higher level activities such as debates, DBQs (document-based questions), Supreme Court cases, and Mock Congress. Students will also be reading an advanced novel during the fall semester. The course will cover the American Colonies through the Civil War. **Prerequisite:** Teacher signature required.

### Math I

This course is an accelerated entry level Mathematics course that includes the concepts presented in Math I as well as one unit from Math II. This course includes standards from conceptual categories of Number and Quantity, Algebra, Functions, Geometry and Statistics and Probability. This course will prepare students to take Math II Honors. This course meets the UC/CSU A-G math requirements as well as one year of the three-year math requirement needed for graduation. **Prerequisite:** Meet minimum proficiency on District Math Assessment and placement procedure of the junior high. Must have taken Accelerated Math 7. Teacher signature required.

Please note that Math I in 8th grade will not impact your students high school GPA, but will appear on their high school transcript as credit if you and your student choose to do so. You will be notified about this choice in the spring of your student's 8th grade year. The choice must be made before the end of their 9th grade year, giving you time to think about how this will impact the courses your student chooses to take.

### Accelerated Physical Science

This is a program based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Students will study forces, motion, energy, waves, magnetism, structure and properties of matter, chemical reactions, and changes in populations over time. Students will make claims, collect evidence, and formulate scientific arguments. Math skills will be enhanced through the extensive use of problem-solving and project-based learning activities. Students can expect a more accelerated pacing and depth of information in this class, in addition to participating in the science fair. **Prerequisite:** Teacher signature required.